

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 17, 2023

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

Announcements/Joys & Concerns

Welcome

Prelude "Savior of the Nations, Come" Douglas Wagner

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

Call to Worship/Lighting of Advent Candle/Invocation/Lord's Prayer Deb Morgan

One: O magnify our God. Let us exalt God's name together.

Many: Our souls magnify the Lord. Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior!

One: We will bless the Lord at all times; God's praise shall be continually in our mouths.

Many: Our souls magnify the Lord. God's mercy endures from generation to generation.

One: We will bless the Lord at all times; Let the humble hear and be glad.

Many: Our souls magnify the Lord for the Mighty One has done great things.

One: Let us pray:

Many: God of Mary, Mother of Jesus, and all of the lowly who seek to be lifted, God of Isaiah, who felt the Spirit upon him calling him to bring Good News– Let your Spirit fall upon us in this time of worship. Out of our weariness, remind us of your everlasting covenant. Help us as we seek to share and experience your Good News. Bind our broken hearts. Awaken us and embolden us to proclaim your favor, as we endeavor to live in the midst of joy. In the name of our Savior, born in our hearts in this season, we pray together the prayer He 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: Joy. What brought you joy this past week? What brings you joy today?

***Hymn & Lighting of Candles** “Of the Father’s Love Begotten” (*Divinum Mystrium*) Pilg #111

[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 80:1-7, 17-19 p. 540 Ron Bansmer

Scripture Matthew 1:1-17 p. 1

Message Beginnings: Matthew

Anthem “Zion Hears the Watchmen’s Voices” J.S. Bach/ed. John Rutter
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: “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming” arr. John Purifoy

***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

Silence, Prayer, Response

***Hymn** “Lift Up Your Heads” (*Truro*), NCH #117

***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 “Voluntary on *In Dulci Jubilo*”

Fellowship

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

More Info/Contact Info

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

Greeter: Patty McKenna

Worship Asst:

Zoom: Joseph Reisert

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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 12/17/23

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

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

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

CHRISTMAS EVE— worship will include bells, carols, story, choir and candlelight. The service is at 4:30.

NEXT SUNDAY— It's a strange year when the 4th Sunday of Advent is also Christmas Eve. We will have our regular worship service at 10:00 (slightly abbreviated) and then the Christmas Eve service at 4:30. There is NO worship service planned for Christmas morning.

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

CHRISTMAS CAROLING! We are going Caroling today! All are welcome! After all of the singing, we'll return to the parish house for treats and hot chocolate.

TAGS! A Giving Tree! Giving Tree gifts are due back TODAY. We could use some help transferring the gifts from the sanctuary building over to the parish house, after worship (and before we leave for caroling).

MEETINGS/GATHERINGS/EVENTS:

Tuesday, 12/19

Bible Bunch, Noon (hybrid)

Oversight Committee, 5:00 (Zoom)

Wednesday, 12/20

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 is posted.

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

Of the Father's Love Begotten (*Divinum Mysterium*)

Pilgrim #111

1 Of the Father's love begotten, Ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending he,
Of the things that are, that have been,
And that future years shall see, Evermore and evermore!

2 O ye heights of heaven adore him; Angel hosts, his praises sing;
Powers, dominions, bow before him, And extol our God and king;
Let no tongue on earth be silent,
Every voice in concert ring, Evermore and evermore!

3 Christ, to thee with God the Father, And, O Holy Ghost, to thee,
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving, And unwearied praises be.
Honor, glory, and dominion,
And eternal victory, Evermore and evermore!

Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates

(Truro)

NCH #117

1 Lift up your heads, O mighty gates; behold the glorious Ruler waits!
The Sovereign One is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here.

2 Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple, set apart
From earthly use for heaven's employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.

3 Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to you: here, Christ, abide!
Let me your inner presence feel; your grace and love in me reveal.

4 So come, my Sovereign; enter in! Let new and nobler life begin;
You Holy Spirit guide us on, until the glorious crown be won.