

Westhampton Congregational United Church of Christ  
an Open and Affirming Congregation  
4th Sunday of Lent - March 15, 2026

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 **Reflection** - "God's goodness and mercy will chase after us,  
even if we run in the other direction." ~ Robert W. Fisher  
*"True peace is not merely the absence of tension;  
it is the presence of justice." ~ Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.*

 **Piano Prelude**

 **Announcements / Lighting the Candle / Welcome to Worship**

 **Piano Introit**

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 **Call to Worship**

One: The Holy One is our shepherd.

**Many: So, we are never alone on the journey.**

One: In the valleys of our world seeking what is good and true,

**Many: God's presence gives us courage and calls us forward.**

One: In the darkness,

**Many: Christ's light shines.**

One: Come, let us worship the One  
who leads us in paths of justice and peace.

**All: We come to walk in the light of Christ.**

 **Hymn SL #100** *The Lord's My Shepherd*

The Lord's my Shepherd; I'll not want, He makes me down to lie  
In pastures green; He leadeth me the quiet waters by.

My soul He doth restore again, and me to walk doth make  
Within the paths of righteousness, e'en for His own name's sake.

Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, yet will I fear no ill;  
For Thou art with me, and Thy rod and staff me comfort still.

My table Thou hast furnish-ed in presence of my foes;  
My head Thou dost with oil anoint, and my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life shall surely follow me,  
And in God's house forevermore, my dwelling place shall be.

 **Unison Prayer of Invocation**

Loving God, we have come here today to hear your word  
and let it change us. We have come to be refreshed by your  
presence, to be encouraged by each other, to be reminded  
that you are always present with us, and to lean into the  
light of your justice and peace revealed through your  
word. Open our hearts this morning to receive all that  
you offer, and in turn to reach out to others in love. Amen.

 **Gloria SL #9**

 **Anthem** *Sanctus*

 **Moment for All Ages**

 **Scripture Readings** Psalm 23 p. 617  
Ephesians 5:8-14 p.

 **A Just Peace Church** – guest speaker Rev. Dr. Robert Loesch

 **Message**

 **Hymn NC #314** *Community of Christ*

Community of Christ, who make the Cross your own,  
Live out your creed and risk your life for God alone;  
The God who wears your race, to whom all worlds belong,  
Whose children are of every face and every song.

Community of Christ, look past the church's door  
And see the refugee, the hungry and the poor,  
Take hands with the oppressed, the jobless in your street,  
Take towel and water, that you wash your neighbor's feet.

Community of Christ, thru whom the word must sound —  
Cry out for justice and for peace the whole world 'round;  
Disarm the powers that war and all that can destroy,  
Turn bombs to bread, and tears of anguish into joy.

When menace melts away, so shall God's will be done,  
The climate of the world be peace and Christ its Sun;  
Our currency be love and kindness our law,  
Our food and faith be shared as one for evermore.



## Prayers of the People – Help/Thanks/Wow

One: Now we come to the time where we lift up  
our prayers of Help, Thanks, and Wow.  
Lift up your hearts.

**Many: We lift them up to God.**

One: Does anyone have any prayers they would like to lift up?

*After each individual prayer request...*

One: Loving and beloved God; **Many: Hear our prayer.**

## Prayer List

One: Let us read the first names of those on our prayer list.

### Prayers of healing and hope for...

AMANDA and SKYLAR Ghali, niece & grandnephew of Kevin O’Keefe

BILL, friend of Pastor Carol and Mary Caron

MARIA Yorgakopoulou, friend of the congregation

WADE Clement, friend of the community

JAN Hammel, friend of Lynn Cooper

HOLLIS, friend of Pastor Carol and Mary Caron

AUDREY Bashista, friend of the congregation

RUTH ANNE Bennett, friend of Kathy and Mike Robbins

## Pastoral Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer using any version you wish

**Response:** Hear our prayer O Lord, hear our prayer O Lord,  
Incline Thine ear to us, and grant us Thy peace.

## Offerings of the People – Time, Talents, Treasures, and Testimonies

### Piano Offertory

**Response SL #40** *We Praise Thee, O God*

We praise Thee, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;

In grateful devotion our tribute we bring.

We lay it before Thee, we kneel and adore Thee.

We bless Thy holy name; glad praises we sing.



## Unison Prayer of Dedication

**God of light and love, we offer these gifts in gratitude for your goodness and mercy. Use what we give to shine your light, to bring refreshment to the weary, and to further your justice and peace in the world through the ministries of our church. Guide us to walk as children of light, trusting you to multiply what is shared. Amen.**



## Hymn SL #85

*Amazing Grace*

Amazing grace! how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.

‘Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved.  
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!

The Lord has promised good to me; His word my hope secures.  
He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.

Thru many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come.

‘Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

When we’ve been there ten thousand year, bright shining as the sun,  
We’ve no less days to sing God’s praise than when we’d first begun.



## Benediction / Passing of the Peace



## Cong Response SL #785 *God Be With You*

God be with you till we meet again, by his counsels guide, uphold you;  
With His sheep securely fold you; God be with you till we meet again.



## Piano Postlude

*Indicates you are invited to stand if you are comfortable doing so.*

Welcome to our guest speaker,  
Rev. Dr. Robert Loesch

Rev. Dr. Robert Loesch is a distinguished minister of the United Church of Christ, with a career spanning nearly 59 years serving as pastor of 9 congregations across Connecticut, Massachusetts and New York. He is a graduate of Oberlin College, Yale Divinity School and Hartford International University for Religion and Peace. His commitment to peace and justice activities has been a significant part of his life. He is an active member of Foster Memorial Church, UCC in Springfield, MA currently serving as facilitator of the Just Peace team.



do  
**JUSTICE**  
love  
**KINDNESS**  
walk  
**HUMBLY**  
with your **God**

Micah 6:8, NRSV

**Welcome** to the Westhampton Congregational United Church of Christ, an open and affirming church. **To join online via Zoom: Press Ctrl and CLICK HERE** or visit [zoom.us](https://zoom.us) and click Join a Meeting, then enter Meeting ID 321 069 9076; Passcode 248423. To join by phone dial 646-558-8656, then meeting ID and Passcode.

**Pastor and Church Contact Info**

Rev. Carol Smith's cell phone and email:

860-798-7771; [carolbsmith12@gmail.com](mailto:carolbsmith12@gmail.com)

Office Hours – Tuesdays/Fridays 9 – 12; pastoral needs anytime

Julie Holt church secretary – church phone and email:

413-527-4204; [westhamptonchurchucc@comcast.net](mailto:westhamptonchurchucc@comcast.net)

**Worship Participants**

Ministers -	People of the church
Minister -	Rev. Carol Smith
Guest Speaker -	Rev. Dr. Robert Loesch
Greeters -	↕ Brice Linscott Willard ↕ Louise and Mike Raymond
Lay Reader -	Mikki Nevins
Pianist -	Michele Feldheim
Zoom Tech-	Bob Miller
Coffee Hour -	Erika Subocz
Flowers -	Given in honor of her wedding anniversary by Erika Subocz

**This Week at the Church...**

Today -	Big Y Gift Card pick-up
Mon 7pm -	Property
Wed/Fri/Sat -	Food Pantry - see website for hours
Wed 3:15pm -	Good Works
Wed 6pm -	WOW
Thurs 7pm -	Choir
Friday 7pm -	AA

**Birthdays and Anniversaries...**

March 15 ★-	Jacob Antosz
March 16 ★-	Marion Allen
March 17 ★-	Chuck Inman