

Phippsburg Congregational Church, UCC

Open and Affirming: All are Welcome Here!

December 17, 2017: Third Sunday of Advent/Gaudete Sunday

Please silence all electronic devices. Thank you!

** indicates times when you're invited to rise in body or spirit*

Gathering Music & The Ringing of the Church Bell

Greetings and Announcements

Centering Prayer

Prelude and Lighting of the Altar Lights

Variations 1-4 on Lo, How a Rose

Martha Sobaje

Call to Seek the Light: Lighting the Candle of Joy

Leader: The people who walked in darkness saw a light. And so we lit a candle for hope. *(light 1st candle)*

Last week we added the light of peace, a shining reminder to the world that, wherever we fight, God offers another way. *(light 2nd candle)*

People: We light hope and peace on this wreath

in our church on Sunday morning,

and we commit to living with them in the week to come.

Leader: The third candle is the candle of joy.

What opposes joy in our world?

People responding: _____

Leader: Can this Advent light stand against these powers?

People: Amen – light the candle.

Leader: *(lighting 2nd candle)* We light joy on this wreath

in our church on Sunday morning. What will you do?

People: Emmanuel, God being with us, we will live this joy.

***Hymn:** As With Gladness Men of Old

Pilgrim Hymnal #119

Gathering Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

Generous God, we are good at giving, good at running with lists, adding to bags and boxes, running cords and plugging in lights. But you wait at the edges, quietly, offering US a gift. What should we do? How should we receive it? Help us to slow down and see you, to make room for you, to welcome you and enter into your joy.

In the name of Jesus, your embodied and joyful gift, 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, & the power, & the glory, forever. Amen

Gloria Patri: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end! Amen, Amen!

Hebrew Scripture Reading: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

KJV 538 /CEB 571 /MSG 1010

Time for All God's Children

A Gift of Music: *The Coventry Carol* arranged by Sir John Stainer

Pastoral Prayer: May the Lord be with you

And also with you

Lift up your hearts

We lift them up unto the Lord

Let us give thanks to the Lord

It is right to give God thanks and praise!

Vocal Choir: *Manger Carol*

arranged by Marty Parks

***Doxology: Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;**

Praise God, all creatures here below!

Praise God, above, ye heavenly host;

Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.

Prayer of Dedication

Gospel Reading: John 1:1-8

KJV 778 /CEB 808 /MSG 1455

Message: Troublesome Gift

Rev. Holly S. Morrison

***Hymn:** Isaiah the Prophet Has Written of Old (NCH 108)

Insert

Benediction

Extinguishing the Altar Lights: *Take the Light of Christ into the world!*

Postlude: *5th Variation on Lo, How a Rose*

Martha Sobaje

Thanks to today's service participants:

Organist: Ann Hartzler Lay Reader: Susan Brew

Head/Asst Deacons: Brad Hart/Berenice Knight & Ann Bradbury

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Welcome to the Phippsburg Congregational Church! Please sign our guest book in the narthex and stay for refreshments and fellowship in the Linden Tree Meeting House following the service. No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

Need a Large-print bulletin, bible, or hearing-assist device? Please ask one of our deacons for these.

CALENDAR

- Sun. Dec. 17:* *Worship 10 AM: Third Sunday of Advent*
Following Worship: Packing of Grace Street
Gift Bags, LTMH
Christmas Fair Continuing, LTMH
- Mon. Dec. 18:* *Lectionary Bible Study 1:30-3 PM, LTMH*
- Tues. Dec. 19:* *Vocal Choir Practice 6 PM*
- Wed. Dec. 20:* *Tai Chi 10 AM, LTMH*
- Thurs. Dec. 21:* *Bell Choir Practice, 9 AM*
- Sun. Dec. 24:* *10 AM: Worship Service – A Feast of Love*
7 PM: Christmas Eve Family Service
11 PM: Christmas Eve Communion Service

PASTOR'S SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER 17 – DECEMBER 23:

Monday: Noon- 4 PM in Office

Tuesday: 10 AM – 2 PM visitation

Wednesday: Day Off

Thursday: 10 AM – 4 PM in Office

Fri & Sat: Visitation & working from home, reachable by phone/email

Please contact Holly as needs arise: 207-504-0107/revcelt@gmail.com.

READERS FOR CHRISTMAS EVE, 7PM SERVICE:

We are still looking for readers for the 7 PM service. If you would like to be one of our readers, please contact Pastor Holly.

STEWARDSHIP: There are three Sundays left in this pledge year. Please plan your pledge giving accordingly. If you want to know where you are with your pledge, check with Linda Totman.



He came to a world which did not mesh,
to heal its tangles, shield its scorn.
In the mystery of the Word made Flesh,
the Maker of the stars was born.
We cannot wait till the world is sane
to raise our songs with joyful voice,
for to share our grief, to touch our pain,
He came with Love: Rejoice! Rejoice!

-- Madeleine L'Engle, from "First Coming"

Rev. Holly S. Morrison, pastor & teacher

www.phippsburgucc.org

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