



**alive in the world**

Welcome to

**Old South Congregational Church, United Church of Christ**

**Hallowell, Maine**

**Hybrid Worship**

**10:00 am– Announcements and Community Joys & Concerns**

**10:10 am– Worship begins**

**April 26, 2026**

**4th Sunday of Easter**

*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** "Psalm for Clarinet" Wm. Bay      Cynthia McGuire, clarinet; Don Reutershan, piano

### **Call to Worship, Invocation and Lord's Prayer**

Darlene Davis

One: How good it is to gather in God's presence!

**Many: To gather, to worship, to praise, to sing, to listen, to learn, and to grow,**

One: That we may be the people You call us to be.

**Many: In this season of wonder and awe, of new life and new possibilities,**

One: Make Your presence known among us,

**Many: That we may continue to follow in faith.**

One: Let us pray:

**Many: God of grace, God of love, God of hope, God of joy, shower upon us Your blessings, as we come together to worship, to experience Your love for each and for all. Open our ears, that we may listen. Open our hearts, that we may perceive. Open our spirits, that we may be filled with joy, eager to be about Your holy work. Bring healing to those places that feel weary and frayed. Draw us close, that in the joys and struggles of life, we may find refuge and strength:**

**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** "Come, O Fount of Every Blessing" (NETTLETON) NCH #459

(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** Psalm 100 p. 552 Clover Leonard

**Scripture** 1 Peter 2:19-25 p. 233

**Message** "A Brief Consideration of Suffering"

**Special Music** "Come, We That Love the Lord" arr. Lloyd Larson C. McGuire & D. Reutershan

### **Mission Moment**

### **Offering**

**Offertory:** "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" Bonnie Dufty & Don Reutershan, piano

**\*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.*

**A Time for Prayer** Silence, Pastoral Prayer, Response

**\*Hymn** "God Be With You Till We Meet Again" (GOD BE WITH YOU) Pilgrim #62

(words can be found on the Announcements page)

### **\*Blessing**

**\*Sung Response** "This Is the Day" (THIS IS THE DAY) NCH #84

*1 This is the day, this is the day that our God has made, that our God has made; we will rejoice, we will rejoice and be glad in it, and be glad in it. This is the day that our God has made, we will rejoice and be glad in it; This is the day, this is the day that our God has made.*

**Postlude** "Come, Thou Font" (NETTLETON) Arr. Sharon Wilson Bonnie and Don

### **Fellowship**

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

## More Info/Contact Info

Art work at the top is from: A Sanctified Art LLC.

Call to Worship and Invocation was written by Susan M. Reisert

Greeter: Deb Morgan

Worship Asst: Deb Morgan

Zoom: Joseph Reisert

Hospitality: Bonnie Dufty

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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 April 26, 2026

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

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

**PILGRIM LODGE**— programs and camp information is available at [pilgrimlodge.org](http://pilgrimlodge.org). We have funds to help Old South folk attend! Please let Pastor Susan know by May 15, if you plan to attend any PL camps/programs this season.

## MEETINGS/EVENTS THIS WEEK:

### Wednesday

2:30 Worship Team

4:00 Choir Rehearsal

### Thursday

Deadline for Sanctuary Stories (please email to the church office)

**BIBLE BUNCH**— is on break until May 5. We'll meet May 5, 12 and 19 before a summer break.

**SAVE THE DATE! HISTORY DAY, May 31**— Looking Back and Looking Ahead. How does our past help to inform the future? More information will be available next week.

## OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES:

**OUTREACH TEAM:** The Outreach fund for April will go to Pilgrim Lodge.

**THE UNITED COMMUNITY LIVING CENTER** is looking for items that will help the homeless population in the Augusta Area. There's a list of items, along with information on where and how to drop off items on the bulletin board.

**WALK OF SUFFERING AND HOPE, Saturday, May 2, 10:00 - 11:30am**— Join Augusta area faith communities and community support organizations for a walk to raise awareness about the lives of our neighbors who are not adequately housed. The Walk begins at Mill Park at 10 am on Saturday, May 2 and then walk through the Augusta area as we reflect on experiences of suffering and hope in our community. The walk will end at the Unitarian Universalist Community Church in Augusta where we will share a simple lunch together.

**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/>

**HANNAFORD PROGRAM:** Next deadline: May 10th. Send your check to the office, or place in the offering plate. Please mark your check clearly for Hannaford.

**TODAY'S HYMNS**

**Come, O Fount of Every Blessing      (NETTLETON)      NCH #459**

1 Come, O Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing your grace;  
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of endless praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.  
Praise the mount; I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unfailing love.

2 Here I pause in my sojourning, giving thanks for having come,  
Come to trust, at every turning, God will guide me safely home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God,  
Came to rescue me from danger, blessed body, precious blood.

3 O to grace how great a debtor daily I am drawn anew!  
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to you.  
Prone to wander, I can feel it, wander from the love I've known:  
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for your very own.

*Public Domain Hymn*

**God Be With You Till We Meet Again            (GOD BE WITH YOU)            Pilgrim # 62**

1 God be with you till we meet again; By his counsels guide, uphold you,  
With his sheep securely fold you: God be with you till we meet again.

2 God be with you till we meet again; 'Neath his wings protecting hide you,  
Daily manna still provide you: God be with you till we meet again.

3 God be with you till we meet again; When life's perils thick confound you,  
Put his arms unfailing round you: God be with you till we meet again.

4 God be with you till we meet again; Keep love's banner floating o'er you,  
Smite death's threatening wave before you: God be with you till we meet again.

*Public Domain Hymn*

**This Is the Day            (THIS IS THE DAY)            NCH #84**

1 This is the day, this is the day that our God has made, that our God has made;  
We will rejoice, we will rejoice and be glad in it, and be glad in it.  
This is the day that our God has made, we will rejoice and be glad in it;  
This is the day, this is the day that our God has made.

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