



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

Hybrid Worship (in person: parish house)

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

Announcements/Joys & Concerns

Welcome

Prelude “Almighty Love” arr. Tracy Craig McKibben

Introit “Be Still and Know” NCH #743

Call to Worship, Invocation and Lord's Prayer

One: Come, you who are weary, you who have been bruised by life, you whose flame has flickered in the winds of the world.

Many: We come, longing to be renewed.

One: The Holy One who stretches out the heavens is stretching us now— stretching our hearts toward courage, our hands toward compassion, our lives toward gentle justice.

Many: We open ourselves to be stretched into new life.

One: A voice from heaven says to us, as it said to Jesus: You are my beloved. This Spirit rests upon us, too.

Many: We are God's Beloved, called to bring gentle justice.

One: Come, let us remember who we are.

Many: Let us worship God with joy.

One: Let us pray:

Many: Holy One, Breath of Creation, You stretched out the heavens and set the earth dancing with life. You whispered belovedness over Jesus rising from the Jordan, and your Spirit rested upon him like a gentle dove. Rest your Spirit upon us now. Stretch our hearts where they have grown tight. Soften the places that have been hardened by fear or disappointment. Wake the embers of joy that still glow beneath the ash. Remind us that we

are your Beloved, not because of what we have done, but because of who You are and the love that holds us. As we gather today, let us remember who we are, and who we are becoming together— your people of compassion, courage, and gentle justice. In the name of Christ, the One who taught us to pray: 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** “Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart” (*Morecambe*) NCH #290
(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 29 p.504

Scripture Matthew 3:13-17 p.3

Message “Renewal: Sights and Sounds”

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)

Offertory: “Reflection” Mark Hayes

*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 Silent Prayer, Pastoral Prayer, Response

***Hymn** “Fairest Lord Jesus” (*Schönster Herr Jesu*) Pilgrim #227
(words can be found on the Announcements page)

*Blessing

***Benediction Response** “Go My Children, with My Blessing” NCH #82

1 Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone; Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own; In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine forever, Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.

Postlude "Sunshine in My Soul" arr. Terry Osman

Fellowship

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

More Info/Contact Info

The photo at the top of the bulletin: The Baptism of Jesus, Arian Baptistry, Ravenna, Italy. Photo by Susan Reisert, 2019.

The Call to Worship and Invocation is adapted from "Worship Ways" at ucc.org.

Greeter: Worship Asst: Zoom: Joe Reisert

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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 1/11/2026

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 Zoom
1:15 Outreach Team, Parish House

Wednesday

2:30 Worship Team, Parish House
4:00 Choir (new members welcome!)

BIBLE BUNCH— will meet January 13 and January 20 this month, at Noon, in the parish house and on Zoom.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Event— Monday, January 19, 2026

At the Winthrop Congregational Church, UCC

9:00 Breakfast 9:30 Program focused on immigration

Come join other faith-based organizations, to learn and grow, and to consider plans of action.

This event is sponsored by the Winthrop Area Ministers Association.

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 January: Heating Assistance**HANNAFORD PROGRAM:** Next deadline: Today, January 11**TODAY'S HYMNS****Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart** *(Morecambe)* **NCH #290**

1 Spirit of God, descend upon my heart;
wean it from earth, through all its pulses move;
Stoop to my weakness, mighty as you are,
and make me love you as I ought to love.

2 I ask no dream, no prophet ecstasies,
no sudden rending of the veil of clay,
No angel visitant, no opening skies;
but take the dimness of my soul away.

3 Have you not bid us love you every way?
All, all your own: soul, heart, and strength, and mind;
I see your cross—there teach my heart to stay:
O let me seek you, and O let me find.

4 Teach me to feel that you are always nigh;
teach me the struggles of the soul to bear,
To check the rising doubt, the rebel sigh;
teach me the patience of unanswered prayer.

5 Teach me to love you as your angels love,
one holy passion filling all my frame;
The baptism of the heaven-descended dove,
my heart an altar, and your love the flame.

*Public Domain Hymn***Fairest Lord Jesus** *(Schönster Herr Jesu)***Pilgrim #227**

1 Fairest Lord Jesus, Ruler of all nature,
O thou of God and man the Son,
Thee will I cherish, Three will I honor,
Thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.

2 Fair are the meadows, Fairer still the woodlands,
Robed in the blooming garb of spring:
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,
Who makes the woeful heart to sing.

3 Fair is the sunshine, Fairer still the moonlight,
And all the twinkling, starry host:
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer,
Than all the angels heaven can boast.

Public Domain Hymn

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

(Ar Hyd Y Nos)

NCH #82

Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone; Waking sleeping, I am with you, you are my own; In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine forever,
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.

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