

**Westhampton Congregational United Church of Christ**  
**an Open and Affirming Congregation**  
**Palm Sunday - March 29, 2026**

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 **Reflection** - *“Christ never asks for admirers, worshippers, or adherents. No, Christ calls disciples. It is not adherents of a teaching but followers of a life Christ is looking for. The admirer never makes any true sacrifices. They always play it safe. Though in word they are inexhaustible about how highly they prize Christ, they renounce nothing, will not reconstruct their lives, and will not let their lives express what it is they supposedly admire. Not so for the follower. No, no. The follower aspires with all their strength to become what they admire.” ~Soren Kierkegaard, (1813-1855) Danish philosopher, theologian, and poet*

 **Piano Prelude**

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

 **Piano Introit**

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 **Call to Worship**

One: And now it is the week we call “holy,”

**Many: to tell once more the story of Christ’s love.**

One: This is the week that starts with welcoming shouts,

**Many: that moves to tears,**

One: that leads through death,

**Many: that watches for life.**

One: Today, Jesus enters where we are,

**Many: and touches who we are,**

One: with life that is ready to give itself.

**All: Hosanna! Save us!**

**Blessed is the one who comes in God’s name!**

 **Hymn SL #217** *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna*

“Hosanna, loud hosanna,” the little children sang;  
Thru pillared court and temple the lovely anthem rang.  
To Jesus, who had blessed them close folded to His breast,  
The children sang their praises, the simplest and the best.

From Olivet they followed ‘med an exultant crowd,  
The victor palm branch waving, and chanting clear and loud,  
The Lord of earth and heaven rode on in lowly state,  
Nor scorned that little children should on His bidding wait.

“Hosanna in the highest!” That ancient song we sing,  
For Christ is our Redeemer, the Lord of heaven, our King.  
O may we ever praise Him with heart and life and voice,  
And in His blissful presence eternally rejoice!

 **Unison Prayer of Invocation**

**Holy One, we come this morning to celebrate your joyful and disruptive entry into Jerusalem, in the same way we anticipate, with expectant hearts, your presence in this worship space. The gates of our hearts and our lives are open. Your love has arrived and is made visible to us in Jesus the Christ. We come at the beginning of this week, which we call Holy, prepared to be changed by the truth of the story and the grace we receive. We come, with our whole being, to prepare the way for the coming of Love. Amen.**

 **Gloria SL #9**

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.

 **Anthem**

 **Moment for All Ages**

 **Blessing of the Palms**

**Holy One, move your Spirit among us and in us, as we retell the story of Jesus Christ’s triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Be with us in the week ahead, as triumph fades to defeat and defeat turns into victory. Bless these palms that they may become for us symbols of Christ’s love – reminders that Christ has come and that Christ will come again. Amen!**

 **Scripture Readings**      Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29      p. 694  
Matthew 21:1-11      p. 27

 **Message**

 **Hymn NC #215** *Ride On, Ride On in Majesty!*

Ride on! Ride on in majesty! O Christ with brave humility,  
On lowly colt, your road pursue, as palms and cloaks are spread for you.

Ride on! Ride on in majesty! As crowds of people come to see  
And shout hosannas, lifting high their praise for one about to die.

Ride on! Ride on in majesty! Ride on in humble dignity;  
Behold the ones you came to save from senseless life and endless grave.

Ride on! Ride on in majesty! For you have set your people free  
And we, remembering all your pain, now meet again to hail your reign,



**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  
**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  
**MICHELE** Feldheim, friend of the congregation  
**LAURA** Vachula, friend of Lynn Cooper  
**FRANCES**, cousin of Jeanie McMahon

**Prayers for God's presence and care...**

**AL** Wilson, friend of Swenson/Jeffords family  
**ALDEN** Montague, son of Lani Montague  
**ANN** Jones, friend of Wendy Wilcox  
**BETTY** Marks, friend of Betty-Anne Gould  
**BOB** Greene, member of the congregation  
**BOB** Turner, friend of Kathy and Mike Robbins  
**BRENDA** Hodge, sister of Mark Thornhill  
**BRENDA** Pelc, neighbor of Jackie and Larry Didier

