

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
September 8, 2024

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

Announcements/Joys & Concerns

Welcome

Prelude Topsham Strings

Introit "Be Still and Know" NCH #743 Choir and Congregation

Call to Worship, Invocation and Lord's Prayer

Darlene Davis

One: Those who trust the Holy One,

Many: Find a sure source of love and grace.

One: We stretch our hands and open our hearts,

Many: Seeking renewal and strength,

One: For the journey of life and faith.

Many: May we feel and know God's goodness and love.

One: Let us pray:

Many: We gather to worship and to praise, to connect as a community and to be renewed in spirit. In the sounds and in the silence of this time, may we perceive Your presence, Gracious and Holy God. Help us to seek Your wisdom and to live by Your call to each and to all, that we may be Your holy church today and always. We continue in prayer with the words Jesus taught his followers to pray: 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.

***Opening Hymn** "Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above" Pilgrim #20

[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 146 p. 581

Wendy Wells

Scripture Selections from Ephesians

Message "Were We Listening? Ephesians -- A Recap"

Anthem Topsham Strings

Mission Moment

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 or you may place your offering in the plate near the door as you depart after worship)

Offertory: Topsham Strings

***Doxology** (Pilgrim #515)

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, Pastoral Prayer and Response

***Hymn** "Called As Partners in Christ's Service" (BEECHER) NCH #495
(words can be found on the Announcements page)

***Blessing**

***Sung Response** "Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name" (Ellers) Pilgrim #60 Choir and
Congregation

*Grant us thy peace upon our homeward way, With thee began, with thee shall end the
day; Guard thou the lips from sin, the hearts from shame, That in this house have
called upon thy name. Amen.*

Postlude Topsham Strings

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

More Info/Contact Info

Call to Worship written by Susan Reisert

Greeter: Darlene Davis Worship Asst: Cynthia McGuire
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Licenses: CCLI#3214081; OneLicense A-742216

Pastor Susan's blog: hopeinthewilderness.com

Zoom: Wendy Wells
207-622-1220

Old South Staff:

The Rev. Susan M Reisert, Pastor and Teacher
Director

Ms. Cynthia McGuire, Administrative Assistant

Mr. Bradley Krueger, Music

Ms. Marcy Fullmer, Sexton

Announcements and Hymns for 9/8/24

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

WELCOME to the **Topsham Strings**, directed by Polly Nichols, who are sharing their music with us this morning. **Thank you!**

SPECIAL WELCOME to Christine and Warren Bartlett, who are leading worship today, while Pastor Susan is away in Massachusetts for the memorial service for her mother.

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

MEETINGS/EVENTS THIS WEEK:

Sept 11— Choir Rehearsal, 5:30 (Sanctuary)

Choir Rehearsals start up again this coming Wednesday, 5:30, in the sanctuary. They are always eager to welcome new people!

The NEXT WORK DAY-- TBD. But, in the meantime, there's a sign up list! You'll find it in the vestry and online.

Let's Get Creative!

Art can provide a way of connecting biblical themes with local life and custom or it can offer a twist in how biblical story is experienced. How would you express your faith experience through art? How would you share your faith-- your certainties, your doubts, your challenges, your sense of connection-- in an artistic format? How would you bring to life your favorite Bible story and what it means to you?

Are you willing to give this a try? You could use paint on canvas or colored pencils on a piece of paper. You could write a story or a psalm (or revisit a psalm you wrote a couple of years ago, when I invited you to write one). You could write a song or hymn. You could take photos.

DATES:

Due date for projects: September 29

Roll out of projects: through October

Open House and Celebration: November 17 (tentative)

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/September: Disaster Relief (through the UCC International Relief Fund)

BREAD OF LIFE DINNER DELIVERY– the next one is October 1. The Sign Up will be 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: September 15th. Send your check to the office, or place in the offering plate. Please mark your check clearly for Hannaford.

TODAY'S HYMNS

Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above (MIT FREUDEN ZART)

Pilgrim #20

1 Sing praise to God who reigns above, The God of all creation,
The God of power, the God of love, The God of our salvation;
With healing balm my soul he fills, An every faithless murmur stills:
To God all praise and glory.

2 What God's almighty power hath made, His gracious mercy keepeth;
By morning glow or evening shade His watchful eye ne'er sleepeth;
Within the kingdom of his might, Lo! All is just and all is right:
To God all praise and glory.

3 Then all my gladsome way along, I sing aloud thy praises,
That men may hear the grateful song My voice unwearied raises;
Be joyful in the Lord, my heart, Both soul and body bear your part:
To God all praise and glory.

4 O ye who name Christ's holy name, Give God all praise and glory;
All ye who own his power, proclaim Aloud the wondrous story!
Cast each false idol from his throne, The Lord is God, and he alone:
To God all praise and glory. *Public Domain Hymn*

Called As Partners in Christ's Service (BEECHER)

NCH #495

1 Called as partners in Christ's service, called to ministries of grace,
We respond with deep commitment fresh new lines of faith to trace.
May we learn the art of sharing, side by side and friend with friend,
Equal partners in our caring to fulfill God's chosen end.

2 Christ's example, Christ's inspiring, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
Let us follow, never faltering, reconciling folk on earth.
Men and women, richer, poorer, all God's people, young and old,
Blending human skills together gracious gifts from God unfold.

3 Thus new patterns for Christ's mission, in a small or global sense,
Help us bear each other's burdens, breaking down each wall or fence.
Words of comfort, words of vision, words of challenge, said with care,
Bring new power and strength for action, make us colleagues, free and fair.

4 So God grant us for tomorrow ways to order human life
That surround each person's sorrow with a calm that conquers strife.
Make us partners in our living, our compassion to increase,
Messengers of faith, thus giving hope and confidence and peace.

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Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name (Ellers)
Public Domain Hymn

Pilgrim #60