

**Phippsburg Congregational Church, UCC**

*Open and Affirming: All are Welcome Here!*

**December 9, 2018: Second 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**

*'Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence' French melody arr. by Craig Curry*

**Greetings and Announcements**

**Bell Choir Introit:** "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent" Belles & Bouys

**Lighting of the Altar Lights**

**Call to Worship**

Out of silence, we seek a Savior:

**Silence of deathbeds and seedbeds,**

**Silence of exhausted migrants and bombed-out shelters.**

**Silence of complicity and confusion**

Calling through the crowds:

**Crowds of shoppers and seekers and lost sheep,**

**The anguished, the anxious, the addicted,**

**Bullying, bellowing, begging**

We seek balance. We seek harmony:

**Prince of Peace, come—to answer our longings,**

**Sing your song into our silence, hush our violent noise.**

**Jesus, we are here, seeking you!**

**Lighting the Advent Wreath**

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

*A candle is burning, a candle of Peace;*

*A candle to signal that conflict must cease.*

*For Jesus is coming to show us the way;*

*A message of Peace humbly laid in the hay.*

**\*Hymn:** "Comfort, Comfort Ye My People" Pilgrim Hymnal 104

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

**Dear God, you know the peace we need—peace we seem unable to make ourselves. Help us pause and prepare. Help us set down the old burdens of suspicion and fear, so our arms will be free to welcome**

**you. In your name, Jesus, 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:** Baruch 5:1-9 KJV /CEB /MSG

**Time for All God's Children**

**Choir Anthem:** 'Every Valley' John Ness Beck

**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:** 'Still, Still, Still' *Austrian melody arr. by James Mansfield*

**\*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 1:68-79 KJV /CEB /MSG

**Message** Rev. Holly S. Morrison

**\*Closing Hymn:** "Now Bless the God of Israel" (NCH110) Insert

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

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

**Postlude:** 'Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light' J.S. Bach

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

Organist: Sharon Bond      Lay Reader: Sue Mack  
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. 12/9      *Worship 10 AM*  
Tues. 12/11    *Building & Grounds Mtg, 2 PM*  
                    *Vocal Choir Practice, 6 PM*  
                    *Deacons Mtg, 7 PM*  
Thurs. 12/13   *Bell Choir Practice, 9 AM*  
                    *Tai Chi, 10-11 AM*  
Fri. 12/14      *Book Group, 12-2 PM*  
Sat. 12/15      *MOFGA Chapter Wreath Making & Potluck, 3-7 PM*  
Sun. 12/16      *Worship 10 AM*

**PASTOR'S HOURS FOR 12/9-12/15:** Mon: Work from Home / Tue: Office 9-4 / Wed: Day Off / Thurs: Mtg Rockland 9-1, Office 3-5 / Friday: Book Group 12-2 / Sat: Wreath Making 3-7. 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 GIFTS:** We will be collecting \$5 gift cards to Dunkin or Subway to be added to candy and "keeper" cookies in gift bags for the Grace Street Ministries Homeless Christmas Eve street service again this year. Please bring to Church by Dec 16. Contact Sandy Stenquist with questions.

# ADVENT: SEEKING PEACE



*On the domed ceiling God is thinking:  
I made them my joy, and everything else I created  
I made to bless them. But see what they do!  
I know their hearts and arguments:*

*"We're descended from Cain.  
Evil is nothing new, so what does it matter now  
if we shell the infirmity, and the well where the fearful  
and rash alike must come for water?"*

*God thinks Mary into being.  
Suspended at the apogee of the golden dome,  
she curls in a brown pod, and inside her the mind  
of Christ, cloaked in blood, lodges and begins to grow.*

*- Jane Kenyon, "Mosaic of the Nativity, Serbia, Winter 1993"*

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

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

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