

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 24, 2023

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

**Announcements/Joys & Concerns**

**Welcome**

**Prelude** "On This Day Earth Shall Ring" (John Behnke) Old South  
Ringers

**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: In this holy season, in this sacred time, gather us in, Holy God.

**Many: Help us to look beyond the familiar trappings of this season,**

One: That though we take comfort in the usual signs and symbols of Advent and Christmas,

**Many: We may open our hearts to discover a new awareness of Your presence,**

One: And the blessings of a renewed sense of God-with-us,

**Many: Emmanuel. Be with us and among us, today and always.**

One: Let us pray:

**Many: In this holy season, in this sacred time, we turn to you, Gracious and Loving God, searching for signs of your grace and your blessing. In this time of worship, may we be strengthened and renewed, that we welcome the birth once more, we will look for signs of your enduring love and hope, always new, so often unexpected and surprising. We pray in the name of the One born anew in our hearts in this season, Jesus the Christ: 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: Love.** Where do you encounter God's love in these days?

**\*Hymn & Lighting of Candles** "My Heart Sings Out with Joyful Praise" (*Marias Lovesång*),

NCH #106

[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** Psalm 19 p. 498

Carol Booth

**Scripture** Luke 1:1-20 p. 56

**Message** Beginnings: Luke

**Anthem** "Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel" (*Veni Emmanuel*) arr. Ludwig Lenel  
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:** "See Amid the Winter's Snow" (John Goss/arr. Anthony Giamanco)

**\*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** "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (*St. Louis*), Pilgrim #134

**\*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.*

**Postlude** "Sussex Carol" English/Douglas Wagner

## **Fellowship**

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

## **More Info/Contact Info**

Call & Invocation written by Susan Reisert

Greeter: Donna Bansmer  
Reisert

Worship Asst: Ron Bansmer

Zoom: Joseph

Hospitality: Deb Morgan  
oldsouthhallowell.org

[oldsouthhallowell@gmail.com](mailto:oldsouthhallowell@gmail.com)

207-622-1220

License: CCLI#3214081

Pastor Susan's blog: [hopeinthewilderness.com](http://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 12/24/23**

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

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

**CHRISTMAS EVE**— Come back for Christmas Eve Worship! It will include bells, carols, story, choir and candlelight. The service is at 4:30.

**CHRISTMAS CAROLING!** Thanks to everyone who participated in Christmas Caroling! We brought a great deal of joy to a few of those who are not able to attend worship in person.

**TAGS! A Giving Tree!** Many thanks to everyone who helped out with the Giving Tree!

## **MEETINGS/GATHERINGS/EVENTS:**

No meetings or gatherings this week!

**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: January 14. Send your check to the office, or place in the offering plate. Please mark your check clearly for Hannaford.

**TODAY'S HYMNS****My Heart Sings Out with Joyful Praise    (*Marias Lovesång*)  
#106****NCH**

1 My heart sings out with joyful praise to God who raises me,  
Who came to me when I was low and changed my destiny.  
The Holy One, the Living God, is always full of grace  
To those who seek their Maker's will in every time and place.

2 The arm of God is strong and just to scatter all the proud.  
The tyrants tumble from their thrones and vanish like a cloud.  
The hungry all are satisfied; the rich are sent away.  
The poor of earth who suffer long will welcome God's new day.

3 The promise made in ages past at last has come to be,  
For God has come in power to save, to set all people free.  
Remembering those who wait to see salvation's dawning day,  
Our Savior comes to all who weep to wipe their tears away.

**O Little Town of Bethlehem****(*St. Louis*)****Pilgrim #134**

1 O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep The silent stars go by;  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth The everlasting Light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee tonight.

2 For Christ is born of Mary, And gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep Their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars, together Proclaim the holy birth!  
And praises sing to God the King, And peace to men on earth.

3 How silently, how silently, The wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts The blessing of his heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming, But in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive him, still The dear Christ enters in.

4 O holy Child of Bethlehem! Descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin and enter in; Be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel!