



Advent 2024
Old South Church
United Church of Christ
Hallowell, Maine

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 15, 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 “Savior of the Nations, Come” Douglas Wagner

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

Call to Worship, Invocation and Lord's Prayer Jane Campbell

One: O come, all you unfaithful, unsure, perplexed. Come, know you are not alone.

Many: Let us come and see all that our God has done.

One: O come, bitter and broken, fearful and anxious. Come, know God's perfect love.

Many: Let us come and see all that our God has done.

One: So come, though you think you have nothing. Come, see what God has done.

Many: Let us come and see all that our God has done.

One: Let us pray:

Many: Loving and Gracious God, as we gather for worship this day, we lift up our gratitude, that Your light shines in the darkness and the darkness will not overcome it. We thank you for the beauty of creation, for Your handiwork on display each day. We thank you for the gift of Jesus and the joy of knowing him– Emmanuel, God with us. We thank you that You know us and love us, this day and every day, and call us to live lives of hope,

peace, joy and love. You alone are worthy of all our praise: 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** "Mary, Woman of the Promise" (*Quem Pastores*) NCH #123
[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 "First Coming" by Madeleine L'Engle Deb Morgan

Anthem "Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning" Spiritual arr. Jay Althouse Choir

Scripture Luke 1:39-45 p. 57

Message Companions

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: "Brightest and Best" arr. Mark Hayes

***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.

Time of Prayer

Silent Prayer, Pastoral Prayer, Response

***Hymn** "Watchman, Tell Us of the Night" (*Aberystwyth*)
Pilgrim #109

(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 “Watchman, Tell Us of the Night” Lyndell Leatherman

***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: Bonnie Dufty Worship Asst: Zoom: Joseph Reisert
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 Mr. Bradley Krueger, Music
Director
Ms. Cynthia McGuire, Administrative Assistant Ms. Marcy Fullmer, Sexton

Announcements and Hymns for 12/15/24

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

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

MEETINGS/EVENTS THIS WEEK:

Monday, 12/16 Bell Choir at 6:30 pm
Tuesday, 12/17 Noon, Bible Bunch (Hybrid)
5:00, Oversight (Zoom)
Wednesday, 12/18 Choir at 5:00
Sunday, 12/22 Caroling after Worship

GIVING TREE

Thank you to everyone who participated in this year’s Giving Tree!

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

TODAY'S HYMNS

Mary, Woman of the Promise
#123

(*Quem Pastores*)

NCH

1 Mary, woman of the promise: vessel of your people's dreams:
Through your open, willing spirit water of God's goodness streamed.

2 Mary, song of holy wisdom sung before the world began:
Faithful to the Word within you, as you bore God's wondrous plan.

3 Mary, morning star of justice; mirror of the Radiant Light:
In the shadows of life's journey, be a beacon for our sight.

4 Mary, model of compassion; wounded by your offspring's pain:
When our hearts are torn by sorrow, teach us how to love again.

5 Mary, woman of the gospel; humble home for treasured seed:
Help us to be true disciples, bearing fruit in word and deed.

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Watchman, Tell Us of the Night

(*Aberystwyth*)

Pilgrim #109

1 Watchman, tell us of the night, What its signs of promise are.
Traveler, o'er yon mountain's height, See that glory-beaming star.
Watchman, does its beauteous ray Aught of joy or hope foretell?
Traveler, yes; it brings the day, Promised day of Israel.

2 Watchman, tell us of the night, Higher yet that star ascends.
Traveler, blessedness and light, Peace and truth its course portends.
Watchman, will its beams alone Gild the spot that gave them birth?
Traveler, ages are its own; See, it bursts o'er all the earth.

3 Watchman, tell us of the night, For the morning seems to dawn,
Traveler, darkness takes its flight, Doubt and terror are withdrawn.
Watchman, let thy wanderings cease; Hie thee to thy quiet home.
Traveler, lo, the Prince of peace, Lo, the Son of God is come. *Public Domain Hymn*

Advent Benediction response:

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

(*Veni Emmanuel*)

Pilgrim #110

Refrain:

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