



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 21, 2025 4th 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 4th Advent Candle (Love)

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” arr. David W. Music

Old South Ringers

Introit “How Brightly Shines the Morning Star” J.S.Bach/ed.Doreen Rao Choir

Call to Worship, Invocation and Lord’s Prayer Bonnie Nielson

One: To love is the greatest gift bestowed upon us. It is a surrender to God’s holy power.

Many: God loves us, despite all our mistakes, so we pray for the patience of hope!

One: To be loved by God is the right of every living thing. This love is the sun and the rain, it is the beginning and end of all.

Many: God loves us even when we neglect our neighbors, so we pray for the strength to bring peace.

One: God’s love is always a promise and a responsibility, and we are given this love freely. God demands nothing from us, yet knows we are capable of goodness.

Many: God loves us in the midst of destruction and despair, so we pray to share a vision of joy.

One: Love is a sacred vow God has made to us, a rainbow in the sky, a baby in the manger.

Many: God loves us just as we are, and we give thanks.

One: Let us pray:

Many: Over the past few weeks, we have sparked the light of hope, peace, and joy. Now, Holy and Gracious God, we come to love, which binds all of these together. Each strand is braided gently into an image of You, O God, the One who protects, encourages, and endures. We cannot look upon Your face, but we can experience this love every time we experience hope, peace, and joy. Even in the midst of despair, love will pour down upon

us. Just as we await the birth of our savior in the manger, You, O God, wait on us, watch over us, and send us out into the world to do as Jesus did – to care for our neighbors, to give freely to those in need, to call out tyranny, to face down injustice – knowing that You are with us. 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 How Shall I Receive You” (*St.Theodulph*) NCH #102
(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 80:1-7, 17-19	p.540	Lindsey Childs
Scripture	Isaiah 7:10-16	p.636	

Message “Advent 4: Endings and Beginnings—Where Do We Find Our Peace?”

Anthem	“O Who’s That Yonder?” John F. Wilson	Choir
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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: “Joy to the World” G.F.Handel/arr. Bill Ingram Old South Ringers

***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
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*Hymn	“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” (<i>Mendelssohn</i>)	Pilgrim #120
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(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 "Watchman, Tell Us of the Night" Joseph Parry/arr. Lyndell Leatherman

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: Galen Davis Worship Asst: Zoom: Joe Reisert

Hospitality: Bonnie Childs

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

Ms. Cynthia McGuire, Administrative Assistant

Mr. Bradley Krueger, Music Director

Ms. Marcy Fullmer, Sexton

Announcements and Hymns for 12/21/25

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

OFFICE HOURS—Tuesday & Thursday, 9:00 - Noon. (The office will be closed on Christmas Day.)

MEETINGS/EVENTS THIS WEEK:

Wednesday— CHRISTMAS EVE!

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

BIBLE BUNCH— we are on break until January 13. In January, we will meet on January 13 and 20 ONLY, at Noon, in the parish house and on Zoom

WORSHIP ON DECEMBER 28— Come join us in the Parish House for a Carol Sing-Along and Potluck Luncheon. Cynthia will be leading a service of Stories and Favorite Christmas Carols.

We'll sing 8 carols and learn some of their history. There's some interesting and fun stuff to share. We'll throw in a couple scripture readings as well. Bonnie Dufty will be at the piano. NOTE— For a variety of reasons (the staff has the day off; the service is primarily music-oriented; etc.), there will be NO ZOOM component to this worship service.

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: January 11th. Send your check to the office, or place in the offering plate. Please mark your check clearly for Hannaford.

TODAY'S HYMNS

O How Shall I Receive You (*St. Theodulph*) NCH #102

1 O how shall I receive you, how meet you on your way,
Blessed hope of every people, my soul's delight and stay?
O Jesus, Jesus, give me now by your own pure light,
To know whate'er is pleasing and welcome in your sight.

2 Love caused your incarnation; love brought you unto me;
Your thirst for my salvation procured by liberty.
O love beyond all telling, that led you to embrace
In love, all love excelling our lost and fallen race.

3 You come, O Christ, with gladness, in mercy and goodwill,
To bring an end to sadness and bid our fears be still.
In patient expectation we live for that great day
When a renewed creation your glory shall display. *Public Domain Hymn*

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (*Mendelssohn*) Pilgrim #120

1 Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain: Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

2 Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold him come, Offspring of the Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; Hail the incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel. *Refrain*

3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, Risen with healing in his wings,
Mild he lays his glory by, Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth. *Refrain. 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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