

The Congregational Church of Hollis, UCC
3 Monument Square, Hollis, New Hampshire
603-465-7797
www.HollisChurch.org



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

JOY

Third Sunday of Advent

December 12, 2021

9:30 a.m.

*Please wear a mask and maintain social distancing
(Services are being recorded)*

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

JOY

Third Sunday of Advent - Music

December 12, 2021

9:30 a.m.

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

PRELUDE

Selections by the Merrimack Valley Flute Choir

Video

GOD'S LIGHT AND WORD PRECEDE OUR WORSHIP

INTROIT

An Advent Acclamation

Stacey Nordmeyer

GREETING

Grace, mercy, and peace be with you. I greet you in the name of Christ Jesus, the Prince of Peace. 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

A voice calls out in the wilderness.

It sings of a home for all. It speaks of justice and peace.

We could choose to ignore it.

We could drown out that song. We could choose not to listen.

Instead, we come into this space.

We let the world grow quiet. We listen.

A voice calls out in the wilderness. Do you hear it?

We hear it. In listening, we worship.

Let us draw near to God.

*HYMN

Christ Be Our Light

arr. J. Raney/B. Farrell

(Congregation joins in the refrain)

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.

Shine through the darkness.

*Christ, be our light! Shine in your church
gathered today.*

CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY

The Sirlin Family

Joy is seeing people you love after months apart.

Joy is hearing, "Come on over, it has been too long!"

Joy is the stretches and giggles of a newborn child.

Joy is making it home when the journey is long.

Joy is your dog sliding to meet you at the door.

Joy is the energy of a new season.

Joy is feeling found when you thought you were lost.

Joy is the beat and melody of a beloved song; joy is the gift of music.

So today we light the candle of joy, because the welcome God has for us is nothing short of joyful.

Rest in that good news. Let it wash over you.

Family of faith, we are close to home. Amen.

(The candles are lit for Hope, Peace, and Joy.)

REFRAIN

Christ Be Our Light

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Tanya

It takes courage to tell the truth. John the Baptist knew it. His job as a prophet certainly could not have been easy. And you and I know it. Our job as people of faith—to create a home for all—has never been easy. In our prayer of confession, may we channel some of John the Baptist's courage to tell the truth about ourselves and our world. We do not do this to shame or guilt ourselves for being imperfect. We speak the truth out loud because we know that we cannot grow and change without first being honest. So let us be brave. Let us be bold. Let us be truth-tellers as we confess together now to a God who couldn't love us any more than God already does. Let us pray. . .

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Deacon

Expansive God, we know that the church is your house, and your house has room for everyone. Yet, too often, instead of setting the table for our neighbors, we block the door. Instead of welcoming all, we judge others by our own standards. Instead of sharing our second coat, we hide it in the attic, holding on to fear instead of letting go with love. Remind us that your home is a home for all, that truth requires hard work, that truth requires uncomfortable justice. Help us to be bold enough to see it and brave enough to live it. With hope we pray, amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Family of faith, God sent prophets like John the Baptist to us because this work is not easy. Helping create a world where all might have a home, and all might be loved, and all might know peace, is an audacious goal. Fortunately for us, when we mess up—when we lose our way or forget our call—we are met with grace. God could not love us any more or any less than God already does. So rest in this good news:

We are at home with God—forgiven, claimed, and loved. The door is always open for us. Thanks be 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.*

INTRODUCTION TO THE THEME

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.

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.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Rev. Tanya

Old Testament Reading:

Zephaniah 3:14-20

pg 767

ANTHEM

Sing Gloria
Choir video

Katherine K. Davis

Gospel Lesson
SPECIAL MUSIC

Luke 3:1-18
Who Would Send a Baby?
Ann Siglin

pg 834
Mary Kay Beall

PASTORAL REFLECTION

Joy Is A Home with Room for All

Rev. Tanya

ANTHEM

Dark is the Silent Night
Choir with Diane Fallier- Oboe (video)

Audrey Snyder

Epistle Reading

Philippians 4:4-7

pg 953

SPECIAL MUSIC

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring
Matt Kopser

J.S. Bach

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SHARING THE PEACE AND JOY OF CHRIST

INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN SUPPORTING CHRIST'S WORK

(please refer to separate Announcements page) **Passing the Friendship Register:** please let us know you were here, and if you'd like for us to contact you by including your phone, address or email. Please feel free to take notice of the names of those sharing a pew with you, in case you have opportunity to greet them after the service.

Financial contributions are gratefully received during the offertory, or *initiate Online Giving:* Go to <https://hollischurch.org/donations/>

OFFERTORY

Go Tell it on the Mountain
Diane Fallier - flute

Tradition Spiritual

DOXOLOGY, PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*All praise, eternal Christ to thee,
Whose advent sets thy people free;
Once more upon thy people shine,
and fill the world with love divine. Amen*

HYMN

Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates

127

THE LIGHT AND WORD GUIDE US OUT INTO THE WORLD

***OUR COMMON COMMISSION** (unison but muted)

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**

***CHORAL RESPONSE**

*All who are able are invited to stand.

The Deacons this morning are Jenna Dakalovic and Jessica Marchant.