



so good, it catches  
us by surprise

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

Hybrid Worship (in person: parish house)

10:00 am– Announcements, Community Joys & Concerns    10:10 am– Worship begins  
February 22, 2026

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

## Announcements/Joys & Concerns

### Welcome

**Prelude** “Emperor’s Hymn” from *Emperor* String Quartet F.J.Haydn    Warren & Christine Bartlett

**Introit** “Be Still and Know That I Am God”    NCH #743    Choir

**Call to Worship, Invocation and Lord’s Prayer**    Ron Bansmer

One: The good news of the gospel is:

**Many: Manna in the desert, water turned into wine, love after loss, forgiveness after pain.**

One: The good news of the gospel is:

**Many: release for the captive, hope for the hopeless, mourning turned to dancing, and strangers turned to friends.**

One: So come on in. There’s no time to waste! This surprising good news is here for you. Let us worship this good-news God. Let us pray:

**Many: Holy One, it is easy to see the mustard plant and forget to marvel at the seed. It is easy to taste good wine and not appreciate it. It is easy to miss the holy that is in our midst. So as we turn to your text today, we pray, surprise us. Speak to us. Move through us. Draw us closer to your good news.**

**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** “Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation”(REGENT SQUARE)Pilgrim #263  
(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.]

**First Reading**                      Matthew 13:31-32                      p.14    Deb Morgan

**Second Reading**                      John 2:1-11                                      p.93

**Message**     “What’s So Good About the Good News?”

**Music** “Just as I Am” C.Elliott/W.Bradbury     Christine Bartlett, Cynthia McGuire, Bonnie Dufty

**Mission Moment**

**Offering** (for those who attend worship in person, the worship assistant will pass the offering plates)

**Offertory:** “Be Thou My Vision” arr. Carol Klose                      Bonnie Dufty & 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.*

**Time of Prayer**                      Silence, Pastoral Prayer, Response

**\*Hymn**                      “Take My Life, God, Let It Be” (VIENNA)    NCH #448  
(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** “Agnus Dei” (Lamb of God) Georges Bizet/arr.C.Johnson Cynthia McGuire & Don Reutershan

**Fellowship**

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

## More Info/Contact Info

The photo at the top: Graphic Design by Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

The Call to Worship & Prayer for Illumination from “Tell Me Something Good,” a Lenten worship resource from A Sanctified Art LLC.

Greeter: Rick Campbell    Worship Asst: Deb Morgan  
Hospitality: Galen and Darlene Davis

Zoom: Joe Reisert

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 2/22/2026

**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  
5:00        Oversight Committee (Zoom)

### Wednesday

4:00        Choir (new members welcome!)

**LENT 2026**— we are using resources from A Sanctified Art, a woman-led, collaborative ministry that creates liturgical resources to help worshipping communities deepen their spiritual lives.

**BIBLE BUNCH**— Our Lenten dates will be: 2/24, 3/3, 3/10, 3/17, and 3/24.

**QUARTER FUND**— You may have noticed the “Quarter Tray” next to the offering plate near the kitchen. We gather quarters to help out a couple of people in the congregation who require quarters to do their laundry.

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

The Occasional Book Group meeting HAS BEEN POSTPONED. A new date will be announced soon.

**2025 Giving Statements** have been EMAILED. If you have any questions, contact Rick Campbell or the church office.

**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 February:** Maine School of Ministry (MeSoM)

**HANNAFORD PROGRAM:** Next deadline: March 15 (Note that the order will not be done until March 17th.)

**TODAY'S HYMNS**

**Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation (REGENT SQUARE) Pilgrim #263**

1 Christ is made the sure foundation, Christ the head and corner stone,  
Chosen of the Lord and precious, Binding all the Church in one;  
Holy Zion's help forever, And her confidence alone.

2 To this temple, where we call thee, Come, O Lord of hosts, today!  
With thy wonted loving kindness Hear thy people as they pray;  
And thy fullest benediction Shed within its walls always.

3 Here vouchsafe to all thy servants What they ask of thee to gain:  
What they gain from thee forever With the blessed to retain,  
And hereafter in thy glory Evermore with thee to reign.

4 Laud and honor to the Father, Laud and honor to the Son,  
Laud and honor to the Spirit, Ever Three and ever One;  
One in might, and One in glory, While unending ages run.

*Public Domain Hymn*

**Take My Life, God, Let It Be (VIENNA) NCH #448**

1 Take my life, God, let it be consecrated faithfully.  
Take my moments and my days, let them flow in ceaseless praise.

2 Take my spirit, let it move at the impulse of your love.  
Take my intellect and use all its powers as you choose.

3 Take my will; your will be done! Make your will and mine be one.  
Take my heart, and by your grace make of it your dwelling place.

4 Take my love and help it grow; let my loving overflow.  
Take me now, and help me be part of Christ's community.

*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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