



**Christmas Eve at Old South Congregational Church
United Church of Christ Hallowell, Maine
Tuesday, December 24, 2024 4:10 pm Gathering Music 4:30 pm Worship
Lessons, Carols, Bells, Candlelight and More
The ABCs of Christmas**

Welcome Guests and Friends!

We extend a special welcome to everyone worshipping with us today. If you are interested in finding out more about the Old South community, please visit our webpage: oldsouthhallowell.org. If you have trouble with your hearing, listening assistance devices are available in the north entry, or please speak with a Greeter.

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

A Note Regarding Tonight's Offering: Our Christmas Eve offering is an Outreach Offering and will go to the Christmas Fund, a United Church of Christ fund that assists retired church workers and clergy. Offering plates are located near the exits. Please place your offerings there before you depart.
Thank you!

Where you see *, please stand if you are able.

Gathering Music "Christmas" Concerto grosso in G minor, Op. 6, No. 8 by Arcangelo Corelli
Topsham Strings, Polly Nichols, director

Prelude "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" Mendelssohn / arr. Robert Ivey Old South
Ringers

Welcome & Instructions

The Rev. Susan M Reisert
Jane Campbell

Call to Worship, Invocation & Lord's Prayer (debts)

One: We count it in mere hours now.

Many: Soon the first pains of labor will be felt.

One: Soon the Light will shine in the darkness.

Many: Soon the baby will be born.

One: Soon God will once again break into our lives,

Many: Challenging our expectations,

One: And calling us to see life differently, to welcome Him with wonder and praise.. Let us pray:

Many: God of birth, God of light, in this time of song and prayer and story, re-awaken in us the awe of Christmas. As we hear again this story that is at once familiar and mysterious, remind us that we are called to respond to You in unexpected ways, in

wonder, in love, in joy. When we leave this place, may we be willing to sing praises and to be about the holy work of following into the strange and unknown places where you beckon us to go: 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.

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|---|--|-----------------------|-------------------|
| *Carol A, B, and C | “O Come All Ye Faithful” (all verses) | <i>Adeste Fideles</i> | Pilgrim #132 |
| | A: Luke 1:28-33 | | |
| Strings D and E | “All is Well” by Michael W. Smith | | Topsham Strings |
| Carol F and G: | “O Little Town of Bethlehem” (verses 1 & 4) | <i>St. Louis</i> | New Century #133 |
| | F: Luke 2:6-8 | | |
| | G: Luke 2:8-16 | | |
| Solo H, I and J | “Cantique de Noel” by Adolphe Adam | | Cynthia McGuire |
| Carol: K, L and M | “Joy to the World” (all verses) | <i>Antioch</i> | Pilgrim #130 |
| Anthem N and O | “Noel” arr. Jay Althouse | | Chancel Choir |
| Carol P | “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear” (verses 1 & 2) | <i>Carol</i> | New Century #131 |
| | “Word” by Madeleine L’Engle | | Erroll Adams, Jr. |
| Solo Q, R and S | “A Christmas Lullaby” by Amy Grant & Chris Eaton | | Torrey Gimpel |
| Carol T, U, V and W | “What Child Is This”(verses 1 & 3) | <i>Greensleeves</i> | New Century #148 |
| Anthem X, Y and Z | “We Three Kings” John Hopkins Jr. / arr. Philp Stopford | | Chancel Choir |
| Bells | “Es Ist Ein Ros Entsprungen” Praetorius / arr. Carl Wiltse | | Old South Ringers |
| Lighting of the Christ Candle & Sharing of the Light | | | |

Lighting the Christ Candle Bonnie Childs, Lindsey Childs, & David Reed

One: As we light this candle, may God’s love for all humanity

People: Be born in us tonight.

One: May the love that forgives and transforms

People: Be born in us tonight.

One: May the love which overcomes division and creates understanding

People: Be born in us tonight.

One: May the love that brings the blessing of peace

People: Be the gift we share and pass on to others.

Sharing the Light of Christ

Ted and Nancy Ruark

Our candle-lighting service symbolizes the light of Christ coming into our troubled world and being shared by his followers until the whole world glows with his love and peace. As the Christ Candle is being lit, flameless candles will be passed around the sanctuary.

Once candlelight has been distributed around the sanctuary, those who are able will stand and sing “Silent Night.”

