

Westhampton Congregational United Church of Christ
an Open and Affirming Congregation
24th Sunday after Pentecost / Thanksgiving Sunday
and Transgender Remembrance Sunday
November 23, 2025

 **Reflection** - *"Christ has no empire but the empire of the humble heart." ~Frederick Buechner*

*"When all around us is shaking,
God alone is our unshakable ground."
~Howard Thurman*

 **Piano Prelude**

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

 **Piano Introit**

 **Call to Worship**

Leader: When the world feels uncertain, God remains our refuge.

People: When fear rises, God is our strength.

Leader: Though nations rage and storms roar,
God's presence does not fail.

**People: The Holy One is with us –
our peace, our shelter, our hope.**

Leader: Come into God's presence with trust and thanksgiving.

All: Be still, and know that God is God.

Let us worship with confidence and joy.

 **Hymn NC #42** *O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise,
The glories every echoing the triumphs of God's grace!

My gracious Savior and my God, assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad the honors of your name.

Jesus! the name that calms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease
Is music in the sinner's ears, is life and health and peace!

Glory to God, and love and praise be ever, ever given
By all the saints in every age, the church in earth and heaven.

 **Unison Prayer of Invocation**

Holy God, on this Reign of Christ Sunday we gather to lift
our hearts to the One who shepherds us with justice and
love. Center our hearts strengthen our spirits and draw us
into the peace Christ brings to all creation. Reign among us
this hour, through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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** *Enter His Gates with Songs of Thanksgiving*

 **Moment for All Ages**

 **Transgender Moment of Remembrance and Commemoration**

 **Scripture Reading** Jeremiah 23:1-6 p. 887
Colossians 1:11-20 p. 244

 **Message**

 **Hymn SL #578** *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us*

Savior, like a shepherd lead us; much we need Thy tender care.
In Thy pleasant pastures feed us; for our use Thy folds prepare.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Thou hast bought us, Thine we are.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Thou hast bought us, Thine we are.

We are Thine; do Thou befriend us; be the Guardian of our way.
Keep Thy flock; from sin defend us; seek us when we go astray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Hear, O hear us when we pray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Hear, O hear us when we pray.

Thou hast promised to receive us, poor and sinful tho' we be;
Thou hast mercy to relieve us, grace to cleanse and power to free.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Early let us turn to Thee.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Early let us turn to Thee.

Early let us seek Thy favor; early let us do Thy will.
Blessed Lord and only Savior, with Thy love our beings fill.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Thou hast loved us, love us still.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Thou hast loved us, love us still.



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...

