

Westhampton Congregational United Church of Christ
an Open and Affirming Congregation
3rd Sunday after Epiphany
January 25, 2026

 **Reflection** - “Jesus said, “Follow me.” We don’t always know what that means. We are on a journey of discovery. We are here because we want to be God’s people; we are here because we are broken and want to be whole again; we are here to celebrate our lives, and God’s presence in this life.”

~ M. Enid Watson, in *Touch Holiness*

 **Piano Prelude**
 **Announcements / Lighting the Candle / Welcome to Worship**
 **Piano Introit**

 **Call to Worship**

One: The story of God is unfolding right now,
Many: in our everyday lives and everyday places.
One: God has called each of us . . .
Many: to be a part of the story.
One: Together we are God’s story . . .
Many: unfolding in love and faithfulness and compassion.
One: Let’s shine God’s love into all the world!
All: **Let’s praise the One who calls to life and love!**

  **Hymn NC #8 Praise to the Living God**

Praise to the living God, the God of love and light,
Whose word brought forth the myriad suns and set the worlds in flight;
Whose infinite design, which we but dimly see,
Pervades all nature, making all a cosmic unity.

Praise to the living God, from whom all things derive,
Whose Spirit formed upon this sphere the first faint seeds of life;
Who caused the to evolve, unwitting, toward God’s goal,
Till humankind stood on the earth, as living, thinking souls.

Praise to the living God, who knows our joy and pain,
Who shares with us our common life, the sacred and profane.
God toils where’er we toil, in home and mart and mill;
And deep within the human heart God leads us forward still.

Praise to the living God, around, within, above,
Beyond the grasp of human mind, but whom we know as love,
In these tumultuous days, so full of hope and strife,
May we bear witness to the Way, O Source and Goal of life.

 **Unison Prayer of Invocation**

Holy God, you meet us where we are, in the midst of our busy lives and quiet worries. Shine your light on us today, help us see the way forward, remind us we do not walk this road alone. Call us, as you called your first followers, to let go of what holds us back and step into your way of love. Heal what is hurting, lift what feels heavy, and gather us as your beloved people, ready to worship, ready to listen, ready to be changed by your love. Shine through this time together and send us out carrying your light into the world. 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**

 **Scripture Readings** *Isaiah 9:1-4* *Matthew 4:12-23*

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Message

  **Hymn NC #173 You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore**

You have come down to the lakeshore
Seeking neither the wise nor the wealthy,
But only asking for me to follow.

Refrain: *O Jesus, you have looked into my eyes;*
Kindly smiling, you’ve called out my name.
On the sand I have abandoned my small boat;
Now with you I will seek other seas.

You know full well my possessions,
Neither treasure nor weapons for conquest,
Just these my fishnets and will work working.

*Refrain: O Jesus, you have looked into my eyes;
Kindly smiling, you've called out my name.
On the sand I have abandoned my small boat;
Now with you I will seek other seas.*

You need my hand, my exhaustion,
Working love for the rest of the weary –
A love that's willing to go on loving. (R)

You who have fished other waters;
You, the longing of souls that are yearning:
As loving Friend, you have come to call me. (R)



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...

AMANDA Ghali and family, niece of Kevin and Lorraine O'Keefe
LEO, friend of Swenson/Jeffords family

RON Hiltbold, father of Wendy Wilcox

BOB Gould, cousin of Steve and Julie Holt

ANITA Hickey, member of the congregation

MARGERY Shaw, friend of the congregation

BRIAN Cooper, son of Lynn Cooper

DON Fox, friend of the community

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

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

God of light and love, you call us from our everyday
lives to follow you. As we offer these gifts, let them
shine with your hope and healing in the world. May our
giving reflect our trust in your call and our desire to
walk in your way. Bless these gifts and all they touch,
for the sake of Christ's love. Amen.

Hymn SL #779 We Are Called to Be God's People

We are called to be God's people, showing by our lives His grace.
One in heart and one in spirit, signs of hope for all the race.
Let us show how He has changed us, and remade us as His own;
Let us share our life together as we shall around His throne.

We are called to be God's servants, working in His world today;
Taking His own task upon us, all His sacred words obey.
Let us rise, then, to His summons, dedicate to Him our all,
That we may be faithful servants, quick to answer now His call.

We are called to be God's prophets, speaking for the truth and right;
Standing firm or godly justice, bringing evil into light.
Let us seek the courage needed, our high calling to fulfill,
That we all may know the blessing of the doing of God's will.