**CAROLYN** Almeida, friend of Wendy Blow  
**CARROLL** Baszkowski, cousin of Lynn Cooper  
**CHARLIE** Karns, cousin of Julie and Stephen Holt  
**DAVID** McMahon, son of Patrick and Jean McMahon  
**DON** Fox, friend of the community  
**DOTTIE** Burke, member of the congregation  
**ELAINE** Donaldson, friend of Marion, Bonnie and Patty  
**ELIZABETH** Petroff, friend of Maria Yorgakopoulou  
**ERIC** Cooper, friend of Shirley Raymond  
**ESOTERIE**, friend of Maria Yorgakopoulou  
**GRACE and GABRIELLA** Gilbert, daughters of Danielle and Peter  
**IOANNA** Spiliotis, friend of Maria Yorgakopoulou  
**JARRETT** Colpack, cousin of Stephen and Julie Holt  
**JASON** Pratt, brother of Danielle Dennett  
**JEAN** Meimerstorf, niece of Anita Hickey  
**JEAN** Stawarz, friend of the Scrabble Club  
**JEFF** Mace, nephew of Kevin O'Keefe  
**JEFF** Rida, friend of Kathy and Mike Robbins  
**JILL** Lester, friend of Mikki and Buddy Nevins  
**JOANNE** O'Keefe, sister of Kevin and Lorraine O'Keefe  
**JOE** Jankowski, friend of the Robbins/Carriveau family  
**JOHN** Darman, friend of Kathy and Mike Robbins  
**JOHN** Gougeon, husband of Lorrie Gougeon  
**JONNY** Arrowsmith & family, nephew of Mary Montague  
**LAINÉ** Gootee, sister of Darren Sallee  
**LAURA** Schiavoni, friend of Maria Yorgakopoulou  
**LYNNE** Sallee, member of the congregation  
**MARGE** Yamilkoski, friend of Lynn Willard  
**MARY** Laprade, sister of Marion Miller and Charlotte Wood  
**MIKE** Robbins, husband of Kathy Robbins  
**NIKO** Sinodinos, husband of Maria Yorgakopoulou  
**PATTY** Cotton, friend of the community  
**PHYLLIS** Widelo, sister of Mark Thornhill  
**SHARON and DON** Eddy, member of the church  
**SU-CHEN** Chang, friend of Maria and Niko  
**TAMMY** Bailey, cousin of Kelly Challet  
**TERRI** Toner, friend of Mikki Nevins

**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

Loving God, we lay our gifts before you with praise,  
thanksgiving, and joy, as palms and cloaks were once laid  
before Jesus. Bless them for the work of compassion, justice,  
and peace, and strengthen us to follow faithfully, even beyond  
the celebrations of this day. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

### Hymn SL #215 *All Glory, Laud and Honor*

All glory, laud, and honor to Thee, Redeemer, King,  
To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.  
Thou art the King of Israel, Thou David's royal Son,  
Who in the Lord's name com-est, the King and Blessed One.

The company of angels are praising Thee on high.  
And mortal men and all things created make reply.  
The people of the Hebrews with palms before Thee went;  
Our praise and prayer and anthems before Thee we present.

To Thee, before Thy passion, they sang their hymns of praise –  
To Thee, now high exalted, our melody we raise.  
Thou didst accept their praises; accept the praise we bring,  
Who in all good delight-est, Thou good and gracious King.

### 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 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  |
| Greeters -        |  Brice and Grace Linscott Willard<br> Louise and Mike Raymond |
| Lay Reader -      | Bill Tracy  |
| Pianist/Soloist - | Stacey Jenkins  |
| Zoom Tech-        | Bob Miller  |
| Coffee Hour -     | Kevin and Lorraine O'Keefe  |
| Flowers -         | Palms   |

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

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Today -         | Palm Sunday, beginning of Holy Week           |
| Wed/Fri/Sat -   | Food Pantry - see website for hours           |
| Wed 7pm -       | Choir ( <i>note different day</i> )           |
| Thurs 7pm -     | Maundy Thursday Service – Southampton invited |
| Friday 7pm -    | AA  |
| Saturday 10am - | Easter Egg Hunt – center of town              |
| Easter Sunday - | Sunrise Service 6am, Morning Worship 10am     |

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

|              |                                    |
|--------------|------------------------------------|
| March 29 ★ - | John Wermer                        |
| March 30 ★ - | Don Eddy, Robin Wayne, Judee Wayne |
| March 31 ★ - | Wendy Wilcox                       |
| April 1 ★ -  | Becca Skelton                      |
| April 2 ★ -  | Isaac Stith                        |