

The Congregational Church of Hollis, UCC

3 Monument Square, Hollis, New Hampshire

603-465-7797

www.HollisChurch.org



Four Pillars of Our Mission:

Welcome, Worship, Learn, Serve

Fifth Sunday in Lent

April 3, 2022

9:30 a.m.

**Masks Optional and Social Distancing Encouraged
(Services are being recorded)**

The CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF HOLLIS, U.C.C.

Fifth Sunday in Lent

April 3, 2022

9:30 a.m.

All Members of the Church, Ministers

The Rev. Tanya Stormo Rasmussen, Lead Pastor

Julie Oliver, Minister of Christian Music

WE GATHER

PRELUDE

Julie Oliver

WELCOME

Rev. Tanya

Grace, mercy, and peace be with you. I greet you in the name of Christ Jesus, who breaks down the barriers that divide us. It doesn't matter where you've come from, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Tanya

The story of Jesus includes many moments around tables, as this was part of his ritual of relationship even to the last. In this fifth week of the Lent season, we will hear a story of love and devotion from the disciple Mary, directed at Jesus at the table. As we will see, Jesus tries to prepare his beloved companions for his death. Talk of death is like a gut-punch to many of us; we would rather believe we and our loved ones are invincible, are able to will ourselves into being strong. We all know that isn't always how the story goes. We are fragile. Our lives, like the plants in the gardens we tend, are susceptible to elemental dangers and a life-cycle of letting go in order to live.

INVOCATION

“Good Enough”

(Recorded)

*What in our lives do we dream about for tomorrow, void of sorrow?
Time spent regretting decisions of our yesterdays, mistakes we made?
Sometimes we get what we get,
life disappoints us and yet,
God is still here and somehow, this faith is good enough.*

PRAYER OF APPROACH *(Based on Psalm 126)*

Deacon

Let us pray together:

Holy One, Lover of Souls, we call out to you. You know our tears and sorrows, and you bear the seeds of grief with us. Open us this day to your comfort that nurtures these seeds into sheaves of joy— the simple and good enough moments that fill our days. Amen.

THE CHILDREN LEAD US - INTRODUCTION TO THE THEME

HYMN

Before the Cross of Jesus

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TIME OF CONTEMPLATION AND CONFESSION

Deacon

Jesus speaks the words no one wanted to admit: he was not always going to be around. “Oh, don’t say that,” so many of us have said to a loved one who speaks the truth about the fragility of life. Perhaps we get uncomfortable because it reveals the precious nature of the present moment, laying bare the beauty and horror of it all. The indescribable pain we know we will one day face invades our senses like a pervasive perfume, inescapable. What if we stopped denying the limited nature of our lives and breathed in deeply the fragrance of vulnerability? Let us take a moment of silent reflection...

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rev. Tanya

Hear this compassionate word from Paul’s Letter to the Philippians: “I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.”

Know that already, God is offering us freedom from the need to avoid suffering at the cost of denying the fullness of life.

We are invited into the knowledge that Christ’s vulnerability in life, death, and resurrection shows us the sacred nature of the heights and depths of sorrow and joy in our own saga.

And know, that despite our sometimes faltering steps, in the name of Jesus Christ, you are being forgiven, even now.

Thanks and glory be to God!

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.*

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Beloved, having been reconciled to God, let us share the peace and joy of that relationship with one another! Those of you joining us remotely, please type a greeting in the YouTube Live chat feature with your name and greeting to others if you haven’t already. Here in the Meetinghouse, please greet those who are joining us remotely with a wave to the camera (at the back of the Meetinghouse), and then greet those around you with words of peace and connection.

WE PROCLAIM

FIRST READING

Philippians 3:10-14

pg. 955

GOSPEL READING

John 12:1-8

pg. 874

A Word of God that is still speaking,

Thanks be to God.

THE WORD IN MUSIC

Depth of Mercy
Matt Koper - soloist

arr. C. Owenby

SERMON

The Vulnerability and Power of Being Fully Human

Rev. Tanya

MUSICAL MEDITATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERTORY

(please refer to separate Announcements page) To *initiate Online Giving*: Go to <https://hollischurch.org/donations/> Please take a moment to sign our Friendship Register and pass it to your neighbor. If you're visiting with us and would like to be included on our mailing lists for hardcopy or electronic newsletter or remote church information, please be sure to include your contact details. And, as you pass the Friendship Registers, take note of the names of those who are sitting near you and greet them by name following the service if you haven't already.

DOXOLOGY

*Praise God, throughout these forty days.
Praise Christ, our Lord, whom God did raise.
And praise the Spirit who imparts
God's love in Christ into our hearts. Amen.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

The invitation to Holy Communion comes from God in Christ, and all who wish to receive the grace offered at this table fellowship are welcome. We use gluten-free bread and grape juice.

THE GREAT PRAYER of THANKSGIVING

God be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to God Most High.
It is right to give God our thanks and praise.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Pastor will say the words, "Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal," congregation will respond: **"Have mercy upon us."**

The Pastor recites, "Therefore with all your people in heaven and on earth we sing the triumphant hymn of your glory":

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

The Pastor recites The Words of Institution, ending with words: "Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith":

**Dying, you destroyed our death.
Rising, you restored our life.
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

PASTORAL PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

LORD'S PRAYER (unison)

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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

COMMUNION IS SHARED

Please come forward by pews. You may eat the bread when you are ready; please hold the cup until all have received so that we might drink as one body.

UNISON PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING

Loving God, you have fed us generously at this table, as we have remembered Jesus and rejoiced that he is with us today. We are ready now to follow him, and to be your people in the world. May your Holy Spirit show us the way, make us holy and fill us with love. Amen.

WE DEPART TO SERVE

HYMN

Be Still, My Soul

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A BLESSING FOR WHEN YOU'RE IN GRIEF

"Blessed are you, dear, dear one, doing this holy work of suffering what must be suffered. Of grieving what has been lost. Of knowing the unthinkable truth that must be known. This grief can make you feel on the other side of glass from the world around you, a force field of different realities separating you. Yet blessed are you in yours, for yours is the one most seen by God who breathes compassion upon you, even now. Who has walked this path, and who leans toward you, gathering you up into the arms of love. Rest now, dear one. You are not alone."

OUR COMMON COMMISSION

Let us now go forth into the world in peace, being of good courage, holding fast to that which is good, rendering to no one evil for evil, strengthening the faint-hearted, supporting the weak, helping the afflicted, honoring all persons, loving and serving the Lord, and rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

(Recorded)

POSTLUDE

The flowers this morning are presented to the glory of God in loving memory of Jean Burns by the D'Ambrosio family.

Deacons this morning are Keith Hamer, Peg Gilmour, and Ann Siglin.

Please join us for fellowship and refreshments in Hardy Hall immediately following service. For those joining remotely, please click [here](#) to join via Zoom, the meeting ID is 755502991 and the password 837130.

Worship Notes:

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“Good Enough” theme song by Marsha Charles, Marcia McFee, Chuck Bell. Used with permission of Worship Design Studio.

“A Blessing for When You Realize Everyone is Struggling” from *Good Enough: 40'ish Devotionals for a Life of Imperfection* by Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie. Used with permission. Purchase the book at www.katebowler.com/goodenough.