

Westhampton Congregational United Church of Christ  
an Open and Affirming Congregation  
2nd Sunday of Lent:  
Full to the Brim – Under God’s Wing  
March 16, 2025

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 Reflections


“The ache for home lives in all of us. The safe place where we can go as we are and not be questioned.” — Maya Angelou

“Love is the capacity to take care, to protect, to nourish.”  
— Thich Nhat Hanh

“Power is no blessing in itself, except when it is used to protect the innocent.” — Jonathan Swift

“Humans merely share the earth. We can only protect the land, not own it.” — Chief Seattle


“It is in the shelter of each other that the people live.”  
— Irish proverb

 Prelude – Silent reflection to prepare your hearts for worship.

Announcements / Welcome to Worship

 Introit

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 Call to Worship

One - If God is a hen,  
**Many - we are under God’s wing.**  
One - If God is a table,  
**Many - we each have a seat.**  
One - If God is a house,  
**Many - we are safe from the storm.**  
One - If God is a party,  
**Many - we’re invited to dance.**  
One - If God is a melody,  
**Many - our names are the lyrics.**  
One - If this is God’s house,  
**Many - then all are welcomed.**  
**All are loved. All belong.**  
One - Let us worship Holy God.

 Hymn NC #485 *O Love That Will Not Let Me Go*

O Love that will not let me go,  
I rest my weary soul in you;  
I give you back the life I owe,  
That in your ocean depths its flow may swell with ardor true.

O Light that follows all my way,  
To you I yield my flickering flame;  
Renew my spirit’s feeble ray,  
That from your brilliant sunlit day it may new brightness claim.

O Joy that seeks me through my pain,  
To you I cannot close my heart;  
I trace the rainbow through the rain,  
And know the promise is not vain that you will ne’er depart.

O Cross that raises up my head,  
From you I dare not seek to flee;  
Life’s glories wither and are dead,  
But from the ground there blossoms red, life that shall endless be.

 Unison Prayer of Illumination

**Holy God,  
this life of ours is full to the brim.  
Our days are overflowing with emails and to-do lists,  
schedules and notifications,  
assignments and deadlines.  
We wake up feeling behind,  
we go to sleep worrying about tomorrow,  
and we know—there *has* to be more than this.  
So we pray:  
bend down and show us the way.  
Leave breadcrumbs in the street.  
Point us toward awe and wonder.  
Guide us to intimacy and trust.  
Gift us with laughter that will make us cry  
and hope that will make us feel alive.**

**We want a new kind of full to the brim. Show us the way.  
We are listening for your cues. Gratefully we pray, Amen.**

↑  Gloria SL #9

Glory be to the Creator 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.

**Call to Reconciliation**

Family of faith, we come to confession not to wallow in our own guilt. Instead, we come to confession because we know that change starts with being honest. So in a desire to grow and change, let us pray to a God who loves us like a mother hen. Let us confess all the ways we have fallen short of embodying that love together. . .

**Prayer of Confession**

When the Pharisees tried to stop Jesus, Jesus said,

**“I will keep on.”**

**I will keep on healing.**

**I will keep on teaching.**

**I will keep on preaching.**

**I will keep on flipping the tables of injustice.**

**I will keep on treating every person like a child of God.**

**I will keep on believing that this world can change.**

**I will keep on and keep on**

**and keep on until God’s promised day.**

**Forgive us, God, for the times when we stop. Amen.**

**Silence**

**Words of Assurance**

Family of faith, because Jesus’ love just keeps going,  
we can trust that that love and grace exists for us.  
So rest in this good news:

**No matter what we do wrong or what we leave undone,  
we are under God’s wing. We are loved, held, and forgiven.  
Thanks be to God for a love like that! Amen.**

**Moment for All Ages –  
The Baptism of Hope Ivie Fairman Antosz**

**Introduction to Hope’s Baptism**

**Baptism Ritual**

As we gather around Hope, we pause to remember and welcome the presence of those no longer with us in body but here in spirit, most especially on this day, Derek. Although not here in body, those who knew and loved him know that he is merely a heartbeat away, because love knows no bounds. We remember also the aunts, uncles, grandparents, mentors and companions whose love and legacies are forever connected to Hope and her family. What names would you like to speak, invoking their ongoing presence today and ongoingly in Hope’s life and becoming?

