



rooted in justice, mercy,
& faithfulness

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

March 22, 2026 5th Sunday of Lent & Leave-taking of the Sanctuary Building

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

Gathering Music *Herzliebster Jesu* (O Dearest Jesus) Johannes Brahms

Announcements/Joys & Concerns

Welcome and Greeting

Prelude “Be Thou My Vision” SLANE/Lloyd Larson

Introit “We Are the Church” (PORT JERVIS) Choir

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

One: As we gather for worship this day,

Many: Let us acknowledge with solemn joy,

One: God’s gift of this place,

Many: Remembering with gratitude all who have worshipped here.

One: We give thanks for special moments that have nourished lives of faith,

Many: As well as all of the small moments of praise, wonder, comfort, joy and love.

One: We give thanks for the sacred moments and rituals, the music that has lifted spirits, the gospel proclaimed, stories shared.

Many: We affirm our faith this day, as this building is now transferred to other uses.

One: Let us pray:

Many: We take leave of this building, Holy and Merciful God, and in so doing, we lift into Your presence the many feelings of those gathered today, feelings like grief, anger, anxiety, regret, confusion, relief, and anticipation. This building has been a hallowed place for so many for so many years. We lift up our gratitude for this holy space. And as we take leave, we also recognize and appreciate that Your hand will continue to guide, shape, comfort, inspire, and hold us, that we will continue to be Your people, that we will continue to endeavor to share Your love and Your hope even beyond our perceived abilities. Continue to bless us with Your grace, in this time of worship and beyond: 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** “The Church’s One Foundation” (AURELIA) Pilgrim #260

(Words to hymns 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 Ecclesiastes 3:1-13 p.616 Bonnie Nielson

Anthem “I Heard Him Once” John Thornburg/Taylor Davis Choir

Second Reading 1 Peter 2:1-10 p.233

Message “Did Jesus Ever Talk About Downsizing?”

Mission Moment Christine Bartlett

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

Offertory: “Look at the World” John Rutter Choir

***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/Leave-taking Silent, Pastoral Prayer, Response (see attached)

***Hymn** “O God, Our Help in Ages Past” (ST. ANNE) NCH #25

***Blessing**

One: O God, You have watched over this church community for generations. You have been our guide, our hope, our strength.

Many: You have witnessed our celebrations, our sorrows, as well as the mundane moments of gathering.

One: You have been a calming presence in times of turmoil, even as You have been a disrupting presence when we have lost sight of Your guidance.

Many: We trust that Your Holy Spirit will continue to live and flourish in our midst and in our ministries.

One: And that we will continue to be the Body of Christ for many years to come.

All: Amen.

***Benediction Response “We Are the Church” (PORT JERVIS)**

I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together! All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we’re the church together!

Postlude “Festival Postlude on Truro”

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. Worship materials have been gathered & adapted from a variety of sources—United Methodist Church; Church of Scotland; and “Facing Your Church’s Uncertain Future” from the Building & Loan Fund of the UCC. The Invocation was written by Susan Reisert.

Greeter: Ron Bansmer Worship Asst: Daniel O’Neill Zoom:
Hospitality: Cynthia and Susan

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 Mr. Bradley Krueger, Music Director
Ms. Cynthia McGuire, Administrative Assistant Ms. Marcy Fullmer, Sexton

Announcements and Hymns for 3/22/2026

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

OFFICE HOURS—Tuesday & Thursday, 9:00 - Noon.

MEETINGS/EVENTS THIS WEEK:

Tuesday

10:30 Work Day
Noon Bible Bunch
5:00 Oversight (on Zoom)

Wednesday

4:00 Choir (new members welcome!) 5:30 Bell choir

GATHERING STORIES from the Sanctuary Building– We are gathering written stories as well as video stories about the sanctuary building. What have you experienced in the sanctuary? Written stories are due April 30 (preferably sent by email to the church office). Sign ups for video are available on Sign Up Genius (link in last Thursday’s News) and in the vestry.

WITNESSING– Are you interested in participating, as a church, in the No Kings event in Augusta on March 28? If so, speak to Pastor Susan.

HOLY WEEK– Palm/Passion Sunday, March 29, 10:00; Maundy Thursday Potluck & Service, 5:30; Good Friday Worship, Noon

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

HANNAFORD PROGRAM: Next deadline: April 12

TODAY’S HYMNS

The Church’s One Foundation

(AURELIA)

Pilgrim #260

1 The Church’s one foundation Is Jesus Christ her Lord;
She is his new creation By water and the word;
From heaven he came and sought her To be his holy bride;
With his own blood he bought her, And for her life he died.

2 Elect from every nation, Yet one o’er all the earth,
Her charter of salvation, One Lord, one faith, one birth,
One holy name she blesses, Partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses, With every grace endued.

3 ‘Mid toil and tribulation, And tumult of her war,
She waits the consummation Of peace for evermore;
Till with the vision glorious Her longing eyes are blest,
And the great Church victorious Shall be the Church at rest.

4 Yet she on earth hath union With God, the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion With those whose rest is won.
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we
Like them, the meek and lowly, On high may dwell with thee.

Public Domain Hymn

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

(ST. ANNE)

NCH #25

1 O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home:

2 Under the shadow of your throne your saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is your arm alone, and our defense is sure.

3 Before the hills in order stood or earth received its frame,
From everlasting you are God, to endless years the same.

4 A thousand ages in your sight are like an evening gone,
Short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.

5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream, soon bears us all away;
We fly forgotten, as a dream fades at the opening day.

6 O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
Still be our God while troubles last, and our eternal home!

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We Are the Church

(PORT JERVIS)

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around the world! Yes, we're the church together!

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