



Welcome to

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

10:00 am– Announcements and Community Joys & Concerns

10:10 am– Worship begins

May 17, 2026

7th Sunday of Easter

Hybrid Worship

*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** "Peace In the Valley" T.A. Dorsey Cynthia McGuire, flute; Bonnie Dufty, piano

**Introit** "Gathered Here" NCH #742 Choir

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

One: Holy God, called to worship you, we come, but we come deeply grounded in the "real" world around us.

**Many: God of the "real" world, we come to worship you.**

One: Hope-giving God, called to praise you, we come, but we also bring the pain of people's hopelessness to God.

**Many: Hope of the hopeless, we come to praise you.**

One: Faithful God, called to honor you, we come, but we also carry the grief of the world's orphans, the widows and the strangers in our midst, all of whom need your justice, your mercy, your grace and your blessings.

**Many: God of the lost and the lonely, we come to honor you.**

One: Let us pray...

**Many: Faithful God, we come to worship you. Open our eyes, our ears, our minds and our hearts to a fresh awareness of your awesome holiness; a new understanding of your generous compassion; and your steadfast and enduring love for all your creation. Let us joyfully sing and share the news of God's power and majesty; whose holiness is awesome yet welcoming; whose compassion towards the weak and oppressed is measureless; and who, even in our foolishness, offers us forgiveness and restoration. We offer this prayer to you:**

**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** "The Church of Christ, in Every Age" (WAREHAM) NCH #306  
(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 68:32-35 p.530 Clover Leonard

**Second Reading** 1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11 p.235

**Message** "What Are We Holding On To?" Sarah Mills, Worship Leader

**Special Music** "Pass It On" Kurt Kaiser Cynthia McGuire

### **Mission Moment**

**Offering** (\*If you wish to give to the Outreach Fund, please make sure your offering is in an Outreach envelope. Envelopes can be found on chairs, tables, and on the entry table.)

**Offertory:** "Love is Spoken Here" J.K.Perry Bonnie Dufty

**\*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** "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" (EIN' FESTE BURG) Pilgrim #363  
(words can be found on the Announcements page)

**\*Blessing**

**\*Sung Response** "Go Now In Peace" (CYNTHIA'S SONG 2024)

*Go now in peace to love and serve our God. Go now in peace to love and serve our God. Love God. Serve God.*

**Postlude** "The Love of God" F.M. Lehman Bonnie Dufty



**BIBLE BUNCH**– meets May 5, 12 and 19 before a summer break.

**SAVE THESE DATES!**

**HISTORY DAY, May 31**– Looking Back and Looking Ahead. How does our past help to inform the future? The Lunch Sign Up has been posted.

**Sunday, June 28**– Interfaith Pride Worship Service at Emmanuel Lutheran Episcopal Church in Augusta at 2:00.

**OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES:**

**OUTREACH TEAM:** The Outreach fund for May 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.

**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: June 14th. Send your check to the office, or place in the offering plate. Please mark your check clearly for Hannaford.

**TODAY'S HYMNS**

**The Church of Christ, in Every Age (WAREHAM)**

**NCH #306**

1 The church of Christ, in every age beset by change, but Spirit led,  
Must claim and test its heritage and keep on rising from the dead.

2 Across the world, across the street, the victims of injustice cry  
For shelter and for bread to eat, and never live before they die.

3 Then let the servant church arise, a caring church that longs to be  
A partner in Christ's sacrifice, and clothed in Christ's humanity.

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**A Mighty Fortress Is Our God (EIN' FESTE BURG)**

**Pilgrim #363**

1 A mighty fortress is our God, A bulwark never failing;  
Our helper he amid the flood Of mortal ills prevailing.  
For still our ancient foe Doth seek to work us woe;  
His craft and power are great, And armed with cruel hate,  
On earth is not his equal.

2 Did we in our own strength confide, Our striving would be losing,  
Were not the right man on our side, The man of God's own choosing.  
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he;  
Lord Sabaoth his name. From age to age the same,  
And he must win the battle.

3 And though this world, with devils filled, Should threaten to undo us,  
We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to triumph through us.  
The prince of darkness grim, We tremble not for him: His rage we can endure,  
For lo, his doom is sure: One little word shall fell him.

4 That word above all earthly powers, No thanks to them, abideth;  
The Spirit and the gifts are ours Through him who with us sideth.  
Let goods and kindred go, This mortal life also;  
The body they may kill: God's truth abideth still, His kingdom is forever.

**Go Now In Peace            (CYNTHIA'S SONG 2024)**

Go now in peace to love and serve our God. Go now in peace to love and serve our God.  
Love God. Serve God.