

Westhampton Congregational United Church of Christ
an Open and Affirming Congregation
3rd Sunday of Lent - March 8, 2026

-  **Reflection** - *“Love is the water of life.
Drink it down with heart and soul.” ~ Rumi*
- “Water is fluid, soft, and yielding. But water will wear away rock,
which is rigid and cannot yield. As a rule, whatever is fluid, soft,
and yielding will overcome whatever is rigid and hard. This is
another paradox: what is soft is strong.” ~ Lao Tzu, ancient
Chinese philosopher, contemporary of Confucius*
-  **Piano Prelude**
-  **Announcements / Lighting the Candle / Welcome to Worship**
-  **Piano Introit**
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-  **Call to Worship**
- One: Come, Beloved People of God, let us sing to the Lord!
Many: We come rejoicing in the Rock of our salvation.
- One: Come, Beloved of God, thirsty for hope and renewal.
**Many: We come listening for God’s voice
that refreshes our weary souls.**
- One: Come Beloved Ones, and worship with thankful hearts.
**Many: We come, our spirits are open,
ready to be filled and made new.**

-  **Hymn NC #18** *Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer*
- Guide me, O my great Redeemer, pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but you are mighty; hold me with your powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more,
Feed me til I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain, where the healing waters flow.
Let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer, ever be my strength and shield,
Ever be my strength and shield.

When I reach the River Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside.
Death of death, and hell’s destruction, land me safe on heaven’s side.
Songs of praises, songs of praise I will ever sing to you,
I will ever sing to you.

-  **Unison Prayer of Invocation**
- God of life and living water, we gather aware of your Spirit
moving among us like a stream flowing through a thirsty
land. We are familiar with wilderness and rocky
places. Meet us here with compassion. Break open our
resistance. Quench our deepest thirst. Journey with us in
these Lenten days. Renew our faith, strengthen our hope,
and shape us into vessels of your love for the world. Amen.

-  **Gloria SL #9**
-  **Anthem (SL#458)** *Fill My Cup, Lord*

-  **Moment for All Ages**

-  **Scripture Readings** Exodus 17:1-7 p. 79
John 4:5-42 p. 115

-  **Message**

-  **Hymn NC #489** *I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say*
- I heard the voice of Jesus say, “Come unto me and rest;
Lay down, O weary one, lay down your head upon my breast.”
- I came to Jesus as I was, so weary, worn, and sad,
And there I found a resting place, where Jesus made me glad!
- I heard the voice of Jesus say, “Behold, I freely give
The living water; thirsty one, draw near, and drink, and live.”
- I came to Jesus, and I drank of that life-giving stream;
My thirst was quenched, my soul revived, and now I am redeemed.

-  **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

ANITA Hickey, member of the congregation

MARGERY Shaw, friend of the congregation

BRIAN Cooper, son of Lynn Cooper

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

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

Your love for us, gracious God, is overwhelming. You pour your love out for us like life-giving water. Now we respond in kind, giving you what we can for the work of your people. Take our gifts, and take us, that we might share your love, your living water with all who thirst. Amen.

Hymn NC #197 *Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross*
Jesus, keep me near the cross; there a precious fountain,
Free to all, a healing stream, flows from Calvary's mountain.

*Refrain: In the cross, in the cross, be my glory ever,
Till my ransomed soul shall find rest beyond the river.*

Near the cross, a trembling soul, love and mercy found me;
There the bright and morning star sheds its beams around me. (R)

Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes before me;
Help me live from day to day with its shadow o'er me. (R)

Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hoping, trusting ever,
Till I reach the golden strand just beyond the river. (R)

