


Westhampton Congregational United Church of Christ
an Open and Affirming Congregation
1st Sunday of Advent - HOPE
December 1, 2024

 **Piano Prelude** – Silent reflection to prepare your hearts for worship.
Announcements

Welcome to Worship / Advent Greeting

Leader: May the *HOPE* of Christ be with you all!

People: **And also with you!**

 **Lighting of the Advent Wreath – Hope Candle**

Advent Prayer ~

Leader: In Advent we watch and wait,
and prepare to welcome the Christ Child into the world.

People: **Come, Lord Jesus, come!**

Leader: In Advent we prepare for a life of discipleship,
and watch faithfully for signs of God's light
breaking into the world.

People: **Come, Lord Jesus, come!**

Leader: As we wait, dear One, we watch for signs
of your action in the world,
actions of compassion and grace breaking in.


People: **Come, Lord Jesus, come!**

Leader: Holy God, we recognize that we do not know
the day or the hour, but we know that the day is near.

People: **Come, Lord Jesus, come!**

Be born anew in our world and in our lives.

All: **Amen.**

 **Hymn SL #157** *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free.
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth Thou art –
Dear Desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart!

Born Thy people to deliver, born a Child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit, rule in all our hearts alone.
By Thine all-sufficient merit, raise us to Thy glorious throne.



Unison Prayer of Confession

God who is among and who is yet to come: The dawn of hope rests on the horizon and beams of love reach our doubting hearts. We celebrate the newness of this season, waiting to see how the Christ will appear in our world. Even in our despair, our worries about illness, our grief, our isolation, a glimmer of hope reaches into our twilight beckoning us to breathe and wait. And so, God, hear us as we lift now the prayers of our hearts to you...

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon



Doxology SL #7

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost! Amen.



Anthem *Light One Candle* Mark Gould/Choir



Scripture Reading p. 104 Luke 21:25-33



Message *On Hope* Rev. Chris Mereschuk



Musical Response SL #163 *O Come, O Come Emmanuel v.1*

O come, O come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

Hanging of the Greens and Banners

Decorating with Chrismons

Offerings of the People



Piano Offertory



Hymn of Praise 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.



Prayer of Dedication



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...

DANIELLE Dennett, member

JASON Pratt, brother of Danielle Dennett

PHYLLIS Widelo, sister of Mark Thornhill

NIKO Sinodinos, husband of Maria Yorgakopoulou

ELAINE Donaldson, friend of Marion, Bonnie and Patty

LAINE Gootee, sister of Darren Sallee

PATTY Cotton, friend of the community

JEAN Miemerstorf, niece of Anita Hickey

MIKE Carriveau, husband of Jessica Carriveau

LORRAINE Spencer, member of the congregation

OLLIE Bishop, member of the congregation

LAURA Vachula, friend of Lynn Cooper

BRENDA Hodge, sister of Mark Thornhill

BRENDA Pelc, neighbor of Jackie and Larry Didier

MICHAEL, friend of Maria Yorgakopoulou and Niko Sinodinos

KIMBERLY Start, daughter-in-law of Deb Barthelette

KATHY Bergeron, friend of Wendy Wilcox

BILL McCloud, friend of the community

DON Eddy, member of the congregation

RUTH ANNE Bennett, friend of Kathy and Mike Robbins

JEAN Stawarz, friend of the Scrabble Club

DENNY Preston, cousin of Betty-Anne Gould

TERRI Toner, friend of Mikki Nevins

DONNA Burns, cousin of Julie Holt

ANN O. Jones, friend of Wendy Wilcox

DON Fox, friend of the community

PAUL Aloisi, member of the congregation

RUSSELL Johnson, cousin of Steve and Julie Holt

CHARLIE Karns, cousin of Julie and Steve Holt

SHIRLEY Raymond, member of the congregation

After the Prayer List is read...


One: Loving and beloved God

Many: Hear our prayer.

Silent Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer NB#G-6 (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.

Communion Hymn NC #46 *Hope of the World*

Hope of the world, O Christ of great compassion,
Speak to our fearful hearts by conflict torn.
Save us your people from consuming passion,
From false pursuits through which our lives are worn.

Hope of the world, God's gift of our redemption,
Bringing to hungry souls the bread of life,
Still let your Spirit unto us be given
To heal earth's wounds and end its bitter strife.

Hope of the world, who by the cross did save us
From death and sad despair, from sin and guilt,
We render back the love your mercy gave us;
Take back our lives and use them as you will.

Hope of the world, O Christ, o'er death victorious,
Who by this sign did conquer grief and pain,
We would be faithful to your gospel glorious;
Our Sovereign who forever more shall reign!

Service of Communion

Invitation & Words of Institution

Sharing the Sacrament (*remain in your seats to be served*)

Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving

For the nourishment of spirit, mind, and body,
For hope that we begin to see,
And for comfort from the Prince of Peace,
We share our gratitude, Gracious God.
Encourage us in these shortened days,
Filled with isolation and worry.
Through the long nights of this season,
May your hope carry us until dawn arrives again.
Amen.

↑ 🎵 Hymn NB #A-10 *People, Look East*

People, look east, the time is near
Of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
Trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today.
Love the guest is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim
One more light the bowl shall brim,
Shining beyond the frosty weather,
Bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today.
Love the star is on the way.

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth,
Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming
With the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today.
Love the Lord is on the way.

↑ Responsive Benediction

One: As we journey along the Advent way:

Many: **May the Hope of Christ inspire us to persevere. May the Peace of Christ bring us wisdom and wholeness. May the Joy of Christ revive and renew our spirits. And may the Love of Christ compel us to love God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength, and our neighbor as ourselves.**

One: As our time of worship is ending, let our service begin.

Many: **Amen.**

↑ 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.

↑ 🎵 Postlude

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





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, click Join a Meeting and enter Meeting ID 321 069 9076; Passcode 248423. 646-558-8656.

Church Office Contact Info

Church email and office phone:
westhamptonchurchucc@comcast.net
 413-527-4204

Worship Participants

Ministers -	People of the church
Guest Minister -	Rev. Chris Mereschuk
Pianist -	Welcome Michele Feldheim!
Greeters -	↑ Lorraine and Kevin O’Keefe ↓ Shirley Raymond
Lay Reader -	Pat Miller
Advent Wreath -	Steve and Julie Holt
Zoom Tech-	Bob Miller
Coffee Hour -	Lynn Willard
Flowers -	Mark Gould

This week at the church...

TODAY 11am -	Advent Festival
Monday 7pm -	WaS
Wed-Fri-Sat -	Food Pantry – see website for hours
Thurs 6pm -	Transition Team
Thurs 7pm -	Choir
Fri 6:30pm -	CE Family Pizza and Movie Night
Fri 7pm -	AA
Dec 15 10am -	Christmas Pageant
Dec 18 -	Deadline to turn in Poinsettia dedications
Dec 21 11am -	Holiday Basket Workbee (cookies needed)
Dec 22 2pm -	Christmas Caroling
Dec 24 7pm -	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Dec 29 10am -	Carol Sing Lay Sunday

Birthdays and Anniversaries...

December 2 ★ -	Frank Sansom
December 6 ★ -	Ryan Thornhill
December 7 ★ -	Aaron Bauer, Barry Flanders
December 1 ♥ -	Lorrie and John Gougeon