

***Phippsburg Congregational Church, UCC***  
*Open and Affirming: All are Welcome Here!*  
**December 16, 2018: Third 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**

*'In Dulci Jubilo'*

Don Freudenberg

**Greetings and Announcements**

**Bell Choir Introit and Lighting of the Altar Lights**

"While By My Sheep"

Belles & Bouys

**Call to Worship**

We are called to rejoice in God always.

**Always? Even during times of violence?**

Yes. God is not in the violence. God is with those who bring comfort and healing, peace and reconciliation. So, yes, rejoice always.

**Always? Even when people are hungry and homeless?**

Yes. God is not in despair and poverty. God is with those who struggle, those who help and work toward change. So, yes, rejoice always.

**Always? Even when I wrestle with my own anxiety and anger,  
my illness, my addictions, my failures to love myself?**

Yes. God is not in pain or self-punishment. God longs for our wholeness, & God's love is embodied with us. So, yes, rejoice always.

**Let us rejoice!**

**Lighting the Advent Wreath**

The Karambiri Family

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

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

***The light leaps to welcome brave Mary's new boy.***

***Our hearts fill with wonder within the soft glow;***

***As joy brightens winter like sunshine on snow.***

**\*Hymn: "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"**

Pilgrim Hymnal 114

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

**Life-giver, you created us for hope, peace, and joy. We still need reminding. Open our eyes to your Good News: in the words of a wild-eyed prophet, in the mute hunger of an outcast, in the hard glance of a veteran, in the soft smile of a child. With Jesus, who brought your love to live with us, 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!**

**Scripture Reading: Acts 8: 26-39**

KJV 808/CEB 837/MSG 1716

**Time for All God's Children**

**Special Music: "Silent Night Duet" by J. Raney Sharon Bond, Ann Hartzler**

**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: 'O Little Town of Bethlehem' Allan Mahnke in style of J.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. Amen.**

**Prayer of Dedication**

**Introduction to Guest Preacher**

**Gospel Reading: Matthew 25: 31-40**

KJV 726/CEB 757/MSG 1562

**Message**

Rev. Jeff Logan

**\*Closing Hymn: "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry" Pilgrim Hymnal 115**

**\*Benediction**

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

**Postlude: *Toccata on 'O Come, All Ye Fatihful'***

Allan Mahnke

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

Organist: Ann Hartzler      Lay Reader: John Morse

Thanks to the following Deacons who share in leadership today:

Brad Hart, Ann Bradbury, Sandy Stenquist, Kathy Totten,  
Berenice Knight & Laurie Simpson

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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. 12/16*    *Worship 10 AM: SEEKING JOY*  
*Tues. 12/18*    *Vocal Choir Practice, 6 PM*  
*Thurs. 12/20*    *Bell Choir Practice, 9 AM*  
                    *Tai Chi, 10-11 AM*  
*Fri. 12/21*      *Book Group, 12-2 PM*  
*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*  
*Sun 12/30*      *Worship 10 AM: COME-AS-YOU-ARE CAROL SING*

**GUEST PREACHER** Rev. Jeffery Logan was ordained as an Interfaith Chaplain in 2015. He works for Grace-Street Ministry, a homeless outreach ministry in Portland, and became the Executive Director in October 2018. He also has a private practice in acupuncture and Chinese herbal medicine. He is married, with one child who is a student at Yale College.

**PASTOR'S HOURS FOR 12/16-12/22:** Mon – Wed: Vacation / Thurs: Office 10-5 / Friday: Office 10-12, Book Group 12-2 / Sat: Work from Home. Holly can be reached by phone or email as needed: (207)504-0107 / revcelt@gmail.com **Amanda's Hours:** Tuesday & Thursday 12-3 PM

# ADVENT: SEEKING JOY



He came to a world which did not mesh,  
to heal its tangles, shield its scorn.  
In the mystery of the Word made Flesh,  
the Maker of the stars was born.  
We cannot wait till the world is sane  
to raise our songs with joyful voice,  
for to share our grief, to touch our pain,  
He came with Love: Rejoice! Rejoice!

-- Madeleine L'Engle, from "First Coming"

**Rev. Jeff Logan, guest preacher**

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

**www.phippsburgucc.org**

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