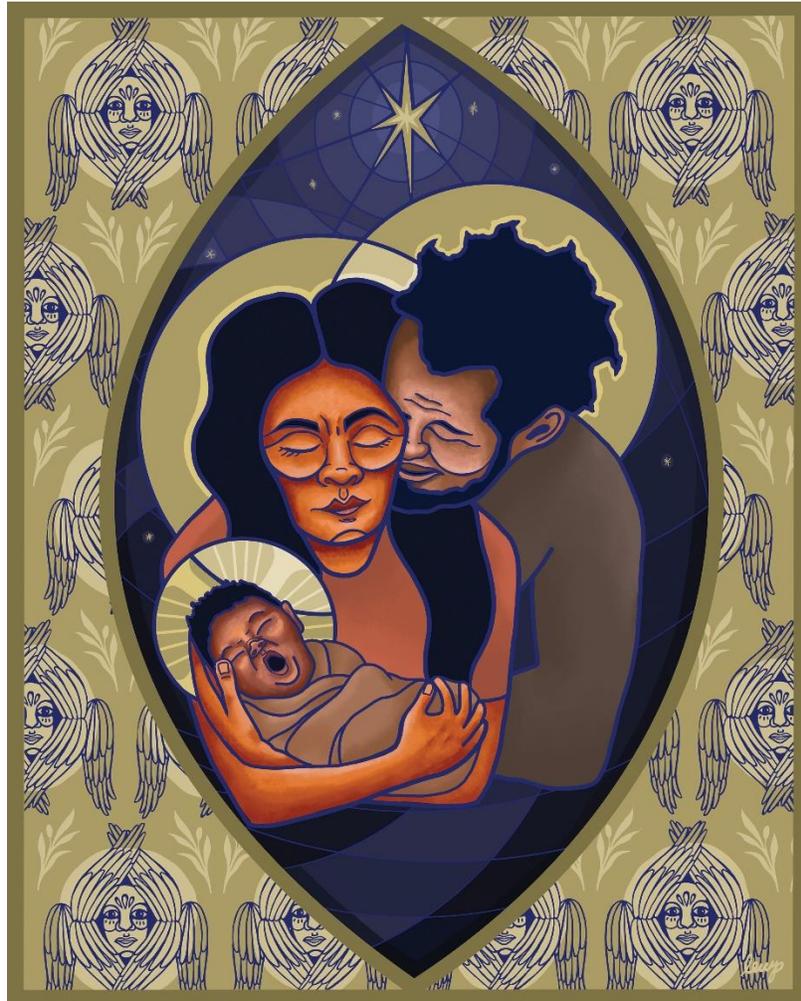


The Congregational Church of Hollis, UCC  
3 Monument Square, Hollis, New Hampshire  
603-465-7797  
[www.HollisChurch.org](http://www.HollisChurch.org)



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

Christmas Eve  
December 24, 2021  
8:00 p.m.

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

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

Christmas Eve  
December 24, 2021  
8:00 p.m.

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

**PRELUDE** piano

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

**INTROIT** *O Holy Night* Matt Kopser

**GREETING** Rev. Tanya  
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**

An unmarried teenage girl was invited—

**to carry Christ into this world.**

An ordinary carpenter was invited—

**to be a father to a child unlike any other.**

The shepherds were invited—

**outcast and isolated, included at the manger.**

The Magi were invited—

**foreigners and seekers, included at the manger.**

And if she was invited, and he was invited, and they were invited—

**then we can trust that we too are invited.**

This story is for us.

**This love is for us.**

Family of faith, this is our invitation. Welcome home.

**Amen.**

**\*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**

Brosnan Family

In God's house, there is hope—

For God loves us too much to leave us just as we are.

We light the candle of hope.

In God's house, there is peace—

For all that separates us from God falls away.

We light the candle of peace.

In God's house, there is joy—

Because God created music, and coffee, and dance floors, and laughter that is

contagious, and endless rounds of peek-a-boos with babies; and if those things have God's fingerprints, then God's house surely exudes joy.

We light the candle of joy.

In God's house, there is love—

Because God is love, from start to finish, and that love exists for us all.

We light the candle of love.

And in the center of our hope,

In the center of our peace,

In the center of our joy,

In the center of our love, is God—who came to this earth to dwell among us.

So tonight we light the Christ candle, for God's love just could not stay away.

Welcome home. Amen.

## REFRAIN

*Christ Be Our Light*

## CALL TO CONFESSION

Every Sunday we pray a prayer of confession together. As a kid, I used to think that this was a time to air out all the things I did wrong—all the reasons I was a bad person. However, as I have grown, I have realized—that's not what this is. Instead, this is a small moment for all of us to pause and recognize that we aren't perfect, we are still works in progress, and we want God's help to grow. How powerful is that? Where else in the world does a group of people gather every week and say out loud: "I'm sorry. I want to grow. Help me get there." So tonight as we pray, remember how powerful this is. This is one small way we accept God's invitation to deeper faith and life-changing love. Let us pray together now . .

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy God, you throw open the door and invite us into relationship, day in and day out. However, instead of running toward you, we dip our toes in the water of this faith. We hold our breath. We play it safe. We struggle to believe that a love so unfettered, so unfiltered, could be for us. As a result, we often deny this worth for ourselves and others. Forgive us for ignoring your invitation to be the people you call us to be. Forgive us for the ways in which we hold back from deeper connection to you or withhold your radical love from others. Open our ears to not only hear your invitation, but to trust that this good news exists even for us. Gratefully we pray, amen.**

## WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Family of faith, even when we fail to trust God's love, and even when we fail to love others as we should, God still loves us. That door never closes. So hear and believe this good news:

**God invites us into a life of faith. God loves us through every season of life. God forgives us when we lose our way and invites us deeper every step of the way. We are loved, invited, claimed, celebrated, and forgiven. Thanks be to God!**

## PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Holy God, we've heard this story a million times—

Mary and Joseph, the angels, the shepherds. We've heard it a million times, but we want to hear it like it's the first. So move among us. Circle back. Draw close. Crack open our hearts and fill them with your goodness. Help us to hear what it is you might be saying to us with curiosity, joy, and hope. This is an invitation. Come be here with us.

Gratefully we pray, amen.

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

Luke 2:1-20

John 1:1-5, 10-14

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

*When Will the Little King Come?*  
Ann Siglin - Soloist

Ruth Elaine Schram

**CHRISTMAS EVE REFLECTION**

*Invited Home*

Rev. Tanya

**MUSICAL INTERLUDE**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**INVITATION TO OFFERING (FOOD & FUEL FUND)**

**OFFERTORY**

*'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime*

video

**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*

**SHARING THE LIGHT**

*Silent Night*

**Silent night, holy night,  
All is calm, all is bright  
Round you' virgin mother and child.  
Holy infant so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace,  
Sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night,  
Shepherds quake at the sight,  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heavenly hosts sing alleluia;  
Christ, the Savior, is born!  
Christ, the Savior, is born!**

**Silent night, holy night,  
Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from thy holy face,  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**