

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



AN UGLY CHRISTMAS SWEATER
CHRISTMAS PAGEANT:
SCAVENGER HUNT

Here's a quick checklist of things you'll want to gather (think of it as a scavenger hunt - grab as many as you can!) before the pageant begins:



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

LOVE
Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 19, 2021
9:30 a.m.

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

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

LOVE

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 19, 2021

9:30 a.m.

All Members of the Church, Ministers

The Rev. Tanya Stormo Rasmussen, Lead Pastor

Julie Oliver, Minister of Christian Music

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 name of 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

We are seeking—

deeper faith, a place to belong, the feeling that God is here in this room.

We are seeking—

joy that overflows, the movement of the Spirit, a hand to hold, when alone in the dark.

We are seeking—

the freedom to be, the courage to love, the conviction to act in the face of injustice.

We are seeking, but here in this space,

We are found.

Take a deep breath. This is your sanctuary.

God is here. We are found. Amen.

***HYMN**

Christ Be Our Light

arr. J. Raney/B. Farrell

(Congregation to join 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

Sirlin Family

God's love is like an open door.

God's love is the streetlight that guides us home.

God's love is a warm bed to fall into.

God's love is a table with room for you.

God's love is a crackling fireplace.

God's love is the sun that streams through the windows.

God's love is the roof over our heads and the floor beneath our feet.

God's love is a home for you and me, for neighbors and strangers, for family and friends, for enemies and partners.

God's love is a home for all.

Today we light the candle of love to remind us of this truth.

May it burn brightly in this space and even brighter in our hearts.

Amen.

REFRAIN*Christ Be Our Light***CALL TO CONFESSiON**

Rev. Tanya

Mary's world turned upside down with the visit of an angel. This is a moment we can relate to, because over the course of the last year and a half, our world has seemed to turn upside down more than once. When those moments come, we hope to respond with grace; but more often than not, fear can get the best of us. So today we turn to God in prayer, asking for God's guidance and grace in the places and moments we need it most. Let us pray together now...

PRAYER OF CONFESSiON

Deacon

God of safe spaces, we wish we were more like Mary, who in the face of great change, went and sought help. She did not wait for help to find her; she walked to the shelter she needed. Too often we wait silently for the world to change around us instead of speaking up for the things we need. Forgive us for failing to care for ourselves the way you would care for us. Give us the courage to be more like Mary. God of safe places, we wish we were more like Elizabeth, who greeted Mary with laughter and contagious joy. How many people have crossed our doorstep and how many times have we failed to see them? Give us the courage of Mary, and the grace of Elizabeth. Gratefully we pray, amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Family of faith, even if we miss the person standing on our doorstep, even if we fail to care for ourselves the way God would care for us, even if we forget and ignore, turn away and shut down, God still loves us. There is nothing we can do to lose God's love.

Rest in this promise:

If we get lost,
we will be found.

If we mess up,
we are forgiven.

If we withhold love,
God is lavish in loving us.

We are claimed. We are loved. We are forgiven.

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.*

HYMN*O Come, Little Children*

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PAGEANT*An Ugly Christmas Sweater Pageant by Salt Project***CAROLS** (in order as they appear in the pageant)

O Come, O Come Emmanuel
O Come All Ye Faithful
Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming
O Little Town of Bethlehem
Away in a Manger
The First Noel
Angels We Have Heard on High
We Three Kings
Joy to the World (first verse only)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.

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/>*

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

My Heart Sings Out with Joyful Praise

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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 Paul Edmunds and Keith Hamer.