

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 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 & Lighting of Candles “Of the Father’s Love Begotten” Dan Forrest/arr.
D. Wagner

Introit “Give Ear, O Shepherd of Israel” Donovan Klotzbeacher Choir

Call to Worship, Invocation and Lord’s Prayer Bonnie Childs

One: Breathe on us, breath of God.

Many: Inspire our minds and our hearts today.

One: Enliven our thoughts and senses.

Many: May we be open to Your Word;

One: alert to Your world;

Many: awakened to Your gift,

One: Coming in Jesus Christ, Prince of Peace. Let us pray:

Many: God of peace, we come before You tired and weary, in the midst of a cold, dark and violent world. Yet, as we gather this day, we realize that You have set before us a new day, an opportunity for a fresh start. Amid our doubts and confusion, those moments when we are perplexed and fearful, we realize that You welcome us with a wideness to Your love and grace. Help us, in this time, to inch ever closer to that welcoming embrace of Your unconditional love, that we may find confidence to be Your people of peace. In the words Jesus himself taught, we continue in prayer: 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** “Come, O Long-Expected Jesus” (Stuttgart) NCH
#122

[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.]

Advent Poem “Annunciation” by Marie Howe Don Reutershan

Scripture Luke 1:26-38 p. 56

Message Choices

Anthem “How Beautiful” Twila Paris arr. Bruce Greer Choir

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 and/or form in the plate near the door as you depart after worship)

Offertory: “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” arr. Lloyd Larson

***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.

Sacrament of Communion

Invitation

*Hymn “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” (*Picardy*) NCH #345

Communion Prayer, Story, Consecration & Sharing of the Elements

Music: “Thanksgiving” Jane Marshall/arr. Douglas Wagner

Prayer of Thanksgiving, Pastoral Prayer and Response

***Hymn** “Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies” (*Ratisbon*)

Pilgrim #43

(words can be found on the Announcements page)

***Blessing**

***Sung Response** “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (*Veni Emmanuel*) Pilgrim #110

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel! Choir and Congregation

Postlude Don Reutershan

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

More Info/Contact Info

Call to Worship/Invocation adapted from the Church of Scotland website.
Today's Advent Reading/Poem is available at saltproject.org.

Greeter: Darlene Davis Worship Asst: Deb Morgan Zoom: Wendy Wells Hosp:

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

Licenses: CCLI#3214081; OneLicense A-742216

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 12/8/24

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

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

MEETINGS/EVENTS THIS WEEK:

Tuesday, 12/10 Noon, Bible Bunch (Hybrid)
5:00, Budget (Zoom)

Wednesday, 12/11 Choir at 5:00, Bell choir at 6:30

STEWARDSHIP! If you haven't turned in your pledge form/card, please do so as soon as you can. Thank you!

GIVING TREE

We are participating in the Hallowell Giving Tree this year, along with other area churches. You'll find the tags in the vestry. TODAY is the last day to pick up a tag (or two). **Please return gifts, wrapped and with the original tag firmly attached, by Sunday, December 15.**

ADVENT!

This year's devotional is called "**Magnify: Mary's Song and the Magnificent Women of Advent**" (from SALT project). A few paper copies are available today. Digital copies were emailed with the News&Notes a couple of weeks ago.

Sunday, Dec 8, 2nd Sunday of Advent: Peace, Worship with Communion
(note: communion has been moved to the second Sunday), 10:00

Tuesday, Dec 10, Bible Bunch, Noon (hybrid). Devotional Week #2.

Sunday, Dec 15, 3rd Sunday of Advent: Joy. Worship at 10:00

Tuesday, Dec 17, Bible Bunch, Noon (hybrid). Devotional Weeks #3 and 4

Sunday, Dec 22, 4th Sunday of Advent: Love. Worship at 10:00

Christmas Caroling following Worship

Tuesday, Dec 24, CHRISTMAS EVE service at 4:30.

The Quarter Fund. If you come to worship in person and have some extra quarters weighing down your pocket or purse, you can put them in the tray on the communion/Bible/candle table. The quarters will help a couple of people who could use some assistance with laundry.

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 1/7/25. The Sign up will be posted soon.

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: December 15. Send your check to the office, or place in the offering plate. Please mark your check clearly for Hannaford.

TODAY'S HYMNS

Come, O Long-Expected Jesus

(Stuttgart)

NCH #122

1 Come, O long-expected Jesus, born to set all people free;
From our fears and sins release us; grant us your true liberty.

2 Israel's strength and consolation, hope to all the earth impart;
Dear desire of every nation, enter every longing heart.

3 Born all people to deliver, born a child, you came to reign!
Born to rule on earth forever, come, be known to us again.

4 By your own eternal Spirit, come to claim us as your own;
By your all-sufficient merit, let us share your cross and crown.
Domain Hymn

Public

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence**(Picardy)****NCH #345**

1 Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly-minded, for with blessing in the hand,
Christ our God to earth descending, our full homage to demand.

2 Monarch great, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth Christ stood,
Lord of all, in human vesture—in the body and the blood—
Christ will give to all the faithful bread of life for heavenly food.

3 Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way,
As the Light of light descending from the realms of endless day,
That the powers of hell may vanish as the shadows clear away.

4 At Christ's feet the six-winged seraphs, cherubim with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the Presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, God most high!

Domain Hymn

Public

Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies**(Ratisbon)****Pilgrim #43**

1 Christ, whose glory fills the skies, Christ, the true, the only Light,
Sun of righteousness, arise, Triumph o'er the shades of night;
Dayspring from on high, be near; Daystar, in my heart appear.

2 Dark and cheerless is the morn Unaccompanied by thee;
Joyless is the day's return, Till thy mercy's beams I see,
Till they inward light impart, Glad my eyes, and warm my heart.

3 Visit, then, this soul of mine; Pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
Fill me, Radiancy divine, Scatter all my unbelief;
More and more thyself display, Shining to the perfect day.

Domain Hymn

Public

Advent Benediction response:**O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
#110****(Veni Emmanuel)****Pilgrim**

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!