

***Phippsburg Congregational Church, UCC***

*Open and Affirming: All are Welcome Here!*

**December 2, 2018: First 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**

*'Pastorale'*

Johann S. Bach

**Greetings and Announcements**

**Centering Prayer**

**Procession of the Greens**

**Sung Call to Worship & Lighting of the Altar Lights**

O come, O come, Emmanuel

And ransom captive Israel

That mourns in lonely exile here

Until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel

Shall come to thee, O Israel.

**Lighting the Advent Wreath**

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

*A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright;*

*A candle of Hope in this season's dark night.*

*While angels sing blessings from heaven so clear*

*Our hearts we prepare now, for Jesus is near.*

**Prayer of Confession** *(see insert)*

**Assurance of Pardon**

**The Lord's Prayer**

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:** Jeremiah 33:14-16 KJV584 /CEB606 /MSG1084

**Time for All God's Children**

**Special Music:** "Be Thou My Vision"

**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:** *'Shepherd's Song'*

Gustav Merkel

**\*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:** Matthew 6:25-33

KJV707 /CEB737 /MSG1338

**Message:** "A Hoping Machine"

Rev. Holly S. Morrison

**Sacrament of Communion**

*(Our table is open to all, regardless of belief or background. A GF option is in the small container on each bread plate.)*

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**\*Closing Hymn:** "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" Pilgrim Hymnal 103

**\*Benediction**

Rev. Holly S. Morrison

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

**Postlude:** *'Partita on Freu dich sehr' (Joy to you)*

Georg Bohm

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

Organist: Ann Hartzler

Lay Reader: George Langbehn

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. 12/2      *Worship 10 AM*  
Tues. 12/4      *Vocal Choir Practice, 6 PM*  
Thurs. 12/6      *Bell Choir Practice, 9 AM*  
Fri. 12/7      *Book Group, 12-2 PM*  
                    *Restore & Renew Yoga, 5:30-7 PM, LTMH*  
Sat. 12/8      *CONCERT: The Gawler Sisters, 7:30 PM*  
Sun. 12/9      *Worship 10 AM*  
Sat. 12/15      *MOFGA Chapter Wreath Making & Potluck, 12-3 PM*

**PASTOR'S HOURS FOR 12/2-12/8:** Mon: Work from Home / Tue: Office 11-4 / Wed: Day Off / Thurs: Office 10-4 / Friday: Book Group 12-2 / Sat: Work from Home. Holly can be reached by phone or email as needed: (207)504-0107 / [revcelt@gmail.com](mailto:revcelt@gmail.com)

**Amanda's Hours:** Tuesday & Thursday 12-3 PM

### **SEEKING CHRISTMAS EVE READERS**

Seeking readers for the 7:00 service on December 24<sup>th</sup>. If you would be willing to read a scripture or poem for this Christmas Eve service, please contact the church office.

### **CHILI/CHOWDER FELLOWSHIP POTLUCK: December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 11:30-1 PM**

Pull up a chair and take a break from the Christmas rush. Join us for a Potluck lunch following worship on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Sign up for potluck items is in the Narthex.

### **GRACE STREET MINISTRIES WINTER GEAR DRIVE**

We are once again gathering winter gear for Maine's homeless people through Grace Street Ministries. Coats, boots, toiletries, warm socks, scarves, mittens, hats and backpacks. Add them to the donation box in the Narthex. The box is filling up and there's still room for more – Thank you for your donations!

# *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel!*



Earth grown old, yet still so green,  
Deep beneath her crust of cold  
Nurses fire unfelt, unseen: Earth grown old...  
*When will fire break up her screen?  
When will life burst thro' her mould?  
Earth, earth... thy cold is keen,  
Earth grown old."*

*--Christina Rosetti, "Advent"*

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

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

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

**A Prayer for the First Sunday in Advent** *(Rev. Rachel Hackenburg)*

**We humble ourselves before you,  
O God of promise and fulfillment,**  
God of this Advent season, we long for your day,  
**because these days leave much to be desired:  
we assault one another in spirit, word and deed,  
in malls and on the streets, at podiums and borders,**  
from our positions of authority, from our positions of fear;  
**and we say to each other “It’s not us. It’s them.”  
but it is all of us —these are our worldviews  
being preserved with violence,  
these are our bodies being attacked and shot,**  
this is our collective life eyeing its own self with suspicion.  
Dear God, we are your people.  
**Do not let us destroy one another,  
and do not let us shame or injure  
the vulnerable and oppressed.**  
Make us to walk in your paths of truth and healing;  
**burn with holy fire to show us the way.  
Turn out the sun and bleed the moon  
to grab our attention, if you must.**  
Tell the fig tree to bear fruit out of season,  
drive a snowstorm through the summer  
**if it will unearth our heads from the sands of ignorance  
and alert our hearts to the chaos of your justice.**  
You and you alone know how much  
**we long to secure your love for us  
even while we worry and rage and debate love in this world.  
Persuade our hearts with an abundance of love,  
make us vulnerable to friends and strangers,  
break our hearts open with the wildness of hope,**  
for our lives are lost without faith, hope and love.  
**Strengthen our hearts in holiness,  
we pray in Jesus’ name and for Jesus’ sake. Amen.**

*(Based on Jeremiah 33:14-16, Psalm 25:1-10, & Luke 21:25-36)*

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