

Welcome to
Old South Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
Hallowell, Maine
Hybrid Worship (In-person: Sanctuary)
10:00 am– Announcements and Community Joys & Concerns
10:10 am– Worship begins
December 10, 2023

No matter who you are, no matter where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

Announcements/Joys & Concerns

Welcome

Prelude "Variations on *Winchester New*" Bartholomäus Crassellius/arr. Nigel Williams

Introit "Blessed Be the Lord God of Israel" Donovan Klotzbeacher
Choir

Call to Worship/Lighting of Advent Candle/Invocation/Lord's Prayer
Don Reutershan

One: A voice cries out declaring God's presence: Comfort, O Comfort my people, says God.

Many: We come preparing the way of the Lord, actively waiting for God's peace.

One: A voice cries out: valleys shall be lifted and hills be made low.

Many: We come to make straight a highway in the desert, pressing toward God's peace.

One: A voice cries out: grass withers, flowers fade, but God's word stands forever.

Many: We lift up our voices with strength and good tidings. Together we carry out God's peace.

One: Let us pray:

Many: Spirit of God, who dwells within our hearts, wean us from that which separates us from You. In this time of worship, remove the dimness of our souls. Help us to seek You, to find You. Teach us to feel that You are always close, as we open our hearts and our minds in this time of worship. We pray together the words that Jesus taught: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Advent Word: Peace

***Hymn & Lighting of Candles** “Watcher, Tell Us of the Night”

(Aberystwyth) NCH #103

[In addition to the hymnal, words to the hymns can be found on the announcements page.]

[During the hymn, those attending in person are invited to come forward and to light one of the votive candles at the front of the sanctuary. Those on Zoom/YouTube may light a candle and keep it close by during the service.]

Psalm Ps 85:1-2, 8-13 p. 543 Ron

Bansmer

Scripture Mark 1:1-13 p. 34

Message Beginnings: Mark

Anthem “When Will the Little King Come?” Ruth Elaine Schram Choir

Mission Moment Christine
Bartlett

Offering (for those who attend worship in person, you may come forward during the offertory, to place your offering in one of the offering plates)

Offertory: “Brightest and Best” Southern Harmony/Mark Hayes

***Doxology** (Pilgrim #515) (*Old Hundredth*)

You may sing the traditional version or the inclusive language version:

Trad: Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise him, all creatures here below;

Praise him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Inclusive: Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above, ye heavenly host: Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

***Hymn** “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” (*Stuttgart*) Pilgrim #103

***Blessing**

***Sung Response** “Peace I Leave With You” Donovan Klotzbeacher Choir
Peace I leave with you; my peace I give unto you. Not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Amen.

Postlude “Watchman, Tell Us of the Night” Lyndell Leatherman

Fellowship

***Please stand, if you are able**

More Info/Contact Info

Call & Invocation adapted from Worship Ways at ucc.org.

Greeter: Ron Bansmer
Hospitality: Donna Bansmer

Worship Asst:

Zoom: Joseph Reisert

oldsouthhallowell.org

oldsouthhallowell@gmail.com

207-622-1220

License: CCLI#3214081

Pastor Susan's blog: hopeinthewilderness.com

Old South Staff:

The Rev. Susan M Reisert, Pastor and Teacher
Director

Mr. Bradley Krueger, Music

Ms. Cynthia McGuire, Administrative Assistant

Ms. Marcy Fullmer, Sexton

Announcements and Hymns for 12/10/2023

Welcome to Worship at Old South! We're glad you are here!

OFFICE HOURS—Tuesday & Thursday, 9:00 - Noon.

ADVENT Our Advent devotional, *The Dawn Chorus*, has been emailed with the Tuesday News&Notes. We have a few paper copies available. Please see Pastor Susan.

BIBLE BUNCH. We are discussing the Advent sermon series on "Beginnings."
12/12— Matthew 1 12/19— Luke 1

CHRISTMAS CAROLING! We will go Caroling next Sunday, Dec 17, after worship, visiting several of our shut-ins. We'll finish up with cocoa in the parish house. All are welcome!

TAGS! A Giving Tree! It's been a few years since we have been able to participate in a Hallowell area Giving Tree. This year, it's back! You'll find the last few tags in the vestry. **Please return gifts, wrapped and with the original tag firmly attached (it has a code that will make sure the gift lands with the right child), by Sunday, December 17.** Thank you!

MEETINGS/GATHERINGS/EVENTS:

Tuesday, 12/12

Bible Bunch, Noon

Wednesday, 12/13

Choir: 5:30

Bell choir: 6:45

NEWS&NOTES– Are you receiving the church email that's sent out on Tuesdays & Thursdays? If not, send an email to the church office. We'll add you to the list!

OUTREACH NEWS

Outreach Fund Focus/December: Holiday Giving

BREAD OF LIFE DINNER DELIVERY– the next one is Tues, Jan 2. The sign up will be posted next week.

SUPPORT the Ministry of Old South:

1. Checks may be sent to the church PO Box 508, Hallowell, ME 04347
2. Online giving (credit card) is available through the Maine Conference. Please find the link on our webpage: <https://oldsouthhallowell.org/>

HANNAFORD PROGRAM: Next deadline: Today, December 10th. Send your check to the office, or place in the offering plate. Please mark your check clearly for Hannaford.

TODAY'S HYMNS

Watcher, Tell Us of the Night

(Aberystwyth)

NCH #103

1 Watcher, tell us of the night, what its signs of promise are,
Traveler, O a wondrous sight! See that glory-beaming star!
Watcher, does its beauteous ray news of joy or hope foretell?
Traveler, yes; it brings the day, promised day of Israel!

2 Watcher, tell us of the night, higher yet that star ascends,
Traveler, blessedness and light, peace and truth its course portends.
Watcher, will its beams alone gild the spot that gave them birth?
Traveler, ages are its own; see, it bursts o'er all the earth!

3 Watcher, tell us of the night, for the morning seems to dawn.
Traveler, shadows take their flight, doubt and terror are withdrawn.
Watcher, you may go your way; hasten to your quiet home.
Traveler, I rejoice today, for Emmanuel has come!

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus (Stuttgart)

Pilgrim #103

1 Come, thou long-expected Jesus, Born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; Let us find our rest in thee.

2 Israel's strength and consolation, Hope of all the earth thou art;
Dear desire of every nation, Joy of every longing heart.

3 Born thy people to deliver, Born a child, and yet a king,
Born to reign in us forever, Now thy gracious kingdom bring.

4 By thine own eternal Spirit Rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all-sufficient merit Raise us to thy glorious throne.