



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

December 7, 2025 2nd 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/Lighting of the 2nd Advent Candle** (Peace) “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” Jason Krug

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

**Call to Worship, Invocation and Lord's Prayer** Wendy Wells

One: At the start of every day, God shakes us awake to the possibility of reconciliation and joyful abundance.

**Many: May our Great Redeemer, who judges all with righteousness, reward the tyrannized with justice.**

One: In every season, God tends to the child within us, bringing into harmony all distress and despair.

**Many: May our Beloved Emmanuel defend the cause of the deprived, give deliverance to the abused, and overwhelm the will of their persecutors.**

One: Throughout all generations, God bestows upon the people a peace that is everlasting.

**Many: May the Prince of Peace rain down blessed mercy upon the people, showering the earth with righteousness and peace.**

One: Let us pray:

**Many: Holy God, it has been too long since your people have known peace. We turn away from the ugliness hidden behind closed doors, from the ravages of war, from the famine and genocide that stalk our siblings around the world. We've lost hope, lost our faith in the possibility of a small act's power to change. We talk and talk, all the while forgetting that we are not just your mouthpiece, but your hands and feet. Remind us, Redeemer, how to show up for justice. Teach us how to transform this ragged hope into peace for all. 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 & Lighting of Candles** “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (*Veni Emmanuel*) Pilgrim #110  
(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.]

**Presentation of Bibles**

**Pastor:** Receive this Holy Bible. Learn its stories and study its words. Its stories belong to us all, and these words speak to us all. They tell us who we are. They tell us that we belong to one another, for we are the people of God.

*Children: We receive these Bibles with our hands, our hearts, and our minds. Thank you.*

**Congregation to children:** We rejoice in this step in your faith journey. We pray God will guide you, your family, and all of us, as we continue to learn and grow as a community of faith.

*Children and Pastor: The Word of God is a lamp to our feet, and a light to our path. Thanks be to God.*

**Scripture**

Isaiah 11:1-10

p.640

**Message** “Advent 2: Endings and Beginnings—Where Do We Find Our Peace?”

**Anthem**

“Put Peace Into Each Other’s Hands” arr. Jane Holstein

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 in the plate near the door as you depart after worship)

**Offertory:** “Ave Maria” Bach/Gounod flute/piano Cynthia McGuire/Don Reutershan

**\*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.*

**The Sacrament of Communion**

Invitation

\*Hymn “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” (*Picardy*) v.1&2

NCH #345

Words of Institution

**Communion Prayer:** Gracious and Eternal God, we share this meal as a symbol of Peace. In each of us, we find the beloved, the follower, the doubter, and the betrayer, and yet we know that we are welcome at this table. This meal is open to all, that it may offer sustenance as well as refuge. May we leave this table refreshed, ready to take your radical ministry of extravagant hope, everlasting peace, exuberant joy, and abundant love into the world. Amen

Sharing of the Elements

Communion Music “Ave Maria” Schubert clarinet/piano

Cynthia and Don

Prayer and Response

**\*Hymn**

“With Joy Draw Water”

(St. Columba)

NCH #109

(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, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" R. Pritchard/arr. S. DeFord Don Reutershan

## **Fellowship**

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**\*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 and Invocation are adapted from "Worship Ways" at ucc.org.

Greeter: Galen Davis Worship Asst: Jane Campbell Zoom: Joe Reisert

Hospitality: Deb Morgan and Wendy Wells

oldsouthhallowell.org [oldsouthhallowell@gmail.com](mailto:oldsouthhallowell@gmail.com) 207-622-1220

Licenses: CCLI#3214081; OneLicense A-742216

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 12/7/25**

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

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

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

### Tuesday

Noon Bible Bunch, Parish House and on Zoom

### Wednesday

3:00 Worship Team

4:00 Choir (new members welcome!)

5:30 Bell Choir

### Thursday

11:00 Outreach Team

**PRESENTATION OF BIBLES**— Somehow, Covid threw us off our usual routine of presenting Bibles to the children who attend Old South. We are very pleased to present Holy Bibles this morning to: Elizabeth Booth, Colton Rybka and James Rybka.

The Presentation liturgy in our worship today is adapted from [umcdiscipleship.org](http://umcdiscipleship.org).

## **ADVENT 2025**

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

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. TODAY is the last day to bid!

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

**BIBLE BUNCH**– will meet on Tuesday at Noon, in the parish house and on Zoom. We will discuss Advent (Week 2: Peace)

### **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).

### **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 DECEMBER:** 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**

**O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

**(Veni Emmanuel)**

**Pilgrim #110**

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here, Until the Son of God appear.

*Refrain:* Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

2 O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer Our spirits by thine advent here;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And death's dark shadows put to flight. *Refrain*

3 O come, thou Wisdom from on high, And order all things, far and nigh;  
To us the path of knowledge show, And cause us in her ways to go. *Refrain*

4 O come, Desire of nations, bind All people in one heart and mind;  
Bid envy, strife and quarrels cease; Fill the whole world with heaven's peace. *Refrain*  
*Public Domain Hymn*

**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.

*Public Domain Hymn***With Joy Draw Water****(St. Columba)****NCH #109**

1 With joy draw water from the spring; salvation's living well.  
The Holy One is in your midst; glad praises sing and tell!

2 A shoot has sprung from Jesse's tree; of God the chosen One.  
A branch of knowledge and of truth; a gift of love has come!

3 With love the poor will be received; the proud will turn aside;  
And faithfulness will be a path, and righteousness the guide!

4 The wolf shall lie down with the lamb; the calf and lion play.  
God's peace shall dwell within the land; a child shall show the way!

5 With joy draw water from the spring; salvation's living well.  
The Holy One is in your midst; glad praises sing and tell.

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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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