

Phippsburg Congregational Church, UCC

Open and Affirming: All are Welcome Here!

December 23, 2018: Fourth Sunday of Advent

Please silence all electronic devices. Thank you!

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

Prelude & The Ringing of the Church Bell

'Veni, Veni' (O Come, O Come Emanuel) arr. by Chip Davis

Greetings and Announcements

Bell Choir Introit and Lighting of the Altar Lights

'Of the Father's Love Begotten' Belles & Bouys

Call to Worship

But you, Phippsburg and Sebasco Estates of Sagadahoc,

O little towns of Bath, West Bath, and Woolwich,

Great songs are already sung of your mighty deeds

On behalf of a Savior born to people like us,

In a place like this. Shall we laugh? Shall we shout, amazed?

Either way, get ready! Light the lights, and let us sing!

Lighting the Advent Wreath The McGraw Family

Congregational Response: *(tune: "Away In A Manger")*

A candle is burning, a candle of Love;

A candle to point us to heaven above.

A light in the darkness, a promise of birth;

For Jesus is bringing God's Love to our earth.

***Hymn:** "Hail to the Lords Anointed" Pilgrim Hymnal 105 (Tune: PH192)

Gathering Prayer (from the Iona Community) & The Lord's Prayer

Behind the corridors of space, before the world began, beyond all understanding: God.

Gloria, Gloria, Gloria, in Excelsis Deo!

Fathering time, mothering Creation, parenting all people: God.

Gloria, Gloria, Gloria, in Excelsis Deo!

Waiting for the right moment, preparing the way, seeking the right

woman... God. Gloria, Gloria, Gloria, in Excelsis Deo!

We believe in one God, maker and mover of heaven & earth!

Seeking Emmanuel, 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: Micah 5:2-5a KJV681 /CEB708 /MSG1275

Time for All God's Children: "The Friendly Beasts" Hymn Binder
"The Night the Animals Talked" by Chip Simpson

Choir Anthem: "In the Bleak Midwinter" Gustav Holst

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: *'Of the Father's Love Begotten'* *Divinum Mysterium*

***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. Amen.**

Prayer of Dedication

Gospel Reading: Luke 1:39-55 KJV749 /CEB779 /MSG1406

Message: "Oh My Goodness" Rev. Holly S. Morrison

***Closing Hymn:** "Canticle of the Turning" Insert

***Benediction** Rev. Holly S. Morrison

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

Postlude: *'Good Christian Men, Rejoice'* *In Dulci Jubilo*

Thanks to today's service participants:

Organist: Sharon Bond Lay Reader: Chipper Simpson
Head/Asst. Deacons: Berenice Knight / Laurie Simpson & 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 12/23 *Worship 10 AM: A SONG OF LOVE*
Chili/Chowder Potluck Luncheon, 11:30-1 PM

Mon 12/24 *CHRISTMAS EVE LESSONS & CAROLS, 7 PM*
CELTIC CHRISTMAS COMMUNION, 11 PM

Tues. 12/25 *CHRISTMAS DAY*

Sun 12/30 *Worship 10 AM: COME-AS-YOU-ARE CAROL SING*

Fri 1/4 *Restore & Renew Yoga, 5:30-7 PM*

Fri 1/11 *Book Group resumes, 12-2 PM*

Sat 1/12 *CONCERT: New Orleans Jazz w/ The Hadacol Bouncers*

Wed 1/16 *Church Council Mtg, 4 PM*

PASTOR'S HOURS FOR 12/23-12/29: Hours by appointment this week.

Holly can be reached as needed: (207)504-0107 / revcelt@gmail.com

Amanda's Hours: Thursday 10-1 PM

A CALL FOR "STAR" STORIES

Last year on Epiphany, we handed out star words to guide you through the year. In January, we'd like to share some of the ways those words have been shining in your lives. Start thinking about your own star story. We'll share them during this year's Epiphany season!

ADVENT: A SONG OF LOVE



Salutation (*Luke 1:39-45*)

Framed in light,
Mary sings through the doorway.
Elizabeth's six-month joy
jumps, a palpable greeting,
a hidden first encounter
between son and Son.

And my heart turns over
when I meet Jesus
in you.

--*Luci Shaw*

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Rev. Holly S. Morrison, pastor & teacher

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