

***Phippsburg Congregational Church, UCC***

*Open and Affirming: All are Welcome Here!*

**March 18, 2018: Fifth Sunday of Lent**

*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**

*Chorale - Mit Fried und Freud ich fahr dahin*      *Johann S. Bach*

*(With peace and joy I go on my way)*

**Call to Worship: (from Psalm 51)**

Create in me a clean heart, O God,

**and put a new and right spirit within me.**

Do not cast me away from your presence,

**and do not take your holy spirit from me.**

Restore to me the joy of your salvation,

**and sustain in me a willing spirit.**

**\*Hymn:** I'll Praise My Maker While I've Breath      Insert

**Gathering Prayer and The Lord's Prayer**

You promise us new life, God. Yet birthing is full of pain, and we are already weary. You promise us a new covenant, but we're used to laws we grew up with: the stern teaching of parents, the rules of teachers, the officer's commands. Will a new law liberate us, or just make us more exhausted?

Lord, our tiredness goes deep, but your love goes deeper. Open the furrows of our hearts. Prepare the ground of our souls, so new life can grow. In the name of Jesus, Seed of Promise, 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, and the power,**

**and 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:** Jeremiah 31:31-34    KJV582/CEB604/MSG1080

**Time for All God's Children**

**\*Hymn:** God of Jeremiah, Grieving      Insert

**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!**

**Offertory:** *Adagio in A minor*      *Johann S. Bach*

**\*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 12:20-33      KJV 792 / CEB 821 / MSG 1476

**Message:** Falling to the Ground      Rev. Holly S. Morrison

**\*Hymn:** Hymn of Promise/In the Bulb There Is a Flower      Hymn Binder

**Benediction**

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

**Postlude:** *Prelude in G Major*      *Johann S. Bach*

*Music notes: The music today is in celebration of Johann Sebastian Bach's 333rd birthday which is on March 21st.*

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

Organist: Ann Hartzler      Lay Reader:

Head / Asst Deacons: Brad Hart / Julie Peacock & Berenice Knight

Childcare Provider: Bill Haggett

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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. Mar 18: Worship 10 AM*

*Offering: One Great Hour of Sharing*

*Lenten Lunch, 11:30 AM*

*Mon. Mar 19: Restorative Yoga, 6 PM, LTMH*

*Tues. Mar 20: Choir Practice, 6 PM*

*Wed. Mar 21: Tai Chi: 10:30 AM, LTMH*

*Church Council Mtg, 3:30 PM*

*Community Conversation on Homelessness, 7 PM*

*(at The Neighborhood UCC, Bath)*

*Fri. Mar 23: Lectionary Bible Study, 12-2 PM, LTMH*

**HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE**

*Sun. Mar 25: Palm/Passion Sunday, Worship 10 AM*

*Thur. Mar 29: Tenebrae / Service of Shadows: 7 PM*

*Fri. Mar 30: Good Friday, Sanctuary open 12 PM – 6PM*

*Sun. April 1: Easter Sunday*

*6:15 AM, Easter Sunrise Service*

*7:00 AM, Light Breakfast fare, LTMH*

*10:00 AM, Easter Sanctuary Service*

**PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS FOR MARCH 18– MARCH 24**

Mon: Day Off / Tues: working from home / Wed: Office & Visits 10-5 /

Thurs: Office 12-6 / Fri: Office 12-2 / Sat: sermon writing (working from home)

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

**SUNRISE**

*You can die for it—an idea, or the world. People  
have done so, brilliantly, letting their small bodies be bound  
to the stake, creating an unforgettable fury of light. But  
this morning, climbing the familiar hills  
in the familiar fabric of dawn, I thought  
of China, and India and Europe, and I thought how the sun blazes  
for everyone just so joyfully as it rises  
under the lashes of my own eyes, and I thought  
I am so many! What is my name?  
What is the name of the deep breath I would take  
over and over for all of us? Call it  
whatever you want, it is happiness, it is another one  
of the ways to enter fire.*

– by Mary Oliver

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

**www.phippsburgucc.org**

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

# God of Jeremiah

1. God of Jeremiah, grieving with an aching heart  
for an empire, unbelieving as it falls apart,  
when your thunder goes unheard,  
we will tend the prophet's word  
and in season, out of season, we will sing your song.
2. When our wound is left to fester,  
though the pain goes deep,  
when we've sown a hundred whirlwinds,  
but have yet to reap,  
when the platitudes of peace  
only make our fears increase,  
with a poem and a story we will sing your song.
3. When the palace looks at poverty with scornful eyes,  
when the scroll of truth is shredded by a leader's lies,  
when the glory of the cross is a propaganda gloss,  
in the square and in the senate we will sing your song.
4. We will praise the grainy granite of the Law's demands,  
and the Life-creating, Lover-God with wounded hands;  
we will spin your storyline to an empire in decline,  
and in exile or in honor we will sing your song.

Words: Brian Wren, © 1993 Hope Publishing Company  
TUNE: KELVIN GROVE

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