

The Congregational Church of Hollis, UCC

3 Monument Square, Hollis, New Hampshire

603-465-7797

[www.HollisChurch.org](http://www.HollisChurch.org)



*Four Pillars of Our Mission:*

*Welcome, Worship, Learn, Serve*

**Third Sunday of Easter**

**Communion Sunday**

**May 1, 2022**

**9:30 a.m.**

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

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

**Third Sunday of Easter**

**May 1, 2022**

**9:30 a.m.**

**All Members of the Church, Ministers  
The Rev. Tanya Stormo Rasmussen, Pastor  
Julie Oliver, Minister of Christian Music**

**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**

This is the Easter Season! The season of new life – and a breath of the Spirit. As we enter this time of worship together, may we open our hearts to the renewal of our minds and our spirits. May we dare to let go and dance with renewed vigor as we allow resurrection hope to fill our bodies and souls!

*Dare to dance with dreamers, sing their song,  
Dare to dance their stories, sing out strong.  
Dare to dance with freedom your whole life long,  
Dare to dance again!*

This Sunday reminds us that, while we can't change the past or take back actions we regret, the love of Christ invites us to discover the joy and liberation of living in new ways—ways that demonstrate our love for God by selflessly tending to those whom God loves but the world often rejects. We may not know our exact next steps, and we may occasionally stumble, but in the resurrected Jesus we have an encouraging Teacher who keeps repeating, “Dance with me, and with my beloveds!”

*Dare to dance with dreamers, sing their song,  
Dare to dance their stories, sing out strong.  
Dare to dance with freedom your whole life long,  
Dare to dance again!*

This is the call!

Face this new day, even when you aren't sure.

**We lift up our heads to meet the day.**

Get ready for life, for life is all around.

**We fortify our hearts with compassion and action.**

If rain still lingers, open the umbrellas of hope and set out anyway.

**For we are called to dance again!**

**PRAYER OF APPROACH AND CONFESSION**

Deacon

**Holy One, Justice-Seeker, Lover of Creation – you set this world in motion and gave it life. Be with us now, we pray. Turn us to face you when our steps are not sure. Come and dance with us, engage with us, as we seek you – so that we can be risen with Christ and in Christ.**

**Compassionate One, help us to confront the things we've done, and the things we've left undone, honestly and without fear. And as we acknowledge the things that have distanced us from you, or from your will, or from our neighbors' wellbeing, we ask for the assuring presence of your grace, which is greater than all our sin. Hear our confession, and help us to hear your invitation to New Life.**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Rev. Tanya

Friends, hear the gospel message Christ Jesus came to make known: Every life is precious to God, whose love is both so humble and so great that it accepted the vulnerability of human flesh, submitted to a cruel death, and conquered death's power by rising to New Life and inviting us into the sacred dance. **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.

**INTRODUCTION TO THE THEME****SCRIPTURE READING****John 21:15-19****pg. 884**

A Word of God that is still speaking,  
**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON***Learning to Dance Differently*

Rev. Tanya

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE****OFFERTORY**

*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 from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God for all that love has done;  
Creator Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen*

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

### ANTHEM

*In Remembrance of Me*  
Hollis Choir - Recorded

arr. by B. Red

## 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

Jesus is with us!

**With us now and forever!**

So lift up your hearts and voices!

**We lift them up to God!**

Let's join in thanks and praise!

**How right it is to do this together!**

Holy Living One, you transformed a whole lot of nothing into this amazing creation. You breathed life all around and called it good. You invited us to the wonder of it all and when we could not face you, you turned us around. You keep bringing us around and around, time and again, offering the chance to join the freedom-dance.

And so we join with the glorious chorus of saints past and present, singing a never-ending hymn of praise:

**Holy, Holy, Holy! God of power and might, everywhere we see your glory! Blessed are they who come in your name. Hosanna! Alleluia! Amen!**

Indeed, you are holy! And blessed is your son Jesus, Anointed One, Liberator, Dance Partner, Sibling, Friend. Jesus sat at tables with those who had no place and offered fulfilling food for bodies and souls. And on the night when he would give all love for us, he sat at the table with extended family— just as he hosts this table here and now with this extended family.

He offered the usual prayers of thanks to you, God, over bread and cup, and then disrupted the gathering with uncustomary words:

“Take and eat this bread—it is my body given for you. Whenever you gather around the table together, remember me.

“Take and drink from this cup, each and every one—it is the sign of a new covenant, (for business-as-usual is over and done and the dance goes on). This love is poured out for all people. Whenever you gather around the table together, remember me.”

And so, my friends, we remember. And we believe:

**Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again!**

Pour out your Spirit upon us now! Pour out your transforming presence on the gifts of this body and the gifts of this bread and fruit of the vine. May they be for us your life and love, uniting us as one body—Christ’s body—for the sake of loving the world.

All glory to you, Living Presence, Holy One, Holy God, through Jesus our Christ and the Holy Spirit our Advocate. **Amen.**

**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. You’re invited to dine – and to dance. The table extends beyond this physical space and into the space of the Spirit that unites us.

**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.**

**HYMN**

*Sing of One Who Walks Beside Us*

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**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**

**Rev. Tanya**

**CHORAL RESPONSE**

(Recorded)

**POSTLUDE**

**Deacons this morning are Keith Hamer, Tom Hildreth & Roger Norian.**

**Please join us** for fellowship and refreshments in Hardy Hall and a program sponsored by the Widening Our Vision Team featuring Representative Gerri Cannon immediately following service. For remote worshipers desiring virtual fellowship, please click [here](#) to join via Zoom, the meeting ID is 755502991 and the password 837130.

Worship Notes:

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