

The Congregational Church of Hollis, UCC

3 Monument Square, Hollis, New Hampshire

An Open and Affirming Congregation

603-465-7797

www.HollisChurch.org



*Four Pillars of Our Mission:
Welcome, Worship, Learn, Serve*

Sixth Sunday of Easter

“Freedom to Heal”

May 25th, 2025, 9:30 am

All Members of the Church, Ministers

The Rev. Tanya Stormo Rasmussen, Pastor & Teacher

Julie Oliver, Minister of Christian Music

Kim Burton, Minister of Faith Formation

(Services are being recorded)

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The Congregational Church of Hollis, U.C.C.
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PRELUDE

GOD'S LIGHT AND WORD PRECEDE OUR WORSHIP

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

REV. TANYA

CHORAL INTROIT/REFRAIN

I will take the cup of freedom and call on the name of God.
I will take the cup of freedom and call on the name of God.

CALL TO WORSHIP

REV. TANYA

SUNG REFRAIN

I will take the cup of freedom and call on the name of God.
I will take the cup of freedom and call on the name of God.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

DEACON

God of Freedom, our souls rejoice because you have poured out your healing balm on our lives. Mend the broken places of our lives so that all may know freedom in you. We come to you in this moment, cups running over with thanksgiving. Amen!

*** OPENING HYMN**

God of Grace and God of Laughter

#32

CALL TO CONFESSION

DEACON

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of mercy, your command to love one another across all differences, to truly care for the stranger in our midst, has the power to open us to new horizons. Yet, we often respond with fear and judgment toward others, especially those we do not know or understand, which hinders your vision for humanity and this world. Forgive us, we pray, and give us a true repentance that sees us turning away from these destructive habits, and instead embracing practice of courageous, radical acceptance that leads to more abundant life for all creation. We pray in the name of Jesus, who taught us that such a life is possible. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

REV. TANYA

God's promises are trustworthy and true: your sins are forgiven. Be at peace to serve the Lord, and may you always be known by your compassionate love. Thanks and glory be to God!

*** GLORIA**

Glory to God

#37

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of the risen Christ be with you.
And also with you.

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON

Revelation 22: 1-5

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CHORAL ANTHEM

Come to the Circle

Burrows/Rarden

GOSPEL LESSON

John 5: 1-9

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SERMON

“Freedom to Heal”

REV. TANYA

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

For privacy reasons, we are not publishing our prayer list names on our website. If you are worshiping virtually and would like a copy of the prayer list, please send a request to the church office at admin@hollischurch.org

THE LORD’S PRAYER

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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

OFFERING AND PLEDGES—SHARING GOD’S GIFTS TO STRENGTHEN OUR WORLD

To initiate online giving, go to <https://hollischurch.org/donations/>



OFFERTORY

JULIE OLIVER

DOXOLOGY

*Your name we bless, O risen Lord,
And sing today with one accord.
The life laid down, the life restored.
Alleluia! Alleluia. Amen.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

We believe in God
whose love is the source of all life
and the desire of our lives,
whose love was given a human face
in Jesus of Nazareth,
whose love was crucified by the evil
that awaits to enslave us all
and whose love, defeating death,
holds a promise of freedom.
Therefore, though we are sometimes fearful
and full of doubt, in God we trust;
and in the name of Jesus Christ
we commit ourselves, in the service of others,
to seek justice and to live in peace,
to care for the Earth and to share the commonwealth
of God's goodness,
to live in the freedom of forgiveness
and the power of the Spirit of love,
and in the company of the faithful,
wherever found. Amen.

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

POSTLUDE

* Please stand if you are able.

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Announcements

Helping our Immigrants and Refugees (IRSG) - Sunday, June 1st

On June 1 we will be joined by BJ Lates and Ron Schneider who are members of the UCC's Immigrant and Refugee Support Group (IRSG). The IRSG was formed over ten years ago to address the needs of Indonesian refugees at the Madbury UCC church. Since its inception, the IRSG has visited churches throughout our conference and beyond to talk about the plight of our immigrant and refugee neighbors and to raise money for their support. In addition, Ron also volunteers with the New Hampshire Immigrant Visitation Program (NHIVP) to visit immigrants held in ICE detention at the jail in Dover. There they provide counseling, assistance in finding lawyers, monetary assistance, and most importantly prayers. Please join us in hearing from Ron and BJ as they talk about their experiences with the IRSG. The Deacons have also approved a special offering to be taken at the service that Sunday, to benefit the NH Conference, UCC's Immigrant and Refugee Support Fund (checks may be made payable to: NHCUCC, and in Memo line write: Immigrant & Refugee Support Fund).

Special Congregational Meeting – Sunday, June 8th

All members are encouraged to attend a Special Congregational Meeting immediately following worship on Sunday, June 8, 2025.

We will gather to vote on the Proposed Interim Bylaws, which have been revised based on feedback from previous information sessions. This is an important step in affirming our updated structure and aligning with our church's ongoing mission.

Printed copies of the proposed bylaws are available in the church office, and digital copies can be found on our website.

Summer Worship Leadership

June 1: Communion Service (Rev. Tanya), followed by conversation with IRSG representatives.

June 8: Pentecost (Rev. Tanya). Wear red (the symbolic color of the Holy Spirit)! Celebrate the birth of Christ's Church!

June 15: Leaf Seligman

June 22: Worship at Rocky Pond, Peggy Gilmour & Ruth Kabel

June 29: Traci Weaver

July 6: John Pfeifer (NO Communion)

July 13: Rev. Tanya, Worship at Rocky Pond (with Communion)

July 20-August 31: Rev. Tanya

September 7: Homecoming Sunday

Celebration of Life Service for Lorin Rydstrom on Saturday, June 28 at 2:00 p.m.

Please join us as we gather to honor and celebrate the life of Lorin Rydstrom, a beloved member of our church and wider community.

Lorin's gentle spirit, steadfast presence, and thoughtful contributions to the life of our congregation touched many hearts over the years. This service will be a time to remember, give thanks, and reflect on the many ways Lorin enriched our lives with his kindness, humility, and quiet strength.

All are welcome to attend this Celebration of Life in the sanctuary, followed by a time of fellowship and remembrance.

Let us come together in love and gratitude as we remember a life well lived and deeply cherished.