

Westhampton Congregational United Church of Christ
an Open and Affirming Congregation
23rd Sunday after Pentecost / All Saints' Day
November 1, 2026

 **Reflection** *"They lived. Their lives vibrate in our bones. Their memories reside in our cells. They lived. Their footsteps ring beneath our feet. Their voices are alive in the walls. Their light lights our way. We are not alone. They lived."*

~ from Glory into Glory, by Susan Palo Cherwien

"Example is not the main thing. It is the only thing."

~ Albert Schweitzer

 **Prelude**

 **Announcements / Stewardship Moment / Welcome to Worship**

 **Introit**

 **Call to Worship**

One: We come today remembering the people
whose lives have touched our lives.

**Many: We give thanks for the love they shared
and the ways they shaped us.**

One: Their lives are a part of our story.

**Many: We remember their laughter, their kindness,
their courage, and their care.**

One: In our remembering, in our grieving, and in our gratitude,
God meets us here.

All: We are not alone. We gather in God's love.

 **Hymn SL #666** *Sing with All the Saints in Glory*

Sing with all the saints in glory; sing the resurrection song!
Death and sorrow; earth's dark story, to the former days belong.
All around the clouds are breaking; soon the storms of time shall cease;
In God's likeness we, awaking, know the everlasting peace.

O what glory, far exceeding all that eye has yet perceived!
Holiest hearts, for ages pleading, never that full joy conceived.
God has promised, Christ prepares it, there on high our welcome waits.
Ev'ry humble spirit shares it; Christ has passed th'e-ternal gates.

Life eternal! heaven rejoices: Jesus lives, who once was dead!
Join we now the deathless voices; Child of God, lift up your head!
Patriarchs from the distant ages, Saints all longing for their heav'n,
Prophets, psalmists, seers, and sages – All await the glory giv'n.

Life eternal! O what wonders Crowd on faith; what joy unknown,
When, amidst earth's closing thunders, Saints shall stand before the throne!
O to enter that bright portal, See that glowing firmament;
Know with Thee, O God Immortal, Jesus Christ whom Thou has sent!



Unison Prayer of Invocation

**Holy One, we gather as your people, grateful for the lives
that have shaped ours and the love that continues to
sustain us. As we remember the saints who have gone
before us, renew our hearts in your grace. Open our eyes
to your presence among us, our ears to your word, and
our hands to the work of love. May the faith we have
received live on in the lives we lead. 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

I Give My Song



Moment for All Ages



Remembering and Giving Thanks for all the Saints

*After we read the names of saints in our church and
community who have passed in the last year, you are invited
to come forward to place a photo or memento of your beloved
saints, light a candle, and name your loved one at the
microphone if you wish.*

Litany - to be ready after our saints are named

One: For all your saints, O God, we give thanks.
For those who brought us into this world,

Many: and taught us how to live here.

One: For those who told us your Good News story,

Many: and lived that story for all to see.

One: For those wise folk in the church,

Many: who embodied for us the shape of faith.

One: For those dear departed souls for whom we still grieve,

**Many: and whom we hope to meet on another day,
on another shore.**

One: In their lives we recognize your Life,

Many: and in their voices we hear your Voice.

One: For all the saints, known and unknown . . .

**Many: for all the saints who have touched our lives
and who touch them still . . .**

All: we give you thanks!



Scripture Readings 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13

p. 248

Matthew 23:1-12

p. 31



Message



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...

STACEY Jenkins, member of the congregation

CLARE McConville, friend of Robbins/Carriveau family

JACKIE Wagner, mother of Michele Wagner

SUE, cousin of Mikki Nevins

BUDDY Nevins, member of the congregation

WENDY Blow, member of the congregation

JILL Lester, friend of Mikki Nevins

DAVID Horn, brother of Chuck Horn

BOB, great uncle of Brice Willard

CRYSTAL, friend of Jeanie McMahon

JOHN, son of a friend of Kevin and Lorraine O'Keefe

**Names remain on prayer list for 8 weeks unless extension requested*

Prayers of healing and hope for...

SIDNEY Montague, friend of the community

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.



Sacrament of Holy Communion



Communion Hymn SL #745 *Here at Thy Table Lord*

Here at Thy table, Lord, this sacred hour,
O let us feel Thee near In loving pow'r;
Calling our thoughts away From self and sin,
As to Thy banquet hall We enter in.

So shall our life of faith Be full, be sweet;
And we shall find our strength For each day meet.
Fed by Thy Living Bread, All hunger past,
We shall be satisfied And saved at last.

Come then, O holy Christ; Feed us, we pray.
Touch with thy pierced hand Each common day,
Making this earthly life Full of Thy grace,
Till in the home of heav'n We find our place.

Invitation

One: Come and taste the grace eternal, come and see that God
is good.

**Many: We come to this table with faith that we will be fed
by the spirit of Christ as we share the bread and cup.**

One: Jesus said: "I am the bread of life. All who come to me will
not be hungry; all who believe in me will never be thirsty."

