



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 14, 2025 3rd 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 3rd Advent Candle** (Joy)

“Voluntary on *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*” STUTTGART/Grimoaldo Macchia

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

Choir

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

Jane Campbell

One: Joy is the gift God gives us upon waking in the morning to see beams of sun dance in dusty corners or hear much needed rain, even on a leaky roof.

**Many: Joy is in the delight of tiny precious things.**

One: Joy is the magnificence of the Redeemer when the tests come back clear, or when a school test is finally passed, or when the spirit is tested and chooses faith over fear.

**Many: Joy is in the hands that hold our own while we sit silently and wait.**

One: Joy is the patience of Emmanuel when petty disagreement turns into great injustice and change is slow to bend towards what is right and good.

**Many: Joy is in the small actions we take each day to help righteousness and peace abound.**

One: Let us pray:

**Many: Beloved, we come now seeking to recognize moments of delight when we feel connected to you. We bring our fragmented hearts filled with good cheer, gentle reverence, and utter amazement; we share our secret hopes, dependable comforts, and cozy moments of Advent peace. Rise up within us as we cherish the divinity of all that is good. 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** “Come, O Long-Expected Jesus” (*Stuttgart*) NCH #122  
(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.]

**Psalm** Psalm 146:5-10 p.581 Deb Morgan

**Scripture** Isaiah 35:1-10 p.63

**Message** “Advent 3: Endings and Beginnings—Where Do We Find Our Peace?”

**Anthem** “Every Valley” John Ness Beck/arr. Craig Courtney 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:** “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** “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates” (*Truro*) Pilgrim #114  
(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** “Postlude on *Gabriel’s Message*” Basque Carol/David Lasky

### **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 and Invocation are adapted from “Worship Ways” at ucc.org.

Greeter: Rick Campbell Worship Asst: Zoom: Joe Reisert  
Hospitality: Outreach Team

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 12/14/25**

**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, Topic: Joy and Love

5:00 Oversight Meeting, Parish House

#### Wednesday

4:00 Choir (new members welcome!)

5:30 Bell Choir

#### Thursday

11:00 Outreach Team

### **ADVENT 2025**

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

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

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

**BIBLE BUNCH**— will meet on Tuesday at Noon, in the parish house and on Zoom. We will discuss Advent (Week 3 & 4: Joy and Love)

**CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICE of Story, Carols, Bells, Music, and Candlelight, will take place at 4:30, in the sanctuary.**

**CAROL SING, ETC** will take place during worship on December 28. More info to come!

### **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: Today, December 14th. 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.

*Public Domain Hymn*

### **Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates**

**(Truro)**

**Pilgrim #114**

1 Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates; Behold the King of glory waits!  
The King of kings is drawing near; The Savior of the world is here.

2 Fling wide the portals of your heart; Make it a temple, set apart  
From earthly use for heaven's employ, Adorned with prayer and love and joy.

3 Redeemer, come! I open wide My heart to thee; here, Lord, abide!  
Let me thy inner presence feel; Thy grace and love in me reveal.

4 So come, my Sovereign; enter in! Let new and nobler life begin;  
Thy Holy Spirit guide us on, Until the glorious crown be won.

*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.

