

***Phippsburg Congregational Church, UCC***

*Open and Affirming: All are Welcome Here!*

**December 24, 2017: Christmas Eve Service of Lessons & Carols**

*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**

**Words of Welcome**

**\*Opening Hymn:** "O Come, All Ye Faithful" (v.1-3) Red Hymnal #132

**Lighting the Advent Candles**

**Gathering Prayer & The Lord's Prayer:**

...we pray in the name of the Promised One, saying:

**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**

**First Lesson: Isaiah 9:2-7** *Foretelling a savior's coming*

**\*Carol: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"** (v.1 & 2) Red Hymnal #110

**Second Lesson: Psalm 96:1-13** *How shall the world respond?*

**\*Carol: "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"**(v. 1-3) Red Hymnal #114

**Third Lesson: Isaiah 11:1-10** *The peace Jesus will bring*

**Carol: "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"** (v.1 & 2) Red Hymnal #129

**Children's Message**

**Fourth Lesson: John 1:1-14** *John unfolds incarnation's mystery*

**Carol: "O Little Town of Bethlehem"** (v.1, 3, 4) Red Hymnal #134

**Offertory: O Holy Night** *Adolphe-Charles Adam*

**\*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**

**Fifth Lesson: Luke 1:26-38, 46-55** *An angel brings news to Mary*

**Carol: "What Child Is This"** Red Hymnal #140

**Sixth Lesson: Luke 2:1-7** *Luke tells of the birth of Jesus*

**Christmas Meditation** Rev. Holly S. Morrison

**Seventh Lesson: Luke 2:8-20** *Shepherds respond to the news*

**\*Carol: "Joy to the World"** (v.2 "Let all...") Red Hymnal #130

**Unison Affirmation of Faith:**

**God-With-Us, You are the stranger at our door.**

**You are the refugee, the pilgrim, our new neighbor.**

**You bring gifts we did not expect.**

**You shine in our darkness.**

**You are divine wisdom and holy foolishness.**

**You are the present and the future.**

**I believe the Light of the World has come on this day,**

**Illuminating all our days--**

**Those gone by and those to come are blazing with love,**

**Your love, wrapped in human form,**

**Mocked, locked out, or welcomed in,**

**Your love, triumphant over fear, risen over death.**

**I believe love has come on this day.**

**I believe love has and will always come. Amen.**

**Sharing the Light of the World**

*(We will sing as we pass the light from one candle to another.)*

**\*Closing Hymn: "Silent Night"** Red Hymnal #138

**Benediction:** Carry with you the quiet joy ignited in your hearts:

You are part of God's gift to the world.

**ALL: Jesus is born among us! Welcome to the family!  
Sing Glory to God, and—on earth—peace!**

*(please remain seated while the bell choir plays a response)*

**CHORAL RESPONSE: “All Through The Night”** Bell Choir

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

**Postlude:** *Theme and Variation on a French Noel* Marcel Dupré

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

Organist: Ann Hartzler Musicians: Bell Choir, Margie Landis

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

Thanks also to Readers & Flower Committee Members

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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.

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

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

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

**PHIPPSBURG CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC**



***Christmas Poinsettias  
offered to beautify  
the sanctuary  
in this season of joy  
by:***

***The Winter-Carpenter-Poliquin family  
in memory of Jane Carpenter Poliquin & John M. Clarke***

***Kitty Paiste  
in loving memory of Dill Paiste and Jeff Parker***

***Peter and Carolyn Stackpole  
in memory of Bob Cutter***

***John & Betsey Morse  
in memory of our parents***

***The Morse Family  
in memory of Jane Parker Morse***

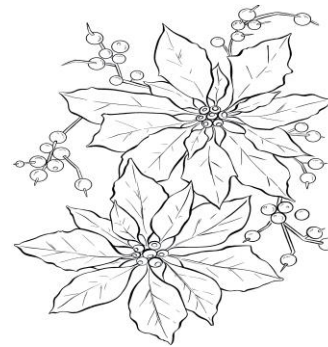
***Jean and Ron Flink  
in honor of Grace and Jamie***

***Laurie, Chip, Chipper & Robby  
in memory of Shirley Plummer  
in memory of Honey & Betty Doughty from their family  
in memory of Tom and Anita Totman from their family***

***Trees at front of the Church offered by:***

***Beth Brewer and Ann Bradbury  
in memory of their families***

***Communion Table Blanket made by Anda Bijhouwer:  
offered by Amanda Kibbe-Wark***



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