

Westhampton Congregational United Church of Christ
an Open and Affirming Congregation
Palm Sunday, April 13, 2025
Full to the Brim – “Even the Stones Cry Out”

🕯️ Reflections - *Drum sounds rise on the air, and with them my heart. A voice inside the beat says, I know you are tired, but come. This is the way. — Rumi*

I'm not alone. You're always here, in my heart, between each breath, folded in the lines of my palm. — Nitya Prakash

It is the nature of the strong heart, that like the palm tree it strives ever upwards when it is most burdened. — Philip Sidney

Remember finally, that the ashes that were on your forehead are created from the burnt palms of last Palm Sunday. New beginnings invariably come from old false things that are allowed to die. — Richard Rohr

One of the most important struggles of humanity is to ensure that our 'fight against hate' does not become 'hate' itself, while knowing that our neutrality in times of oppression is oppression itself. — Adeel Ahmed Khan

🎵 Prelude – [Two Processions, Amanda Udis-Kessler](#)

Announcements / Welcome to Worship

🕯️ Lighting of the Gathering Candle/Silent Meditation

🎵 Introit

🕯️ Blessing of the Palms



🕯️ Call to Worship

It is holy to gather.

It is holy to sing.

It is holy to be generous, to throw our coats on the road.

It is holy to celebrate justice when we see it.

It is holy to shout, “Hosanna!”

It is holy to remember.

It is holy to gather.

It is holy to sing.

Here and now, let us do all of these things.

🎵 Palm Processional Hymn *The King of Glory*

*Refrain - The King of Glory comes, the nation rejoices
Open the gates before him, lift up your voices.*

Who is the King of Glory, how shall we call him?

He is Emmanuel, the promised of ages. *Refrain*

In all of Galilee, in city or village,

He goes among his people, curing their illness. *Refrain*

He gave his life for us, the pledge of salvation;

He took up on himself the sins of the nation. *Refrain*

He conquered sin and death, he truly has risen.

And he will share with us his heavenly vision. *Refrain*

🕯️ Unison Prayer of Illumination

**Holy God, sometimes life feels like a parade rushing by us
as we stand on the sidelines and try not to miss it!**

**There are hundreds of things that catch our eye,
but the thing we fear missing the most is you.**

So slow down the speed on this parade.

Paint the colors of this world a little brighter.

**And dance through the words in our scripture passage
until it is almost impossible for us to miss you there.**

God we are here. We are trying to pay attention.

Gratefully we pray, Amen.

🕯️ Call to Reconciliation

The word ‘hosanna’ is often sung with joy and glee on this day. We process in, we wave palm branches, and it feels like a celebration. But the truth is, the word ‘hosanna’ actually means, “save us.” The people along that parade route so many years ago were crying out to Jesus for help, because they knew — this world is not as it should be. There is still too much hurt here. They were crying, “Save us!”

In the prayer of confession, we have our own hosanna moment, because we cry out to God, admitting the ways in which we have fallen short, and we ask for God’s saving hand.

So friends, let us pray together,
for there is still too much hurt here...

Prayer of Confession

God of street parades and hosannas,
**we know that you are counting on us
 to speak out against oppression,**
 to speak up for love and to speak hope to fear,
but so often we are silent.
 We worry that we'll say the wrong thing,
so we don't say anything at all.
 We worry that we'll offend,
so we keep our convictions to ourselves.
 We worry that we'll speak up and won't be heard,
so we stay silent.
 And meanwhile, the parade marches on.
Unravel our fears. Spark conviction in us.
Give us the courage to yell, "Hosanna!"
 Gratefully we pray, Amen.


Silence

Words of Assurance

Friends, even when we are silent,
 even when we are scared,
 even when we miss the moment,
 even when we choose to speak and say the wrong thing —
 we belong to God.
 There is nothing said or unsaid,
 done or undone that can undo that,
 so rest in this good news:
We are forgiven. We are known.
We belong to God, every day and always. Amen.

 **Anthem** *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna*

Moment for All Ages

 **Readings** *The Poet Things about the Donkey*, by Mary Oliver
 Luke 19:28-40

 **Sermon** *Hosanna!*  *Rev. Elisa Lucozzi*

Hymn *The Palms*

O'er all the way are palms and blossoms gay,
 Strewn on this day in festal preparation;
 Com-eth our Lord to take our grief away,
 Lo! now the throngs approach and homage pay.
Refrain: Sing and rejoice! All people sing!
Let ev'ry voice be raised in acclamation!
Hosanna, Praise ye the Lord!
Praise Him who com-eth to bring us salvation!

Thou too rejoice oh blest Jerusalem!
 Let all thy children sing the liberation;
 By grace divine the God of Bethlehem
 Crown-eth our hope with faith, its diadem. *Refrain*





Prayers of the People – Help/Thanks/Wow

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: **We lift them up to God.**

After each individual prayer request...

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

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

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

DONNA Wright, friend of the community

After Prayer List is read...

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

Silent Prayer/Pastoral Prayer – *Even the Stones Will Cry Out*

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

Hymn of Praise 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 NC #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.

Postlude

Indicates you are invited to stand if you are comfortable doing so.

For Further Prayer and Reflection:

[Ride On King Jesus, sung by the In HIS Presence Gospel Choir](#)

[Hosanna from Jesus Christ Superstar \(Sing-along\) with John Legend](#)

[Jesus Christ Superstar Live in Concert starring John Legend](#)

Live TV version of this blockbuster musical based on the life of Jesus.

[The Passion by Tyler Perry](#)

A modern day Passion Play set to contemporary music featuring Tyler Perry, Jencarlos Canela, Trisha Yearwood, Seal and Yolanda Adams.

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, 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
Website - westhamptonchurchucc.org

Worship Participants

Ministers - People of the church
Guest Minister - Rev. Elisa Lucozzi
Pianist - Michele Feldheim
Greeters - ↑ Lynn Willard
 ↓ Wendy Blow
Lay Reader - Mikki Nevins
Zoom Tech- Bob Miller
Coffee Hour - Erika Subocz
Flowers - Palms

This Week at the Church...

Today at 11:15am- Women's Fellowship Budget mtg
Wed-Fri-Sat - Food Pantry – see website for hours
Tuesday 7pm - Choir
Thursday 7pm - Maundy Thursday Service
Friday 7pm - AA
Friday – 12noon - Good Friday Meditation
Saturday - Holy Saturday Vigil
Next Sunday - Easter Sunrise Service and Breakfast
Sunday 10am - Easter Morning Worship

Birthdays and Anniversaries...

April 14 ★ - Cooper Alexander, Art Pichette
April 15 ★ - Eamonn Hilnbrand, Sarah Pringle
April 18 ♥ - Seth and Denise Clark
April 19 ♥ - Mark and Dolores Thornhill