*[parents speak names]*

*The pastor addresses parents and godparents:*

On behalf of the whole Church,

I ask you as caretakers entrusted with Hope:

Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, aim to divest from oppressive systems of this world, and cast your lot with all who struggle for freedom?

**We do.**

Do you accept the power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves?

**I do.**

Do you commit to following the Way of Christ, put your trust in the ancient grace that goes before us, and promise to be loyal to God’s love above all else?

**I do.**

Will you nurture Hope in the community of the faith, that by the teaching and example of surrounding community the Hope may come to know God’s love for her and the world, and learn to practice her faith for the flourishing of all, leading a Christian life marked by justice, kindness, and humility?

**I will.**

## To the congregation:

Do you, as a collective embodiment of Christ in the world, reaffirm your commitment to resisting the powers of evil, and practicing the solidarity Jesus modeled for us?

### We do.

Will you nurture one another in the life of faith and include Hope in this community, providing space for her authentic becoming, and supporting God's unfolding in her life?

**With God's help, we will proclaim and practice the good news that sets free. We will seek to live in likeness with Christ. We will surround Hope with love and forgiveness, modeling how a community takes care of each other, makes mistakes, learns, grows, and nurtures joy. We will encourage Hope in service to the flourishing of her communities, the earth and all its creatures, and all who seek solidarity, near and globally. We will pray for Hope that her may be a disciple of radical love all the days of her life.**

## Blessing the Water

*While the pastor, with the help of Hope's brothers, is pouring water into the font...*

Creative Maker, Divine Companion, in the beginning, your Spirit hovered over the waters, nurtured life in the dark and chaotic, and brought forth gifts of an abundant earth and a diverse creation.

As evil grabbed hold and human betrayal took the form of enslavement, You delivered your people through the red sea and made promises of lands of rest and freedom.

As the struggle continued under forces of empire, You raised up prophets and priests, comforters and companions. From the waters of Mary's womb, Jesus was born. He taught us of sharing bread and seeking liberation, turning over tables and miracles of restoration. He called people into God's ancient movement, of solidarity all the way to the cross, trusting in the power of resurrection.

*The pastor may place hands in or over the water, stir the water, or lift the water and invite the children to do the same. The congregation is invited to call out words of blessing to infuse the water with prayers and blessings of Hope.*

O God, you hear the cries of your people and all of creation, groaning. We remember the declarations of indigenous kin that 'water is life,' that this resource is sacred and in need of our protection, and that the fate of these waters is tied both spiritually and physically to all our thriving.

May your Spirit bless the waters before us, making them once again an encounter with your holy presence, calling us into the depths of love and righteousness.

*Hope Ivie Fairman Antosz, I now baptize you in the name of the Creator, who is Love, the Liberator, who embodied Love, and the Sustainer, who is abiding love.*

 **Baptism Anthem:** *Masterpiece*

 **Scripture Reading** Luke 13:31-35

 **Message** *Under God's Wing*

 **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

**LAINÉ** Gootee, sister of Darren Sallee  
**PATTY** Cotton, friend of the community  
**JEAN** Miemerstorf, niece of Anita Hickey  
**LORRAINE** Spencer, member of the congregation  
**LAURA** Vachula, friend of Lynn Cooper  
**BRENDA** Hodge, sister of Mark Thornhill  
**BRENDA** Pelc, neighbor of Jackie and Larry Didier  
**KIMBERLY** Start, daughter-in-law of Deb Barthelette  
**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  
**DON** Fox, friend of the community  
**RUSSELL** Johnson, cousin of Steve and Julie Holt  
**CHARLIE** Karns, cousin of Julie and Steve Holt  
**JOE** Jankowski, friend of the Robbins/Carriveau family  
**BOB** Feldheim, father of Michele Feldheim  
**JOANNE** O'Keefe, sister of Kevin and Lorrain O'Keefe  
**RHODES** Willard Gamache, grandson of Lynn Willard  
**SUE** Santerre, friend of the Robbins family

*After the Prayer List is read...*

One: Loving and beloved God


Many: **Hear our prayer.**

### **Silent Prayer**

#### **Pastoral Prayer - Come Raine or Shine, by Rev. Sarah Are Speed**

"I will keep on." That's what I heard him say.  
*I will keep on* driving out demons and healing people,  
 speaking the truth and loving endlessly,  
 searching for the lost sheep and crying for the brokenhearted,  
 feeding the hungry and welcoming the outcast.  
 "I will keep on." That's what he said,  
 right after he said my name,  
 right after he called me beloved,  
 right after he welcomed me home and saved me a seat.  
 And I knew, there was no stopping him.  
 I was under his wing.  
 Come rain or come shine,  
 today and tomorrow, this love keeps on.

