

**Westhampton Congregational United Church of Christ**  
**an Open and Affirming Congregation**

**5th Sunday after Easter**  
**May 18, 2025**

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**Reflection -** *To everything there is a season.*

*God has seasons and the church has seasons.*

*God is still speaking through the Holy Spirit.*

*Cyber church is becoming a reality, especially after Covid.*

*Have faith in the new directions that God is leading us to.*



**Piano Prelude**



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



**Piano Introit**

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**Call to Worship** (inspired by Psalm 148)

One: Praise the Lord!

**Many: Praise the Lord from the heavens;  
Praise Him in the heights.**

One: Praise Him, sun and moon,  
Praise Him, all you shining stars!

**Many: Praise Him, highest heavens,  
And you waters above the heavens!**

One: Let them praise the name of the Lord,  
for He commanded and they were created.

**Many: He established them forever and ever,  
He fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.**



**Hymn NC #286** *Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness*

*Refrain: Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,  
Blow thru the wilderness, calling and free.  
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,  
Stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.*

You moved on the waters, you called to the deep,  
Then you coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep;  
And over the eons you called to each thing,  
“Awake from your slumbers and rise on your wings.” *Refrain*  
You swept thru the dessert, you stung with the sand,

And you goaded your people with a law and a land;  
When they were confounded by their idols and lies,  
Then you spoke thru your prophets to open their eyes. *Refrain*

You sang in a stable, you cried from a hill,  
Then you whispered in silence when the whole world was still;  
And down in the city you called once again,  
When you blew thru your people on the rush of the wind. *Refrain*

You call from tomorrow, you break ancient schemes,  
From the bondage of sorrow the captives dream dreams;  
Our women see visions, our men clear their eyes.  
With bold new decisions you people arise. *Refrain*



**Unison Prayer of Invocation**

**God is still speaking, let His Holy Spirit guide us and direct us through the changes coming up. This is a season of change, let us take the time to listen to God for His direction. For everything there is a season, let us be open to the changes coming. Life runs through cycles, the highs and lows, new direction with constant change. The church runs in cycles, direct us through this change for your glory for a stronger church built on Faith and Love for God and one another.**



**Unison Doxology** (spoken, not sung)

**Praise God for all you have created a world and universe that we are only beginning to understand.**

**Praise God for being with us through the cycles of Life,  
Church and Your cycles.**

**Praise God for your Holy Spirit that directs and guides us.  
Lord keep us humble and recognize  
that no matter how much science and knowledge we gain,  
it is still You that is in control.**



**Anthem**

*Rejoice the Lord is King*



**Moment for All Ages**



**Scripture Reading**

John 13: 31-35

Acts 11: 1-14



## Message

by Paul Aloisi



## Hymn SL #298 *Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart*

Spirit of God, descend upon my heart.  
 Wean it from earth; thru all its pulses move.  
 Stoop to my weakness, mighty as Thou art,  
 And make me love Thee as I ought to love.

Hast Thou not bid us love Thee, God and King?  
 All, all Thine own – soul, heart, and strength, and mind!  
 I see Thy cross – there teach my heart to cling.  
 O let me seek Thee, and O let me find!

Teach me to feel that Thou art always nigh.  
 Teach me the struggles of the soul to bear,  
 To check the rising doubt, the rebel sigh;  
 Teach me the patience of unanswered prayer.

Teach me to love Thee as Thine angels love,  
 One holy passion filling all my frame;  
 The baptism of the heav'n-descended Dove –  
 My heart an altar, and Thy love the flame.



## 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  
**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  
**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  
**JOANNE** O'Keefe, sister of Kevin and Lorraine O'Keefe  
**SUE** Santerre, friend of the Robbins family  
**ERIC** Cooper, friend of Shirley Raymond  
**JANE** Labak, mother-in-law of Mark Gould  
**MARGE** Yamilkoski, friend of Lynn Willard  
**LAURA** Schiavoni, friend of Maria Yorgakopoulou  
**IOANNA** Spiliotis, friend of Maria Yorgakopoulou  
**MELISSA** Skiba, sister of Leslie and Derek Mitchell  
**ABIGAEL** Labonte, friend of Kevin and Lorraine O'Keefe  
**WALTER** Kleeberg, friend of Billi Jean Willard  
**BILL** Willard, member of the congregation  
**LORI and DONNA**, friend of Elisa and Natalie

### Prayers of sympathy for the family and friends of...

**MELISSA** Skiba, sister of Leslie and Derek Mitchell

*After Prayer List is read...*

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

## 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.

#### Prayer of Dedication

#### Hymn SL #311 *Spirit Song*

O let the Son of God enfold you  
With His Spirit and His love;  
Let Him fill your heart and satisfy your soul.  
O let Him have the things that hold you,  
And His Spirit, like a dove,  
Will descend upon your life and make you whole.

*Refrain: Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs.  
Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill Your lambs.*

O come and sing the song with gladness  
As your hearts are filled with joy;  
Lift your hands in sweet surrender to His name,  
O give Him all your tears and sadness;  
Give Him all your years of pain,  
And you'll enter into life in Jesus' name. *Refrain*

#### 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), 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](http://westhamptonchurchucc.org)

### **Worship Participants**

Ministers -	People of the church
Greeters -	 Brice Linscott-Willard  Grace Linscott-Willard
Lay Leader -	Paul Aloisi
Lay Reader -	Julie Holt
Pianist -	Michele Feldheim
Zoom Tech-	Bob Miller
Coffee Hour -	Ilene Lorow
Flowers -	Lynn Cooper

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

Monday 7pm -	Property Committee
Wed-Fri-Sat -	Food Pantry - see website for hours
Wednesday 3:15 -	Good Works
Wednesday 7pm -	WOW
Thursday 7pm -	Choir
Friday 7pm -	AA

### **Birthdays...**

May 19 ★ -	Karen Croisetiere, Peter Montague
May 21 ★ -	Geneva Clark
May 22 ★ -	Maura Campbell
May 23 ★ -	Ree Lewis
May 24 ★ -	Rhonda Brooks
May 22 ♥ -	Bob and Patty Greene
May 22 ♥ -	Ken and Debra Smith