

**The Congregational Church of Hollis, UCC**  
3 Monument Square, Hollis, New Hampshire  
An Open and Affirming Congregation  
603-465-7797  
[www.HollisChurch.org](http://www.HollisChurch.org)



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

**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
WHAT CHILD IS THIS?  
“The Silent Word”**

**The Congregational Church of Hollis, U.C.C.  
December 7, 2025, 9:30 a.m.**

**The Rev. Tanya Stormo Rasmussen, Pastor & Teacher  
Julie Oliver, Minister of Music  
Kim Burton, Minister of Faith Formation  
(Services are being recorded)**

**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**WHAT CHILD IS THIS?**

**“The Silent Word”**

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

**December 7, 2025, 9:30 a.m.**

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*Like the iconic figures gathered around the Christ Child in our nativity scenes,  
we gather together because we want to know Jesus more as we seek  
to bring his Reign of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love on earth.*

**PRELUDE**

**JULIE OLIVER**

**GOD’S LIGHT AND WORD PRECEDE OUR WORSHIP**

**DEACONS**

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**REV. TANYA**

*Please take a moment to review the announcements in your bulletin.*

*[the candle-lighters/readers come forward as we sing]*

Why lies He in such mean estate,  
Where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here  
The silent Word is pleading.

**CALL TO WORSHIP: LIGHTING OUR ADVENT WREATH**

**BURTON FAMILY**

**SUNG RESPONSE** *[candle lighters/readers return to their seats]*

*This, this is Christ, the King,  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,  
The Babe, the Son of Mary!*

**UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND CONFESSION** **DEACON**

Creator of All, we recognize how easy it is to overlook your presence and work among us. Forgive us when we are more preoccupied with our concerns than we are with what new things you are birthing among us. Here, at the nativity of your birth, give us the courage to face today with new air in our lungs. Open us to new understandings of the unfolding story of your presence among us. Show us the true meaning of peace on earth, good will for all. We pray in the name of the Christ Child, the Prince of Peace in our hearts and lives. Amen.

**\*HYMN**

*Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates*

**#127**

**SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Beloved of God, the peace of Christ be with you!  
**And also with you!**

**A MOMENT FOR ALL AGES**

**REV. TANYA**

*Children are invited to come forward to join Pastor Tanya near the nativity scene. At the conclusion, we bless them as they depart with the words...*

And now as you depart to continue your learning and worship somewhere else, we offer you our blessing:

[Congregation]:                      **God's love be with you.**  
[Teachers and Children]:              **And also with you.**

**READING FROM SCRIPTURE**

**DEACON**

**LUKE 1:5-25, 57-64**

**(Page: 831)**

**LUKE 1:26-38**

**(Page: 831)**

Through these ancient words of Holy Scripture, God still speaks to us today.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**CHORAL ANTHEM      Advent Canticle**

**Veni Emmanuel**  
**Setting by Mark Shepperd**

**Flute - Eileen Widner**  
**Oboe - Diane Fallier**

**SERMON                      What Child *IS* This – The Silent Word?**

**RESPONDING**

**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](mailto:admin@hollischurch.org)*

**Great, Holy One, spreading time and space,  
show us who You are in a human face.**

*[Concluding refrain sung by congregation and/or choir]*

**Great, Holy One, spreading time and space,  
show us who You are in a human face.**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kin-dom 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 kin-dom, 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/>



## THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

### GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

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

**Holy, holy, holy, 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!**

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 came to uplift us, by his life we give.**

**Christ gave up his lifeblood, by his death we live.**

**Christ comes to us now, still, as we gather here.**

**Christ will come again, so, nothing shall we fear.**

### PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING

Eternal God, we give thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us.  
Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### HYMN

*Let There Be Peace on Earth*

#512

### 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**

**This, this is Christ, the King,  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,  
The Babe, the Son of Mary!**

**POSTLUDE**

**JULIE OLIVER**

\* Please stand if you are able.

**Children Assisting With Worship Leadership Today:**

*Eli Weir*

*Madeline Wilmot*