

***Phippsburg Congregational Church, UCC***  
*Open and Affirming: All are Welcome Here!*  
**September 17, 2017: Wilderness 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**

**A Prayer for Grounding**

**Prelude and Lighting of the Altar Lights**

*Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley*

*Joe Utterback*

**Call to Worship**

**The Spirit of God moved over the face of the earth.**

Winds raced. Water flowed. Land shifted and heaved.

**And then there were deserts and plains, jungles and forests,  
mesas and canyons, steppes and savannahs and sierras.**

And God looked over every kind of wilderness, & called it good.

**Then came people. And we gathered and grew. We fought  
over territories. We won wars, built forts, and tamed nature.  
We fled wars and journeyed back into wild places.**

And the Spirit of God moved with us.

**The Spirit of God still moves with us. Praise God!**

**\*Opening Hymn:** Morning Has Broken

Pilgrim Hymnal 38

**Gathering Prayer:** *(U.N. Environmental Sabbath Program)*

**Great Spirit, give us hearts to understand, never to take from  
Creation's beauty more than we give; never to destroy wantonly for  
the sake of our greed, never to keep our hands from restoring earth's  
beauty, never to take more than we can use.**

**Give us hearts to understand: when we destroy earth's music, we  
cause confusion; when we inflict wounds on the land, we damage  
your sanctuary; that as we care for Creation, it will care for us. We  
pray with Jesus, who loved your wild places:**

**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:** Exodus 16:2-15 KJV 57/CEB 53/MSG 102

**A Witness for the Wilderness**

**\*Hymn:** Pray for the Wilderness [*verses 1-3, 5*]

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:** *Let All Things Now Living*

*George Lachenauer*

**\*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**

**New Testament Reading:** Mark 1:9-1

KJV 731/CEB 761/MSG 1377

**Reflection:** Into the Wild

Rev. Holly Morrison

**\*Closing Hymn:** Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness

Insert

**Benediction**

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

**Postlude:** *All Creatures of Our God and King*

*Hal Hopson*

# WILDERNESS SUNDAY

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

Organist: Ann Hartzler      Lay Reader: George Langbehn  
Head/Asst Deacons: Ann Bradbury, Kathy Totten, Berenice Knight  
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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. Sept. 17*      *Seasons of Creation: "Wilderness Sunday"*  
*2<sup>nd</sup> Annual "Pastor's Pasture Picnic" 3-6 PM*  
*Mon. Sept. 18*      *Gentle & Yin Yoga begins, 6-7:30 PM (LTMH)*  
*Friday, Sept. 22*      *Concert: Novel Jazz Septet 7:30 PM*

## **OFFICE HOURS FOR SEPTEMBER 10-16:**

This week, Holly will be in the office Tuesday and Thursday from 10 AM to 3 PM. (Other hours by arrangement.) Holly can be reached by phone or email as needed: (207)504-0107 / revcelt@gmail.com.

## **2<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL PASTOR'S PASTURE PICNIC: TODAY! Directions on insert.**

## **BUCKET BRIGADE: DEADLINE EXTENDED TO SEPT. 24<sup>th</sup>!**

One more week to fill disaster clean-up buckets. Buckets will be blessed & collected on Sunday, Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>, then sent to a Church World Service depot for transport to hard-hit areas.

## **FALL BIBLE STUDY & BOOK GROUP:**

Both Bible Study and Book Group will be meeting this season. Please indicate your best days/times on the list posted on the Meeting House kiosk so we can start up! Book group will be reading "Take This Bread" by Sara Miles. Books have been ordered and will be available soon.



Blessed be you, harsh matter, barren soil, stubborn rock:  
you who yield only to force, you who cause us to work if we would eat.

Blessed be you, perilous matter, violent sea, untamable passion:  
you who, unless we fetter you, will devour us...

Blessed be you, universal matter, immeasurable time,  
boundless ether, triple abyss of stars and atoms and generations:  
you who by overflowing and dissolving our narrow standards or  
measurements reveal to us the dimensions of God...

You who batter us and then dress our wounds,  
you who resist and yield to us,  
you who wreck and build,  
you who shackle and liberate,  
the sap of our souls,  
the hand of God,  
the flesh of Christ:  
it is you, matter, that I bless.

– Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

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

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

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