

Westhampton Congregational United Church of Christ
an Open and Affirming Congregation
3rd Sunday of Advent – JOY
December 14, 2025 - Christmas Pageant



Reflection -

“A moment of kindness can spark a chain reaction of joy” ~Linus
“Joy does not simply happen to us. We have to choose joy and keep choosing it every day.” ~Henri Nouwen



Piano Prelude



Announcements / Lighting the Candle / Welcome to Worship



Piano Introit



Advent Wreath Lighting

Cong response: *A Candle is Burning*, by Sandra Dean
Melody: Away in the Manger (SL #176)

A candle is burning, a candle of JOY
a candle to welcome brave Mary’s new boy.
Our hearts fill with wonder, and eyes light and glow
as JOY brightens winter like sunshine on snow.



Call to Worship

One: Come, all who wait! The Light of Joy is beckoning.
Many: Calling us to carry it together.
One: Calling us to let it shine with anticipation.
Many: Calling us to be ready for Emmanuel, God With Us.
One: Come, let us carry the Light of Joy into our worship,
All: and sing praise for the advent of the Christ!



Hymn (see insert for music) Hark the Glad Sound!

Hark, the glad sound! the Savior comes, the Savior promised long;
Let ev’ry heart prepare a throne and ev’ry voice a song.

He comes the prisoners to release, in Satan’s bondage held.
The gates of brass before him burst, the iron fetters yield.

He comes the broken heart to bind, the bleeding soul to cure,
And with the treasures of his grace to-enrich the humble poor.

Our glad hosanna Prince of Peace, your welcome shall proclaim,
And heavens eternal arches ring with your beloved name.



Unison Prayer of Invocation

God of hope and peace and joy, on this day of celebration and pageantry, reawaken in us the awe of the very first Christmas. Let us overflow with joy. Challenge our expectations. Surprise us. Open our hearts to your playful imagination and bless us as we seek you today and throughout this season of wonder. Amen.



Gloria SL #190 (refrain from Angels We Have Heard on High)

Glo --- ria! in excelsis Deo! Glo --- ria! in excelsis Deo!



Moment for All Ages



Scripture Reading	Isaiah 35:1-10	p. 811
	Luke 1:46-55	p. 69



SL #197 How Great Our Joy!

While by the sheep we watched at night, glad tidings brought an angel bright.
How great our joy! *great our joy!* Joy, joy, joy! *Joy, joy, joy!*
Praise we the Lord in heav’n on high! *Praise we the Lord in heav’n on high!*

There shall be born, so he did say, in Bethlehem a Child today.
How great our joy! *great our joy!* Joy, joy, joy! *Joy, joy, joy!*
Praise we the Lord in heav’n on high! *Praise we the Lord in heav’n on high!*

There shall the Child lie in a stall – this Child who shall redeem us all.
How great our joy! *great our joy!* Joy, joy, joy! *Joy, joy, joy!*
Praise we the Lord in heav’n on high! *Praise we the Lord in heav’n on high!*

This gift of God we’ll cherish well, that ever joy our hearts shall fill.
How great our joy! *great our joy!* Joy, joy, joy! *Joy, joy, joy!*
Praise we the Lord in heav’n on high! *Praise we the Lord in heav’n on high!*



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
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 Swenson/Jeffords family
JEFF Rida, friend of Kathy and Mike Robbins
BOB Turner, friend of Kathy and Mike Robbins
JOHN Darman, friend of Kathy and Mike Robbins
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 10/12
JASON Pratt, brother of Danielle Dennett
GRACE and GABRIELLA Gilbert, daughters of Danielle and Peter
ANDREA Wilson, sister of Gene Callahan
BOYD Leslie, friend of the congregation
AMANDA Ghali and family, niece of Kevin and Lorraine O'Keefe
JEAN Braley, sister of Jackie Didier
LEO, friend of Swenson/Jeffords family
SUE Santerre, friend of the Robbins family



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

Holy One, we offer our gifts with the same joy that filled Mary's song. Let them be part of your work of lifting up the weary, comforting the hurting, and filling the hungry with good things. Take what we give, and the way we live, and use it to shine your joy in our church, our community and through our missions. May our generosity echo Mary's hope and join your great turning of the world toward love. Amen.

Interactive No-Rehearsal Christmas Pageant

Carol: **O Come All Ye Faithful**, vs. 1 (#175)

O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.
Come and behold Him – born the King of angels!
O come let us adore Him! O come let us adore Him!
O come let us adore Him – Christ the Lord!

Scene 1: The Journey Begins

Carol: **We Three Kings**, vs. 1 (#202)

We three kings of orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar –
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.
O – star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

Scene 2: Bethlehem

Carol: **O Little Town of Bethlehem**, vs. 1 (#169)

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

Scene 3: In the Stable – “You try it!”

♪ **Choir: Do You Hear What I Hear?**

Scene 4: Out in the fields – “Talking with angels”

♪ **Carol: Angels We Have Heard on High**, vs. 1, 2, 3 (#190)

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o’er the plains,
And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.
Glo - - - ria in excelsis Deo! Glo - - - ria in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?
Glo - - - ria in excelsis Deo! Glo - - - ria in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Glo - - - ria in excelsis Deo! Glo - - - ria in excelsis Deo!

Scene 5: At the Manger

♪ **Carol: Away in a Manger**, vs. 1 (#176)

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus lay down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep in the hay.

♪ **Carol: We Three Kings**, vs. 2, 3, 4, 5, then refrain (#202)

Born a King on Bethlehem’s plain, gold I bring to crown Him again,
King forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign.

Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a Deity nigh,
Prayer and praising, all men raising – worship Him, God on high.

Myrrh is mine, it’s bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom,
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

Glorious now behold Him arise – King and God and Sacrifice,
Alleluia, Alleluia! Earth to heaven replies.

O – star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

↑ ♪ SL #173 Closing Hymn Joy to the World! all verses

Joy to the world, the Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King.
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heav’n and nature sing,
And heav’n and nature sing,
And heav’n, and heav’n and nature sing.

Joy to the world! the Savior reigns,
Let me their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sin and sorry grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground.
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.

↑ ✎ 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.



Hark, the Glad Sound!

1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior
 2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's
 3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come

prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -
 bond - age held. The gates of grass be -
 soul to cure, and with the trea - sures -
 shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal

pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.
 fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.
 of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.
 arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751
 Tune: Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820

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CM
 CHESTERFIELD

hymnary.org/text/hark_the_glad_sound_the_savior_comes

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 -	↑ Janice and Bill Tracy
	↓ Pat Miller
Advent Wreath-	Willard Linscotts
Lay Reader -	Pat Miller
Pianist -	Michele Feldheim
Zoom Tech-	Bob Miller
Coffee Hour -	Julie and Stephen Holt
Flowers -	Pageant – no flowers

This Week at the Church...

Monday -	Poinsettia dedications due
Monday 7pm -	Property Committee
Tuesday -	Mittens & Gloves donations due
Wed 3:15pm -	Good Works field trip to It Takes a Village
Wednesday 6pm -	WOW
Wed-Fri-Sat -	Food Pantry - see website for hours
Thursday 7pm -	Choir
Friday 7pm -	AA
Saturday 11am -	Holiday Basket Workbee
Next Sunday 2pm -	Caroling

Birthdays and Anniversaries...

December 14 ★ -	Mike Carriveau, Bob Fuller
December 15 ★ -	Ryan Brooks, Stacey Jenkins
December 18 ★ -	Hannah Tracy
December 19 ★ -	David Brakey, Miryam Hilnbrand, Charlotte Wood