### **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.

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

#### **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**

#### **Hymn NC #43** *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, on earth be found.  
 Fix in us a humble dwelling, all your faithful mercies crown;  
 Jesus, you are all compassion, pure, unbonded love impart.  
 Visit us with your salvation, enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe your loving Spirit into every troubled breast;  
 Let us all in you inherit, let us find your promised rest;  
 Take away our love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;  
 End of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Come, almighty to deliver, let us all your life receive;  
 Suddenly return, and never, never-more your temples leave.  
 You we would be always blessing, love you as your angels love.  
 Pray and praise for your unfailing wounded arms outstretched above.

Finish, then, your new creation; pure and spotless may we prove;  
 Let us see your great salvation perfectly restored in you;  
 Changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,  
 Crowned as saints, we ever shall be lost in wonder, love, and praise.

## ↑ **Benediction**

As you leave this place,  
may you be awestruck by the beauty of this world.  
May you laugh, and may it be contagious.  
May you overflow with love for those around you.  
May you be effusive with hope and quick to point out joy.  
And in all of your living, and breathing, and being,  
may you find yourself full to the brim with God's Holy Spirit,  
and may it change your life.  
In the name of the Lover, the Beloved, and Love itself—  
go in peace, full to the brim. 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.*

**For further prayer and reflection** (live links in electronic version):

- [What Mothers Know About War](#)
- [I'm a parent of a trans kid. I was investigated for supporting her right to be herself](#) ~ by mom and trans rights activist Jamie Bruesehoff
- [Shelter Me by Michael Joncas](#) ~ Recorded by Spiritu
- ["Sacred Space"](#) ~ by India Arie



**This morning we celebrate the baptism**  
of *Hope Ivie Fairman Antosz*, daughter of Alex  
and Whitney Antosz, and welcome her into the  
family of God and into our loving community  
of faith. *Welcome, little one!*

**The rosebud on the altar** is in honor of the birth of  
*Rhodes Willard Gamache*, born on March 7, 2025  
to Crystal Willard and AJ Gamache. Rhodes' proud  
grandparents are Lynn and Bill Willard, Debbie  
Harbison, and Armand J and Dawn Gamache III.  
*Welcome, little one!*



**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), click Join a  
Meeting and enter Meeting ID 321 069 9076; Passcode 248423.  
To join by phone dial 646-558-8656, then meeting ID and Passcode.

### **Church Office Contact Info**

Office phone - 413-527-4204  
Email - [westhamptonchurchucc@comcast.net](mailto:westhamptonchurchucc@comcast.net)  
Website - [westhamptonchurchucc.org](https://westhamptonchurchucc.org)

### **Worship Participants**

Ministers - People of the church  
Guest Minister - Rev. Elisa Lucozzi  
Pianist - Michele Feldheim  
Greeters - ↑ Sue Tracy Small and Richie Small  
                  ↓ Pat Miller  
Lay Reader - Chuck Horn  
Special Music - Robin Grimes  
Zoom Tech- Bob Miller  
Coffee Hour - Erika Subocz  
Flowers - Erika Subocz

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

Today at 10am - Baptism of *Hope Ivie Fairman Antosz*  
Monday 7pm - Property  
Wednesday 3:15 - Good Works  
Wednesday 6pm - WOW  
Wed-Fri-Sat - Food Pantry – see website for hours  
Thursday 7pm - Choir  
Friday 7pm - AA  
Next Sunday - Make clay vessels  
Sun, March 30 - Coffee and Conversation

### **Birthdays and Anniversaries...**

March 16 ★ - Marion Allen  
March 17 ★ - Chuck Inman  
March 22 ★ - Mark Thornhill, Pamela Zalot