*Carol Silent Night, Holy Night *Stille Nacht* Pilgrim #138

***Words of Mission and Blessing/Benediction** (Once the “Amen” is pronounced, the congregation is invited to respond, “Amen”)

Organ Postlude “On This Day Earth Shall Ring” Gustav Holst / arr. Douglas Wagner

Bell Postlude “We Wish You a Merry Christmas” *Traditional* / arr. John Ricketts

*Please share a word of Christ’s peace with your neighbor(s).
As you depart please place your candle in one of the baskets at the entrance. Thank you!
A very Merry Christmas to you!
We hope we will see you again soon.*

More Info/Contact Info

Greeters: Nancy & Ted Ruark Worship Asst: Cynthia McGuire Zoom: Joseph Reisert

oldsouthhallowell.org oldsouthhallowell@gmail.com 207-622-1220

License: CCLI#3214081

Pastor Susan’s blog: hopeinthewilderness.com

Call to Worship and Invocation adapted from re-worship.blogspot.com.

The ABCs of Christmas was originally shared by Erin Klassen on the website of The Young Clergy Women Project. The version we are using today has been adapted by a version that was adapted by the Rev. Robb McCoy. We are so appreciative of their creative spirits.

Old South Staff:

The Rev. Susan M Reisert, Pastor and Teacher
Ms. Cynthia McGuire, Administrative Assistant

Mr. Bradley Krueger, Music Director
Ms. Marcy Fullmer, Sexton

THANK YOU!

To our readers: Don Reutershan, Bonnie Nielson, Wendy Wells and John Reisert.

Special thanks to our **Music Director**, Bradley Krueger, for planning, rehearsing and recruiting guest musicians for this special Christmas Eve service.

More special thanks to **Old South Ringers**: Christine and Warren Bartlett, Terry Cusick, Carol Mitchell-Cusick, Bonnie Dufty, Bradley Krueger, Cynthia McGuire, Bonnie Nielson,, Rebecca Symes, and Wendy Wells.

And still more special thanks to the **Topsham Strings!**

Thank you and welcome to all our **guest musicians**: Dennis Farley, Kathy Greason, Jay Wiley and Doris Krueger. Also, with special thanks to Melanie Ruark for **signing** “Silent Night.”

Heartfelt gratitude to the singers of Old South’s **Chancel Choir**: Christine and Warren Bartlett, Torrey Gimpel, Cynthia McGuire, Joel Johnson, and Don Reutershan who are here, not only for special occasions, but throughout the year.

The sanctuary looks beautiful. Many thanks to the **decorating crew** for their special touches.

Plants on the Chancel:

In memory of those who have loved us: From Erroll Adams, Jr. and Roger Laliberte.
In memory of our parents and other family who have passed away, and to honor those who are still sharing our lives with us: From Warren and Christine Bartlett
In memory of Clyde Morgan, Louise Morgan Perkins and Roy Perkins: from their family.
In memory of Rev. Terry Smith and Heidi Arsenault: from Tina and Michael Smith.
In memory of the Moore and Cross Families: from the Morgan and Davenport Family.
In memory of Paula Maxwell: with love from Susan, Joseph, Margaret and John.

Hymns for Christmas Eve

O Come, All Ye Faithful (*Adeste Fideles*) Pilgrim #132

1 O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;

Refrain: O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

2 Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest; *Refrain*

3 Child, for us sinners poor and in the manger, We would embrace thee, with love and awe;
Who would not love thee, loving us so dearly? *Refrain*

4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning, Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing; *Refrain* *Public Domain*

O Little Town Bethlehem (*St. Louis*) New Century #133

1 O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see you lie!
Above your deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
Yet in your dark street shines forth the everlasting light,
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in you tonight.

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! *Public Domain*

Joy to the World (*Antioch*) Pilgrim #130

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: Let earth receive her King:
Let every heart prepare him room, And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing, And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

2 Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns: Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3 He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness, And wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love, And wonders, wonders of his love. *Public Domain*

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear (Carol) New Century #131

1 It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold;
“Peace on the earth, good will to all, great news of joy we bring.”
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

2 Still through the cloven skies they come, with peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heavenly music floats o’er all the weary world;
Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing,
And ever o’er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing. *Public Domain*

What Child Is This (Greensleeves) New Century #148

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary’s lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this, the angels sing, is Christ, God’s holy offering;
Haste, haste your praise to bring the babe, the child of Mary!

3 Bring gifts of incense, gold, and myrrh; come, join in jubilation;
The Holy Child, though meek and mild, has come with God’s salvation.
Raise, raise the song on high, the mother sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the child of Mary! *Public Domain*

Silent Night (Stille Nacht) Pilgrim #138

German verse:

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht! Alles schläft, einsam wacht
Nur das traute, hochheilige Paar Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh, Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!

1 Silent night, holy night, All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child. Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.

2 Silent night, holy night, Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar, Heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

3 Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love’s pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face, With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth. *Public Domain*