PHYLLIS Widelo, sister of Mark Thornhill

NIKO Sinodinos, husband of Maria Yorgakopoulou

LAINE Gootee, sister of Darren Sallee

PATTY Cotton, friend of the community

JEAN Miemerstorf, niece of Anita Hickey

BRENDA Hodge, sister of Mark Thornhill

BRENDA Pelc, neighbor of Jackie and Larry Didier

KIMBERLY Start, daughter-in-law of Deb Barthelette

JEAN Stawarz, friend of the Scrabble Club

TERRI Toner, friend of Mikki Nevins

DON Fox, friend of the community

JOE Jankowski, friend of the Robbins/Carriveau family

ERIC Cooper, friend of Shirley Raymond

MARGE Yamilkoski, friend of Lynn Willard

LAURA Schiavoni, friend of Maria Yorgakopoulou

IOANNA Spiliotis, friend of Maria Yorgakopoulou

CARROLL Baszkowski, cousin of Lynn Cooper

AL Wilson, friend of Karina, Ishmael, Jonah and Gideon

JOHN Gugenberger, friend of the community

EVELYN and DON Blakesley, members of the congregation

JEFF Rida, friend of Kathy and Mike Robbins

BOB Turner, friend of Kathy and Mike Robbins

JOHN Darman, friend of Kathy and Mike Robbins

BRIAN Klein, son-in-law of Deb Barthelette

DONNA Burns, niece of Ilene Lorow; cousin of Julie Holt

ELLIE Scott, member of the congregation

BUDDY Nevins, member of the congregation

ELIZABETH Petroff, friend of Maria Yorgakopoulou

ESOTERIE, friend of Maria Yorgakopoulou

JASON Pratt, brother of Danielle Dennett

GRACE and GABRIELLA Gilbert, daughters of Danielle and Peter

MICHELE Feldheim, friend of the congregation

BUD Geary, member of the congregation

ANDREA Wilson, sister of Gene Callahan

BOYD Leslie, friend of the congregation

AMANDA Ghali and family, niece of Kevin and Lorraine O'Keefe

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

EVELYN Blakesley, member of the congregation

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (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.

**Prayer List Statement - As a caring community, we hold one another in prayer through all of life's joys and challenges. Names on our weekly bulletin prayer list will remain on that list for eight weeks, then if needed, names can be moved to our Prayer Tree for continued prayer. The Prayer Tree names will be read in worship on fifth Sundays. Please let the WOW Committee or Julie in the office know of any updates or changes. We encourage everyone to stay connected with those on the Prayer Tree, in prayer and in person whenever possible.*

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

Holy and gracious God, we offer these gifts in gratitude and in hope for the reign of Christ among us. Use them and use us, to bring justice, compassion, and peace. Shape our lives for the work of your kingdom, where Christ is our shepherd and our sovereign. Bless what we give and what we do, that all may reflect your love in Jesus Christ. Amen.

↑ 🎵 **Hymn SL #117** *Praise Him! Praise Him!*

Praise Him! Praise Him! Jesus, our blessed Redeemer!
Sing, O earth – His wonderful love proclaim!
Hail Him! Hail Him! highest archangels in glory;
Strength and honor give to His holy name!
Like a shepherd, Jesus will guard his children;
In His arms He carries them all day long.

*Refrain: Praise Him! Praise Him! Tell of his excellent greatness.
Praise Him! Praise Him ever in joyful song!*

Praise Him! Praise Him! Jesus, our blessed Redeemer!
For our sins He suffered, and bled and died.
He, our Rock, our Hope of eternal salvation –
Hail Him! Hail Him! Jesus, the Crucified!
Sound His praises! Jesus, who bore our sorrows!
Love unbounded, wonderful, deep, and strong! *Refrain*

Praise Him! Praise Him! Jesus, our blessed Redeemer!
Heaven'ly portals loud with hosannas ring!
Jesus, Savior, reigneth forever and ever.
Crown Him! Crown Him! Prophet and Priest and King!
Christ is coming, over the world victorious;
Pow'r and glory unto the Lord belong! *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.*



The twin rosebuds on the altar are in honor of the births of Grace Louise Marie Gilbert and Gabriella Emilie Ann Gilbert, born on September 12, 2025 to Danielle Dennett and Peter Gilbert. Their proud grandparents are John Dennett, and Nancy and David Press-Gilbert, and their great-grandmother is Sandra Lepore. Welcome, little ones!

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 -	↑ Mary Montague ↓ Shirley Raymond
Lay Reader -	Sue Tracy Small
Pianist -	Michele Feldheim
Zoom Tech-	Bob Miller
Coffee Hour -	Dolores and Mark Thornhill
Flowers -	Janice and Bill Tracy

This Week at the Church...

Today -	Big Y Gift Card pick-up
Monday 7pm -	Property Committee
Tuesday 7pm -	All-Community Thanksgiving Service
Wed-Fri-Sat -	Food Pantry - see website for hours
Wednesday -	Good Works
Wednesday 6pm -	WOW
Friday 7pm -	AA
Next Sunday -	Advent Festival/Decorating

Birthdays...

November 24 ★ - Luanne Clark
November 23 ♥ - Jeff and Rhonda Brooks