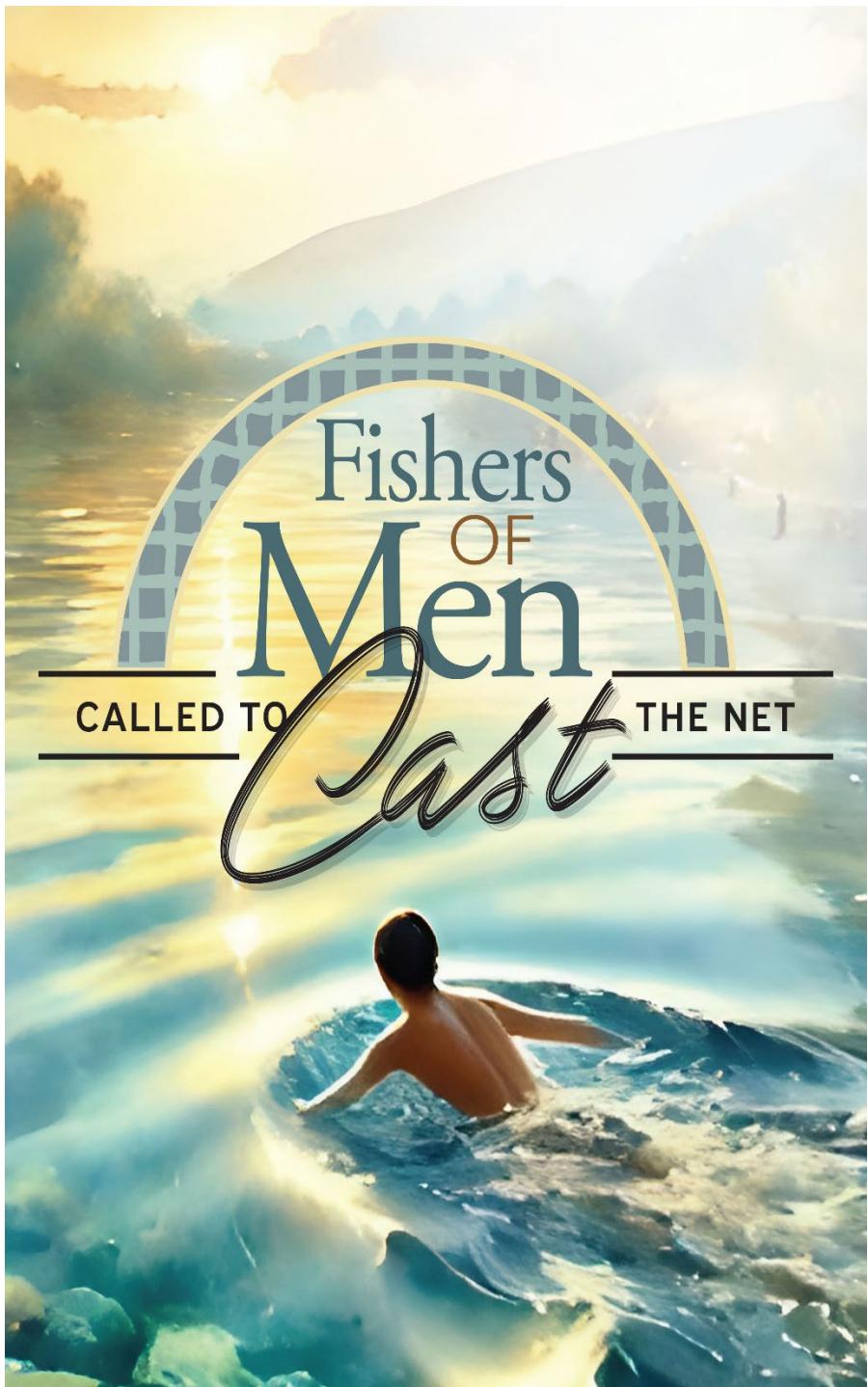
Benediction / Passing of the Peace

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.



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 -	↑ Dolores and Mark Thornhill ↓ Wendy Blow
Lay Reader -	Rick Tracy
Pianist -	Michele Feldheim
Zoom Tech -	Bob Miller
Coffee Hour -	Potluck Brunch
Flowers -	Patty and Bob Greene and Bonnie Paton

This Week at the Church...

Today -	Annual Meeting after worship and Potluck
Mon 7pm -	Council
Wed/Fri/Sat -	Food Pantry - see website for hours
Thurs 7pm -	Choir
Friday 7pm -	AA

Birthdays and Anniversaries...

January 25★ -	Joanne Brooks
January 27★ -	Pavel Tabec-Pringle, Emmett Stith
January 28★ -	Bob Greene, Maddie Jenkins
January 29★ -	Barbara Page, Susan Shulman, Lynn Willard
January 28♥ -	Kelly Challet and Ian Stith