

The Congregational Church of Hollis, UCC
3 Monument Square, Hollis, New Hampshire

An Open and Affirming Congregation

603-465-7797

www.HollisChurch.org



reflecting the sacred

Advent/Christmas 2022

Four Pillars of Our Mission:

Welcome, Worship, Learn, Serve

Second Sunday of Advent - Love

December 4, 2022

9:30 a.m.

(Services are being recorded)

The CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF HOLLIS, U.C.C.
Second Sunday of Advent - Love
December 4, 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

GOD'S SPIRIT, LIGHT AND WORD PRECEDE OUR WORSHIP

WELCOME

Rev. Tanya

Grace, mercy, and peace be with you. I greet you in the name of Christ Jesus, who draws us together as one Body, inclusive of all our varied stories and journeys. It doesn't matter where you've come from or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

CENTERING OURSELVES IN THE PRESENCE OF THE HOLY

SUNG REFRAIN

Choir/Soloist

ADVENT WREATH LITURGY: (Responsive)

The Sage Family

We pray for Love this day.

We open to see the Sacred reflected in all things.

We open to see each person as a gift of holy presence.

This is the gift of the Christ Mystery, lighting the way to love.

CONGREGATIONAL SUNG REFRAIN: (the candle is lit)

*Upon this moment, upon this people, upon this place, the holy comes.
And sacred knowing brings sacred being for sacred doing of God's plan.*

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

The Sage Family

Living God, Christ Mystery, Spirit of Love, we give you thanks for this holy gathering of Beloved people. As we take in the love you offer, may we be a reflection of your light, expanding the sacred presence you have promised into the sacred presence we can offer. **Amen.**

HYMN

People Look East

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Deacon

Maker and Lover of all, forgive us when we are too preoccupied, self-involved, or worried to notice your presence in our lives. When we are too rushed to allow moments of wonder and awe that lead to hope. When we are too frightened to imagine those not like us loved equally by you. When we gloss over the most ordinary details as a revelation of your joy, when we fail to stop and reside in peace with you in our depths. Open us, O God; free us to reflect the sacred. Touch us with your presence, we pray in your Holy Name: Christ, Anointed One. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rev. Tanya

Hear this good news: God is with us in our distress and in our faltering. God is always and already closing the gaps we create. Jesus calls us to this table with unfailing and gracious hospitality. You are forgiven and freed. You are not alone. Glory to God! **Amen.**

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

INTRODUCTION TO THE THEME

SACRAMENT OF INFANT BAPTISM

Addison Mann daughter of Jennifer & Jason Mann; Michael & Erin Wessling, godparents.
Penelope Sage, daughter of Melissa & Cory Sage; David and Jonathan Borezo, godparents.

RESPONSIVE LITANY OF CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

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.

The sacrament of baptism is an outward and visible sign of the grace of God. Inasmuch as the promise of the gospel is not only to us but also to our children, baptism with water and the Holy Spirit is the mark of their acceptance into the care of Christ's church, the sign and seal of their participation in God's forgiveness, and the beginning of their growth into full Christian faith and discipleship.

QUESTIONS FOR THE PARENTS

CONGREGATIONAL ASSENT

Pastor: Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. Do you who witness and celebrate this sacrament promise your love, support, and care to the one about to be baptized, as he lives and grows in Christ?

People: We promise our love, support, and care.

ACT OF BAPTISM

PRAYER FOR THE BAPTIZED

We give you thanks, O Holy One, Mother and Father of all the faithful; for this, your child, and for the grace acknowledged here today in water and the Holy Spirit. Embrace us all as cherished children in the one household of your love. Grant us grace to receive, nurture, and befriend this new member of the body of Christ.

All: Give to the newly baptized: strength for life’s journey, courage in time of suffering, the joy of faith, the freedom of love, and the hope of new life; through Jesus Christ, who makes us one. Bless the parents and godparents of this child. May they always show their gratitude for the life you have given by loving and caring for Addison and Penelope. Amen.

CHILDREN DEPART As the children and their teachers depart to continue their worship and learning elsewhere we offer them our blessing:

The Congregation: God’s love be with you.

Teachers & Children: And also with you.

SCRIPTURE READING

First Reading

Romans 15:4-13

Deacon
pg. 924

Second Reading

Matthew 3:1-12

pg.784

A word of God that is still speaking. **Thanks be to God!**

ANTHEM

O Lord, How Shall We Meet You?

Johnson

SERMON

Sacred People

Rev. Tanya

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Deacon

OFFERTORY – SHARING GOD’S GIFTS TO STRENGTHEN OUR WORLD

To initiate Online Giving: Go to <https://hollischurch.org/donations/>

***DOXOLOGY**

(to the tune of “What Child Is This”)

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God all heavens and the earth
reflecting the sacred story.*

*This, this is Christ the One
who mirrors love for all of us.
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
the Word of time eternal.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Pastor will offer a prayer of thanksgiving, culminating with the words:

“And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Praise God of power, praise God of might, praise God whose presence shines through our night. Praise God of glory, hosannas sing, reflecting the sacred story. This, this is Christ the One Who mirrors love for all of us. Haste, haste to bring him laud, the Word of time eternal.

The Pastor recites The Words of Institution, ending with words:

And so, in remembrance of your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ’s offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

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. 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

UNISON PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING

Bountiful God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and let us show forth your praise in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

REFRAMING THE SACRED: ANOINTED AS SACRED PEOPLE

***CLOSING HYMN**

Return, My People

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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

***THREE-FOLD AMEN**

POSTLUDE

*Please stand if you are able.

The flowers this morning are presented to the glory of God in loving memory of Edith Omicioli on the first anniversary of her passing by Susan Adams and family.

The Deacons this morning are Dot Hyde and Ann Siglin.

Please join us for fellowship and refreshments in Hardy Hall immediately following service.

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