

Welcome to
Old South Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, Hallowell, Maine
10:00 am– Announcements, Community Joys & Concerns; 10:10– Worship begins
November 29, 2026 Hybrid Worship 1st Sunday of Advent

No matter who you are, no matter where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here. Beverages (tea and cold drinks) 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

Prelude

Advent Introit "Come to Us, O Christ, With Singing" verse 1 Choir & Congregation

Welcome

Lighting the Advent Candle, Call to Worship, Invocation & Lord's Prayer
One: Lift your voices in praise to the Composer of our lives.
Many: We sing for Hope!
One: Blend your tune in harmony with all people.
Many: We sing for Hope!
One: Hang your note on the music staff of all creation.
Many: We sing for Hope!
One: May this light bring hope to those feeling hopeless.
Many: We sing for Hope!
The 1st Advent Candle is lit.
One: Let us pray:
Many: Christ of many names, we come to you today needing the hope you promise. Come to us, abide with us, and help us to rejoice even in the midst of uncertainty. In this time of worship, we bring all of our misgivings, disappointments, and regrets to you. Let the music of hope fill and heal our hearts. Let us free ourselves from the chains of regret. Let our rejoicing lead to action on behalf of the hopeless. We pray this in the name of the Coming Christ, who forgives and uplifts us with melodies of grace.
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.

Pastor: As the first candle of our Advent wreath is lit, we begin our journey through this Advent season by acknowledging that, like the Hebrew poet Isaiah, we continue to hope for a better world for all people. Our opening carol, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel," is based on an ancient Latin text in which the original names for Christ in each verse, when viewed in reverse order, spell out *"Ero Cras,"* Latin for "tomorrow I come." We still wait for that tomorrow–we "dream of a turning from ages of wrong."

***Hymn** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (VENI EMMANUEL) Pilgrim #110
(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.]

Reflection: A Favorite Christmas Carol

Focus Scripture Reading Isaiah 11:1-9 p.640

Message "Visions, Dreams, and . . . Reality"

Anthem "All Earth Is Waiting" Alberto Taulé/trans.Gertrude Suppe Choir
Today's anthem is an Advent Song of Hope from the New Century Hymnal (#121). Feel free to follow along with the text.

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:

***Doxology** (Pilgrim #515)
You may sing the traditional version or the inclusive language version:
<u>Traditional</u>: 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.
<u>Inclusive</u>: 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.

Prayer Pastoral Prayer, with Moments of Silence, Response

***Hymn** "Come, O Long-Expected Jesus" (STUTTGART) NCH #122
(words can be found on the Announcements page)

***Blessing**
All: May Christ come to us now and always, and may we have a song in our hearts to welcome him."

***Sung Response** "Emmanuel" (Emmanuel) by Bob McGee

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, His name is called Emmanuel; God with us, revealed in us; His name is called Emmanuel.

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Postlude

Fellowship

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

More Info/Contact Info

Worship materials, including art work & Advent introit, adapted from Worship Design Studio.

Greeter: Worship Asst: Zoom: Joseph Reisert
Hospitality: Deb Morgan Counters: Jackie Godbout & Galen Davis

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
Cynthia McGuire, Don Reutershan, Bonnie Dufty, Interim Music Team
Ms. Cynthia McGuire, Administrative Assistant Ms. Marcy Fullmer, Sexton

Announcements and Hymns for November 29, 2026

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

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

CALENDAR for the Week
Tues, 12/1
11:00 Bible Bunch 4:30 Bread of Life Dinner Delivery
Wed, 12/2
4:00 Choir 5:30 Bell Choir

WORSHIP SIGN UP– Is posted and online. Please consider signing up!!

ADVENT– This year, we are using resources from the Worship Design Studio, Carols for the Coming Christ (focus on Christmas Carols). Each Sunday includes an opportunity for someone

to share a favorite carol and why. How does the carol help you understand God and the coming of Jesus? How does the carol inspire you to follow Jesus? Sign up!
More ADVENT information is available in the News&Notes.

STEWARDSHIP– Have you turned in your pledge form? If not, please do so as soon as you can. You may put it in the offering plate during worship, or send it to the church office.

BIBLE BUNCH– Our Advent series will meet Dec 1, 8, and 15, at 11:00. Please see the News&Notes for details.

OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES:
The December BREAD OF LIFE DINNER DELIVERY Sign Up is posted.

OUTREACH TEAM: The Outreach fund for November and December will go to **Holiday Giving, Hallowell Food Pantry, Bridging the Gap, Hallowell Fuel Fund**.

THE UNITED COMMUNITY LIVING CENTER is looking for items that will help the homeless population in the Augusta Area. There's more info 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: **December 13.** Send your check to the office, or place in the offering plate. Please mark your check clearly for Hannaford.

TODAY'S HYMNS

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (VENI EMMANUEL) Pilgrim #110

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here, Until the Son of God appear.

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

2 O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer Our spirits by thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And death's dark shadows put to flight. *Refrain*

3 O come, thou Wisdom from on high, And order all things, far and nigh;
To us the path of knowledge show, And cause us in her ways to go. *Refrain*

4 O come, Desire of nations, bind All people in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife and quarrels cease; Fill the whole world with heaven's peace. *Refrain*

Come, O Long-Expected Jesus (STUTTGART) NCH #122

1 Come, O long-expected Jesus, born to set all people free;
From our fears and sins release us; grant us your true liberty.

2 Israel's strength and consolation, hope to all the earth impart;
Dear desire of every nation, enter every longing heart.

3 Born all people to deliver, born a child, you came to reign!
Born to rule on earth forever, come, be known to us again.

4 By your own eternal Spirit, come to claim us as your own;
By your all-sufficient merit, let us share your cross and crown.

Emmanuel (EMMANUEL) by Bob McGee

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, His name is called Emmanuel; God with us, revealed in us; His name is called Emmanuel.

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