



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

March 15, 2026 4th Sunday of Lent

*No matter who you are, no matter where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!
Coffee, Tea and Hot Chocolate are available in the kitchen. Please feel free to grab a cup of
something before worship begins, or anytime during the service.*

Announcements/Joys & Concerns

Welcome

Prelude “O Love of God, How Strong and True” Nigel Williams

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

Call to Worship, Prayer of Confession and Lord’s Prayer Ron Bansmer

One: God loves the field mouse.

Many: God loves the crows that take flight when church bells ring.

One: God loves the baby, cooing in the back pew.

Many: God loves the child who rocks and claps.

One: God loves the one with wrinkled hands and soft eyes.

Many: God loves the bumblebees and the tabby cats.

One: God loves those who walk, crawl, and roll.

Many: God loves the giant oaks and the evergreens, standing strong over all of us.

One: God loves the young, the impressionable, and the earnest. There is no bit of creation that God does not love.

Many: So let us worship this good-news God!

One: Let us pray:

Many: Holy One, sometimes the simplest of your commands are the hardest for us to hear. You say, “Love your enemy.” “Turn the other cheek.” “Care for the widow and the orphan.” And we want to know: How? When? Where? Today as we turn to Your word, O God, open up space in us to simply hear Your truth for what it is. Open up space in our hearts to dream new dreams, to imagine new realities, to draw closer to you and closer to love. With hope for a better tomorrow, we listen, we 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** “Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above”(MIT FREUDEN ZART)Pilg.#20
(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 Deuteronomy 24:17-22 p.179 Christine Bartlett

Second Reading Matthew 19:13-15 p.21

Message “To Protect, To Care, To Love”

Anthem “Guide My Wayfaring Feet” (spirituals) arr. Ruth Elaine Schram Choir

Mission Moment Bread of Life Ministries

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

Offertory: “Voluntary on *Restoration*” Southern Harmony/arr. John Dixon

***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 for Prayer Silent, Pastoral Prayer, Response

***Hymn** “Jesus Loves Me” (JESUS LOVES ME) NCH #327
(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 “Lead Me to Calvary” James Sennett

Fellowship

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

More Info/Contact Info

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

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

Greeter: Galen Davis Worship Asst: Rick Campbell
Hospitality: Outreach Team

Zoom: Joe Reisert

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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 3/15/2026

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

Wednesday

4:00 Choir (new members welcome!)

5:30 Bell choir

OUTREACH PRESENTATION TODAY after worship! We welcome Victoria Abbott, Executive Director of Bread of Life Ministries, today. She will give the Mission Moment as well as a fuller presentation after worship. This is an important opportunity to learn more about some of the most vulnerable people who live in central Maine.

IMPORTANT NEWS! The Oversight Committee has accepted and approved the final offer from the prospective buyer we have been working with since December. There is a separate handout available today, providing more information and outlining related events.

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

BIBLE BUNCH– Our Lenten dates are: 2/24, 3/3, 3/10, 3/17, and 3/24.

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 March: One Great Hour of Sharing (March 15–Bread of Life Ministries)

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

TODAY'S HYMNS

Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above (MIT FREUDEN ZART) Pilgrim #20

1 Sing praise to God who reigns above, The God of all creation,
The God of power, the God of love, The God of our salvation;
With healing balm my soul he fills And every faithless murmur stills:
To God all praise and glory!

2 What God's almighty power hath made, His gracious mercy keepeth;
By morning glow or evening shade His watchful eye ne'er sleepeth;
Within the kingdom of his might, Lo! All is just and all is right:
To God all praise and glory.

3 Then all, my gladsome way along, I sing aloud thy praises,
That men may hear the grateful song My voice unwearied raises;
Be joyful in the Lord, my heart, Both soul and body bear your part:
To God all praise and glory.

4 O ye who name Christ's holy name, Give God all praise and glory;
All ye who own his power, proclaim Aloud the wondrous story!
Cast each false idol from his throne, The Lord is God, and he alone:
To God all praise and glory.

Public Domain Hymn

Jesus Loves Me

(JESUS LOVES ME)

NCH #327

1 Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong; they are weak, but he is strong.

Refrain: Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

2 Jesus loves me! This I know, as he loved so long ago,
Taking children on his knee, saying, "Let them come to me." *Refrain*

3 Jesus loves me! Still today, walking with me on my way,
Wanting as a friend to give light and love to all who live. *Refrain*

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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