Many: We are hungry and thirsty. O Lamb of God, we come!

One: We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion,
Jesus took bread, and after he gave thanks to God, he broke
the bread and gave it to his disciples saying:

**Many: "This is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me."**

One: In the same way, Jesus also took the cup. After he gave
thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it all of you."

**Many: "This is the cup of the new covenant poured out for you
and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often
as you drink it, in remembrance of me."**

One: Holy and Living God, you meet us in the ordinary moments of our lives, and you welcome us to this table of grace. Pour out your Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and cup, that they may be Christ broken and poured out for us and for the healing of the world. As we eat and drink, unite us with Christ with one another, and with all the saints in every time and place, *as we proclaim with hope, the mystery of our faith:*

**Many: Christ has died. Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

One: These are the gifts of God for the people of God.
Come, for all things are now ready!

The Breaking of the Bread

One: Through the broken bread,

Many: we participate in the body of Christ.

The Pouring of the Cup

One: Through the cup of blessing,

Many: we participate in the new life Christ gives.

Sharing of the Elements



Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving

Holy One, we thank you for meeting us at this table, where bread and cup remind us that we belong to you and to one another. We give thanks for all the saints whose lives have shaped ours and whose love remains part of our story. Renew our faith, deepen our compassion, and send us forth to share the love we have received, rejoicing in your Spirit at work among us. Amen.

Offerings of the People – Time, Talents, Treasures, and Testimonies



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

Generous God, with grateful hearts, we bring our gifts of time, talents, and financial resources, remembering all the saints whose generosity and faithfulness have helped shape our lives. Bless these gifts and the ministries they sustain, that your love may be shared, your hope renewed, and your grace made known through the life and work of this church. Amen.



Hymn NC #299 *For All the Saints* (vs 1 – 4)

For all the Saints who from their labors rest,
who to the world their steadfast faith confessed,
your name, O Jesus, be forever blessed. Alleluia! Alleluia!

You were their rock, their refuge, and their might:
you, Christ, the hope that put their fears to flight;
'mid gloom and doubt, you were their one true light. Alleluia!
Alleluia!

Still may your people, faithful, true, and bold,
live as the saints who nobly fought of old,
and share with them a glorious crown of gold. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Ringed by this cloud of witnesses divine,
we feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
yet in your love our faithful lives entwine. Alleluia! Alleluia!



Benediction / Passing of the Peace



Cong Response SL #785 *God Be With You* (with refrain)

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.
Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Jesus' feet.
Till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet again.



Postlude

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





Precious
in the sight of the Lord
is the death of his
saints.

Psalm 116:15, ESV

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 any time.
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 -	↑ Lynn, Billi, Brice and Grace Willard ↓ Lynn, Billi, Brice and Grace Willard
Lay Reader -	Kevin O'Keefe
Pianist -	Michele Feldheim
Zoom Tech-	Bob Miller
Coffee Hour -	Maureen Dempsey and Rick Tracy
Flowers -	John Gugenberger

This Week at the Church...

Today -	All Saints' Day
Monday 7pm -	WaS
Wed/Fri/Sat -	Food Pantry - see website for hours
Thursday 7pm -	Choir
Fri 7pm -	AA
Saturday 6:30pm-	Community Campfire

Birthdays and Anniversaries...

November 1 ★-	Zach Hurd
November 6 ★-	Chris Norris, Chris Wayne
November 4 ♥-	Scott and Jackie Miller
November 5 ♥-	Jill and Barry Flanders

November 1, 2026

Matthew 23:1-12

Partners in Service

Long before he was Pope, a priest called Francis developed a prayer he called the five-finger prayer. On this All Saints Day, it's a good way to call to mind those saints in our lives and in the world who have led the way in the faith.

Hold your hands palm down in front of you, and look at your fingers one by one, beginning with your thumb, which is the closest to your heart.

Thumb: Pray for those closest to you. Pray for those in your chosen family, or for your close friends.

Pointer finger: Pray for those saints who have pointed you in the right direction. Pray for older relatives, wise teachers, good employers, and thoughtful mentors.

Middle finger: This finger stands tall. Pray for the saints in leadership in your community and the world. Pray for those in business, government, and church leadership whose decisions affect so many.

Ring finger: This finger is the weakest of all the fingers. Pray for those on the margins, pray for the oppressed or the downtrodden. Pray for the ill and the dying. Pray for the addicted and the imprisoned.

Pinky finger: This finger is the smallest. This is where you put your prayers for yourself.

In today's scripture story, Jesus teaches the crowds and disciples about servant leadership. He showed them that when we are followers of Christ, our words and actions need to be consistent. As we pray this prayer, we can get clearer about who are the ordinary, everyday saints in our lives and the world. We can better understand who those are who walk their walk and talk their talk, those saints who have something to teach us here and now.