

**Phippsburg Congregational Church, UCC**

*Open and Affirming: All are Welcome Here!*

**December 24, 2017: Fourth Sunday of Advent/Christmas Eve**

*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**

*Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

*Bell Choir*

**Call to Seek the Light: Lighting the Candle of Love**

Leader: The people who walked in darkness saw a light. And so we lit a candle for hope, (*light 1<sup>st</sup> candle*) a candle for peace, (*light 2<sup>nd</sup> candle*) and a candle for joy, (*light 3<sup>rd</sup> candle*), shining reminders to the world that God opens a new way, beyond our old hatreds, our fears, and our despair.

**People: We light hope, peace, and joy on this wreath  
in our church on Sunday morning,  
and we commit to living with them in the week to come.**

Leader: The fourth candle is the candle of love.

What opposes joy in our world?

**People responding:** \_\_\_\_\_

Leader: Can this Advent light stand against these powers?

**People: Amen – light the candle.** (*light 3<sup>rd</sup> candle*)

Leader: We light love on this wreath

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

**People: Emmanuel, God being with us, we will live this love!**

**\*Hymn:** O Come, O Come, Emmanuel vs 2-4 Pilgrim Hymnal #110

**The Lord's Prayer** (*Inclusive setting by Rev. Laurie Y. J. Aleona*)

**Life Giver, Lover of us all,**

**Upon your holy name we call;**

**Your new day come, Your will be done,**

**On earth as in all realms beyond.**

**We pray this day for bread to live;**

**Forgive our sins as we forgive;**

**And give us strength in time of test;**

**Grant us release from evil's death.**

**For all the cosmos is your own,**

**Your power of love which we have known,**

**The splendor, radiant, without end.**

**To God be praise!**

**Amen, 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!**

**Reading: Mary & The Angel:** Luke 1:26-38, 46-55

KJV 749 /CEB 779 /MSG 1406

**\*Hymn:** Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming

Pilgrim Hymnal #131

**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!**

**Offering Hymn:** *My Soul Gives Glory to my God*

*Insert*

**\*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**

**A Reading: Christ is Born** Luke 2:1-20

KJV 750 /CEB 780 /MSG 1408

**A Christmas Love Feast:** (*We will share a traditional treat of Moravian love buns [sweet rolls] as we listen to a story of Christmas.*)

**\*Hymn:** O Come Let Us Adore Him

Pilgrim Hymnal #132

**Benediction**

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

***Thanks to today's service participants:***

Lay Reader: George Langbehn

Head/Asst Deacons: Brad Hart/Berenice Knight & Bill Gilman

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**Welcome to the Phippsburg Congregational Church!** We are an active, thoughtful, caring and diverse community of people who seek to walk in the Way of Jesus Christ. We are part of the United Church of Christ; we take the Bible seriously, but not literally. Our ministry in this place is 252 years strong, and we continue to reach beyond our doors to learn from, & serve, others. Visit us: [www.phippsburgucc.org](http://www.phippsburgucc.org). 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. 24: 10 AM: Worship Service – A Feast of Love  
7 PM: Christmas Eve Family Service  
11 PM: Christmas Eve Communion Service Sun.*

*Mon. Dec. 25: Christmas Day*

*Sun. Dec. 31: 10 AM: First Sunday of Christmas, Carol Sing*

**PASTOR'S SCHEDULE:**

Pastor Holly will be on vacation from Dec 25- Dec 31.

Please contact Deacons as needs arise.

Brad Hart: 809-2816 / [bradhart07438@yahoo.com](mailto:bradhart07438@yahoo.com)

Berenice Knight: 443-4763 / [bereniceknight@gmail.com](mailto:bereniceknight@gmail.com)

**STEWARDSHIP:** There are two 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.

**Rev. Holly S. Morrison, pastor & teacher**

**[www.phippsburgucc.org](http://www.phippsburgucc.org)**

Office: 207-389-1767 Pastor: 207-504-0107

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