

Membership/Joining Liturgy:

RESPONSIVE LITANY (CONGREGATION READS BOLDED WORDS)

Blessed are those who yearn for deepening more than escape; who are not afraid to grow in spirit.

Blessed are those who take seriously the bonds of community; who regularly join in celebration and learning; who come as much to minister as to be ministered to.

Blessed are those who understand that the church is often imperfect, yet rather than harbor feelings of anger or disappointment, bring their concerns and needs to the church family.

Blessed are those who support the church and its work through their giving, and who give of themselves as well as their material goods. Blessed are those who when asked to serve, do so gladly.

Blessed are those who know that the work of the church is the transformation of individual and society; who have a vision of the Beloved Community transcending the present, and who do not shrink from controversy, sacrifice, or change. They are blessed indeed.

QUESTIONS FOR CANDIDATES:

[New Member]:

Do you desire to affirm your baptism into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?

I do.

Do you renounce the powers of evil and desire the freedom of new life in Christ?

I do.

Do you profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior?

I do.

Do you promise, by the grace of God,
to be Christ's disciple,
to follow in the way of our Savior,
to resist oppression and evil,
to show love and justice,
and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ
as best you are able?

I promise, with the help of God.

Do you promise,
according to the grace given you,
to grow in the Christian faith
and to be a faithful member
of the church of Jesus Christ,
celebrating Christ's presence

and furthering Christ's mission in all the world?
I promise, with the help of God.

Do you promise to participate in the life and mission
of this family of God's people,
sharing regularly in the worship of God
and enlisting in the work of this local church
as it serves this community and the world?
I promise, with the help of God.

WELCOME:

** Reading and Owning the Covenant of the Church (congregation stands and reads in unison)*
We confess our faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and give ourselves to His service and take this to be His Church. Ever mindful of the welfare of our fellowship, we promise to walk in faithfulness and Christian love, and we promise, insofar as we are able, that we will attend the services of this Church, observe its sacraments, share in its work, support its mission, and endeavor to be a fruitful body of Christians.

On behalf of the members of the Congregational Church of Hollis,
we express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

We welcome you with joy in the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.

Let the congregation acknowledge their assent and welcome by participating in a round of applause.