



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 30, 2025

1st Sunday of Advent

**Endings and Beginnings– Where Do We Find Our Peace?**

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

### **Announcements/Joys & Concerns**

### **Welcome**

**Prelude and Lighting of the 1st Advent Candle** “Let All Things Now Living” arr. Mark Hayes

**Introit** “Blessed Be the Lord God of Israel”    Donovan D. Klotzbeacher    Choir

**Call to Worship, Invocation and Lord's Prayer**    Bonnie Nielson

One: As the sun rises on this new season, we turn within and ask God to renew hope in each one of us.

**Many: For the sake of my relatives and friends, proclaim with joy, “Let us go to the house of our God and find hope within!”**

One: Though the days are hard, and the news, grim, we turn to our siblings here asking them to trust God, as we have so many times in the past.

**Many: For the sake of my relatives and friends, we proclaim with joy, “Peace be within the walls of this house, that our hope might spread beyond!”**

One: In our fears and our desperation, in our exhaustion and our pain, God wraps us in bands of hope, holding us together so we may continue the struggle for justice and peace.

**Many: For the sake of my relatives and friends, we proclaim with joy, “I will seek all that is good within the house of God, and I will carry it with me wherever I go!”**

One: Let us pray:

**Many: Emmanuel, God with us, we come here today to renew ourselves in the generosity of Your hope. We will climb the mountain hand-in-hand so that we may learn again of God's promise to be with us, both in the valley and on the peaks. Let us set down our despair and rest in the light of God until we are renewed! 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** “Christ Is the World's True Light” (*O Gott, du Frommer Gott*) Pil. 198

[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.]

## Message “Advent 1: Endings and Beginnings”

## Mission Moment

*Praise God above, ye heavenly host: Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

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Pastor Susan's blog: [hopeinthewilderness.com](http://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 11/30/25**

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

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

### **MEETINGS/EVENTS THIS WEEK:**

#### Monday

7:00pm Gathering to discuss Oversight recommendation, Zoom (use Bible Bunch/Meetings link)

#### Tuesday

Noon Bible Bunch, Parish House and on Zoom

4:30 Bread of Life Dinner Delivery

#### Wednesday

4:00 Choir (new members welcome!)

5:30 Bell Choir

### **ADVENT 2025**

Theme: Endings and Beginnings— Where Do We Find Our Peace?

November 30— Isaiah 2:1-5

December 7— Isaiah 11:1-10; Ps 122

December 14— Isaiah 35:1-10; Ps 146:5-10

December 21— Isaiah 7:10-16; Ps 80:1-7,17-19

### **SILENT AUCTION**

Items have been set up in the vestry, so they can be perused and bid on until December 7!

**STEWARDSHIP**— If you haven't turned in a pledge form yet, please do so as soon as you can. Thanks!

**BREAD OF LIFE DINNER DELIVER** 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**

**Christ Is the World's True Light      (*O Gott, Du Frommer Gott*)**

**Pilgrim #198**

1 Christ is the world's true light, Its captain of salvation,  
The daystar clear and bright Of every man and nation;  
New life, new hope awakes Where'er men own his sway;  
Freedom her bondage breaks, And night is turned to day.

2 In Christ all races meet, Their ancient feuds forgetting,  
The whole round world complete, From sunrise to its setting;  
When Christ is throned as Lord, Men shall forsake their fear  
To plough-share beat the sword, To pruning-hook the spear.

3 One Lord, in one great name Unite us all who own thee;  
Cast our our pride and shame That hinder to enthrone thee;  
The world has waited long, Has travailed long in pain;  
To heal its ancient wrong, Come, Prance of peace, and reign.

*Public Domain Hymn*

**Watcher, Tell Us of the Night      (*Aberystwyth*)**

**NCH #103**

1 Watcher, tell us of the night, what its signs of promise are.  
Traveler, O a wondrous sight! See that glory-beaming star!  
Water, does its beauteous ray news of joy or hope foretell?  
Traveler, yes; it brings the day, promised day of Israel!

2 Watcher, tell us of the night, higher yet that star ascends.  
Traveler, blessedness and light, peace and truth its course portends.  
Watcher, 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 Watcher, tell us of the night, for the morning seems to dawn.  
Traveler, shadows take their flight, doubt and terror are withdrawn.  
Watcher, you may go your way; hasten to your quiet home.  
Traveler, I rejoice today, for Emmanuel has come!

*Public Domain Hymn*

**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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