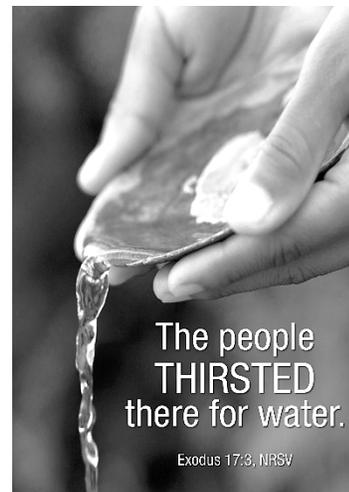
Benediction / Passing of the Peace

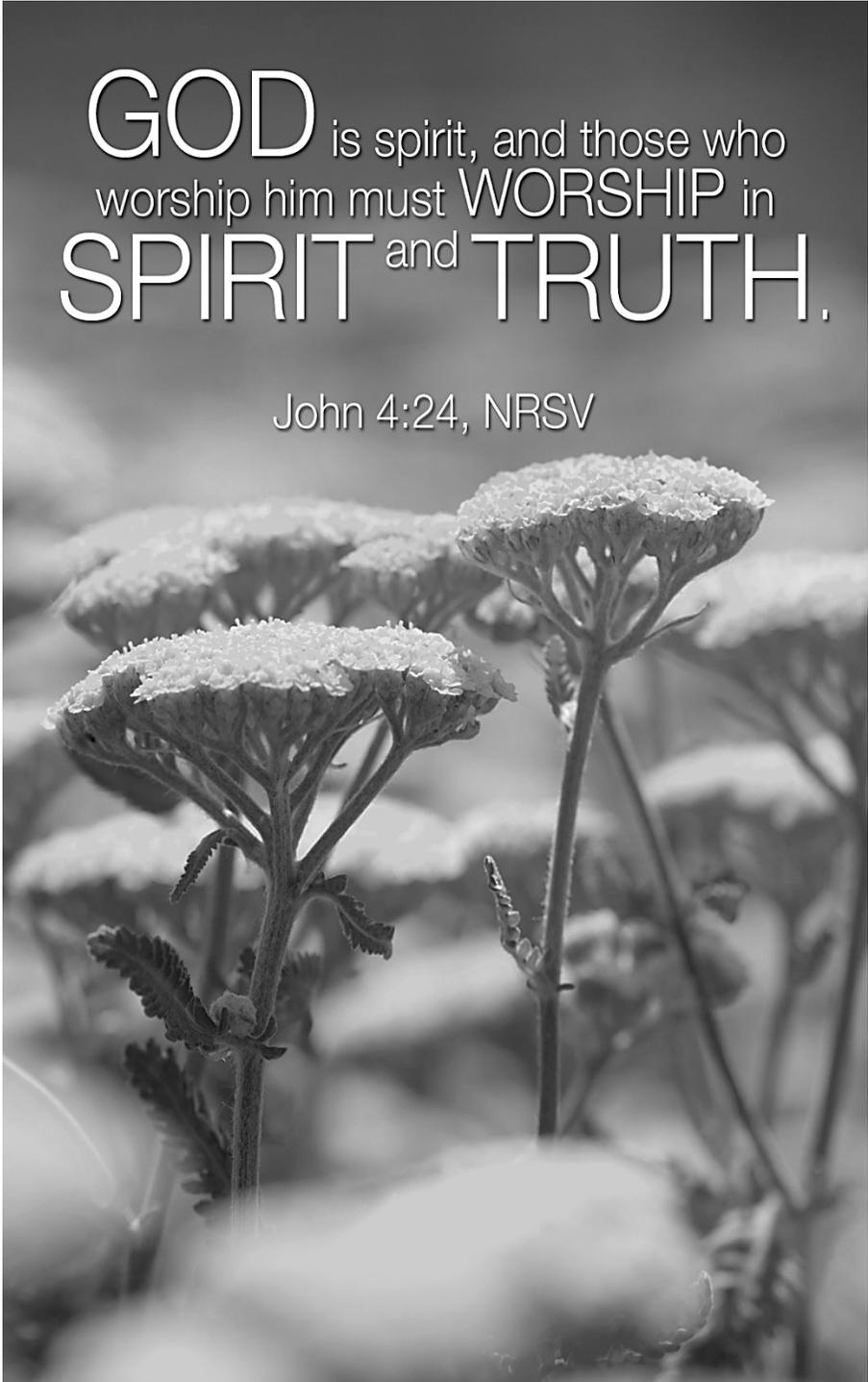
Cong Response SL #785 *God Be With You*

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.





GOD is spirit, and those who
worship him must **WORSHIP** in
SPIRIT and **TRUTH.**

John 4:24, 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 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

Office Hours – Tuesdays/Fridays 9 – 12. Pastoral needs anytime.

Julie Holt church secretary – church phone and email:

413-527-4204; westhamptonchurchucc@comcast.net

Worship Participants

Ministers -	People of the church
Minister -	Rev. Carol Smith
Greeters -	↑ Lorraine and Kevin O'Keefe ↓ Pat Miller
Lay Reader -	Pat Miller
Pianist -	Michele Feldheim
Zoom Tech-	Bob Miller
Coffee Hour -	Jean Webster
Flowers -	Shirley Raymond

This Week at the Church...

Today -	Big Y Gift Card orders
Wed/Fri/Sat -	Food Pantry - see website for hours
Thurs 12noon -	COA Luncheon/Program
Thurs 7pm -	Choir
Friday 7pm -	AA

Birthdays and Anniversaries...

March 9 ★-	Abigail Therrien, Lauren Wilcox
March 10★-	Wilder Miller
March 13★-	Alyssa Bordonaro
March 14★-	Kelly Nehring