

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 of Easter

May 15, 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 of Easter

May 15, 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

We are a resurrection people! Those who seek new life – new beginnings. And we, the church, must be a place of knowing and growing and accepting love. We hear today the question asked by the Ethiopian eunuch: “Here is water. What is to keep me from being baptized?” As we dance into diversity and acceptance, may the Spirit guide our steps for nothing is keeping us from it!

*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!*

Dancing requires that we pay attention to the steps, that we watch for the steps of those who have danced this dance of life before – those whose seeking and questioning and dreaming can lead us to seek and hope and dream. Imagine now a dreamer in whose steps you would like to follow. How did they choreograph their dance of life? Now, imagine yourself following their steps with courage and joy!

*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!

Look to the skies be it rain or shine.

We lift up our heads to meet the day.

Look around and see that you do not dance alone.

We fortify our hearts with compassion and action.

If rain still lingers, open the umbrellas of praise 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. Give us courage, help us to follow you lead 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. (Silence for reflection or confession) Amen.

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**CHORAL ANTHEM***Welcome*

Mark Miller

SCRIPTURE READING**Acts 8:26-39****pg. 892**

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

SERMON*Following the Leader in the Holy Spirit's Dance***Rev. Tanya****PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE****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.

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

HYMN

Go with Us, Lord

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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

SUNG RESPONSE

Threefold Amen

POSTLUDE

Deacons this morning are Tom Hildreth and Roger Norian.

Please join us for fellowship and refreshments in Hardy Hall 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:

Liturgy and leader parts Marcia McFee © www.worshipdesignstudio.com/easterdance. Used and adapted with permission.