


Westhampton Congregational United Church of Christ
an Open and Affirming Congregation
6th Sunday after Pentecost - July 5, 2026


 **Reflection** – “We are not what we ought to be, but we are what we are. And God’s grace is not in our ability to be perfect, but in our willingness to be transformed” ~ Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

“Trust the past to the mercy of God, the present to His love, and the future to His providence.” ~ St. Augustine

“Be the change you wish to see in the world.” ~ Mahatma Gandhi

 **Prelude**

 **Announcements / Candle / Welcome /**  **Introit**

 **Call to Worship**

One: The Lord is good to all.

Many: God's compassion rests upon all creation.

One: All God's works shall give thanks, and all God's faithful people shall bless God's holy name.

Many: We join our voices with all creation in praise.

One: Our God upholds all who are falling.

Many: Our God raises up all who are bowed down.

One: The Lord is near to all who call upon God in truth.

Many: We all come seeking God's presence, mercy, and peace.

One: Let us worship the God whose love reaches all people.

All: Let us all worship God!

 **Hymn** *For This Land in All Its Wonder*

(Tune: SL #720 Text: copyright 1999 Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved.)

For this land in all its wonder, for each city, farm, and town;

For each mountain filled with splendor, for each place where love is found;

For the freedoms we enjoy here, God, may thanks to you abound!
God, may thanks to you abound!

For your peace and love unending, breaking barriers that divide,

For the joy of cultures blending as we live here side by side,

God we thank you and we pray now: may we all be unified!
May we all be unified!

For your hand to lead and guide us, for your work in history,

For your vision born inside us of a just society,

God, we thank you and we pray now: May this vision come to be!
May this vision come to be!

May we be a nation seeking ways that are both wise and fair,

May our living and our speaking serve your purpose everywhere.

May we follow where you lead us; God, this is our hope and prayer!

God, this is our hope and prayer!

 **Unison Prayer of Invocation**

Gracious and loving God, as our nation marks its 250th Independence Day, we remember that freedom is never complete, but an ongoing calling. We give thanks for all that nurtures human dignity, justice, and liberty, even as we pray for a world where every person may know those gifts more fully. Where people are burdened by fear, exclusion, or injustice, awaken in us the compassion and courage of Christ. Draw us beyond the freedoms we celebrate and gather us into the deeper freedom of Your love, a love that welcomes every person and cannot be diminished by any earthly power. In Jesus' name we pray, 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**

 **Moment for All Ages**

 **Scripture Reading** Romans 7:15-25 p.
Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30 p.

 **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...

KATHY Benoit, sister of Mike Raymond
JACKIE Demarey, sister of Mike Raymond
KRISTY Raymond, niece of Mike Raymond
LAURIE Diemer, sister-in-law of Louise and Mike Raymond
AMY Mason, friend of Louise Raymond
NORBERTO Vega Rios, son of friend of Louise Raymond
SUE Willard, sister-in-law of Lynn Willard
BETTY Jaffer, sister of Larry and Jackie Didier
SUE Teece, friend of Pat Miller

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

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.

 **Communion Hymn SL #748** *Let Us Break Bread Together*

Let us break bread together on our knees (3 times)

*Refrain - When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.*

Let us drink wine together... (3 times)

Let us praise God together...



Sacrament of Holy Communion



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 Resurrected One, you have met us in our lives, let
us now meet you at this table. Pour out your Spirit upon
us and upon these your gifts of bread and cup, that they
may be symbols of Christ broken and poured out for us.
As we eat and drink, may we be filled by you. Unite us
with Christ and with your church in all the world, 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

**God of the abundant feast, thank you for refreshing us at
your table and gracing us with the presence of Christ.
Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another,
and send us forth into the world in courage and peace,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. 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

Gracious God, You remind us that your grace is greater than our striving, your love stronger than our fears. Receive these gifts as our grateful response to your generosity. Bless them for the work of your church, that all may hear Christ's invitation to come find welcome and rest. Send us forth with open hands, compassionate hearts, and renewed spirits, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn *In This Time of Great Reflection*

(Tune: SL 23 / NC 376 Holy Manna; Text: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, written for the 250th Anniversary of the United States of America.)

In this time of great reflection on two hundred fifty years,
We remember, as a nation, times we've prospered, times of tears.
"We shall be," a preacher told us, "as a city on a hill" —
not to praise us but to warn us: We've a duty to fulfill.

Here is what holds us together: Mercy, love, community.
We're to seek to care for neighbors in a just society.
If we fail to help the needy and to build a land that's just,
we will simply be a by-word as the world looks on at us.

We recall our nation's story. Keep us honest, God above!
In our quest for wealth and glory, we have injured ones you love.

Through enslavement, through displacement, we have chosen ways of sin.
We've been violent. We've stayed silent. So our light of love stays dim.

Will we work for racial justice? Will we turn from fear and hate?
What is now the public witness that you call us to create?
As we celebrate our country, help us, Lord, to understand:
All of us must share the bounty and the goodness of the land.

continued on next page...

In this time, O God, restore us to the land we're called to be —
where all people here among us know your blest community.
May we seek to be that city, not with pride but as a prayer.
May we love and serve you humbly, in our land and everywhere.

SL #759 *America the Beautiful (vs 1) / Benediction*


O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain,
For purple headed majesties above the fruited plain!
America! America! God shed His grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea!

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.*

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

Minister -	Rev. Carol Smith
Greeters -	 Ilene Lorow  Shirley Raymond
Lay Reader -	Rick Tracy
Pianist -	Michele Feldheim
Special Music -	John Barber
Zoom Tech-	Bob Miller
Coffee Hour -	Julie and Stephen Holt
Flowers -	Sarah Madden

This Week at the Church...

Monday 7pm -	WaS
Next Sunday -	Big Y gift card orders