

why? how? who? WHEN? Where?

Welcome to Old South Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
Hallowell, Maine

Hybrid Worship (in person: sanctuary)

10:00 am– Announcements, Community Joys & Concerns 10:10 am– Worship begins
November 23, 2025

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

Announcements/Joys & Concerns

Welcome

Prelude "Adagio" (Piano Concert in A, K488) W.A. Mozart/Lani Smith

Introit "The Lord is in His Holy Temple" Donovan D. Klotzbeacher Choir

Call to Worship, Invocation and Lord's Prayer

Darlene Davis

One: In this present time, no matter what passes before us,

Many: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

One: As earth shakes and nations are in an uproar,

Many: God is present with us and is our refuge in times of trouble.

One: As the world trembles in fear and worry,

Many: May we find stillness and peace, knowing God is God of all.

One: Let us pray:

Many: We ask Your blessing upon us, as we arrive at the end of another liturgical year. You, O God, have been present among us, inspiring us to be the people You call us to be, even amid challenges and struggles. You are our refuge. In our worship, in our praise, in our gratitude, in our ministries, may we always be mindful that Your ways are so often different than our ways. Yet, You guide us to friendship, community, and fullness of life. May we always follow in faith: 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.

***Hymn and Lighting of Candles** "Now Thank We All Our God" (*Nun Danket*) Pilgrim #29
(words 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 may light a candle and keep it close by during the service.]

Psalms from Old South

Scripture John 1:35-42 p. 92

Message "Got Questions? Jesus Did Too: What are you looking for?"

Anthem "Celtic Laud"

Craig Courtney

Choir

Mission Moment

Offering and Blessing of Pledges for 2026 (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: "Count Your Blessings" arr. Faye López

***Doxology** (Pilgrim #515)

You may sing the traditional version or the inclusive language version:

Traditional: 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

Silence, Pastoral Prayer, Response

***Hymn** "Let All Things Now Living" (Ash Grove)

Pew Book #47

(words can be found on the Announcements page)

***Blessing**

***Benediction Response** "God's Blessing Sends Us Forth" (*Crusader's Hymn*)

Tune of "Fairest Lord Jesus"

God's blessing sends us forth Strengthened for our task on earth, Refreshed in soul, renewed in mind. May God with us remain, Through us the spirit reign that Christ be known to humankind.

Postlude "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"

George Elvey/Douglas Wagner

Fellowship

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

More Info/Contact Info

The photo at the top of the bulletin is from Google Images.

The Call to Worship is from "Worship Ways" at ucc.org and the Invocation was written by Susan Reisert.

Greeter: Beth Cobb Worship Asst: Zoom: Lindsey Childs

Hospitality: Bonnie Childs

oldsouthhallowell.org

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Licenses: CCLI#3214081

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Pastor Susan's blog: hopeinthewilderness.com

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

Announcements and Hymns for 11/23/25

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

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

MEETINGS/EVENTS THIS WEEK:

Thursday— Happy Thanksgiving!

SILENT AUCTION & LIVE AUCTION INFORMATION:

First, a very big THANK YOU to everyone who contributed. We were overwhelmed!

Our live auction last Sunday was a HUGE success and a whole lot of fun!! Many thanks to everyone who contributed and brought good cheer to our gathering. We raised over \$1200!

We still have a wondrous array of “silent auction items.” These have been set up in the vestry, so they can be perused and bid on until December 7!

STEWARDSHIP— The Oversight Committee is currently working hard on creating a budget for 2026. Your pledge helps us plan! So, please return your pledge form today, or in the next week or so. Thank you for being an active part of our life and ministry together

BREAD OF LIFE DINNER DELIVERY for December 2 has been posted in the vestry.

BIBLE BUNCH— will start up again Tuesday, December 2. Our topic: Advent.

IMPORTANT NOTICE from the Oversight Committee:

The Oversight Committee has called a **Special Congregational Meeting for Sunday, Dec. 7**, to ask the congregation to vote on the following recommendation:

The Oversight Committee of Old South Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, Hallowell, Maine, recommends a decommissioning of the sanctuary building on or before December 31, 2025, with worship and all church activities permanently moved to the Parish House. The decommissioning would involve reduction of utilities in the sanctuary building to a bare minimum, to keep the pipes from freezing and to maintain the organ (which will remain at least until the spring).

In anticipation of questions and concerns regarding this recommendation, the Oversight Committee invites you to attend a **Zoom gathering on Monday, December 1, at 7:00pm (use the Bible Bunch/Meetings link in the News&Notes)**. Members of Oversight will be present to answer questions and to discuss further the recommendation.

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/>

OUTREACH FUND FOR NOVEMBER: Nov 2: Bread of Life Ministries; Nov 9, 16, 23 & 30: Holiday Giving

HANNAFORD PROGRAM: Next deadline: December 14th. Send your check to the office, or place in the offering plate. Please mark your check clearly for Hannaford.

TODAY'S HYMNS

Now Thank We All Our God

(*Nun Danket*)

Pilgrim #29

1 Now thank we all our God With heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done, In whom his world rejoices,
Who, from our mothers' arms, Hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love, And still is ours today.

2 O may this bounteous God Through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts And blessed peace to cheer us,
And keep us in his grace, And guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all ills In this world and the next.

3 All praise and thanks to God The Father now be given,
The Son, and him who reigns With them in highest heaven,
The one eternal God, Whom earth and heaven adore,
For thus it was, is now, And shall be evermore.

Public Domain Hymn

Let All Things Now Living

(*Ash Grove*)

Pew Book #47

1 Let all things now living A song of thanksgiving To God the Creator triumphantly raise,
Who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us, Who guideth us on to the end of our days.
His banners are o'er us, His light goes before us, a pillar of fire shining forth in the night.
'Til shadows have vanished and darkness is banished, As forward we travel from light into light.

2 His law He enforces: the stars in their courses, The sun in His orbit, obediently shine;
The hills and the mountains, The rivers and fountains, The deeps of the ocean proclaim Him divine.
We too, should be voicing our love and rejoicing, With glad adoration a song let us raise,
'Til all things now living unite in thanksgiving To God in the highest, hosanna and praise!

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God's Blessing Sends Us Forth

(*Crusader's Hymn*)

God's blessing sends us forth Strengthened for our task on earth, Refreshed in soul, renewed in mind.
May God with us remain, Through us the spirit reign that Christ be known to humankind.

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