



Westhampton Congregational United Church of Christ  
an Open and Affirming Congregation  
15th Sunday after Pentecost - September 1, 2024

 **Reflection** “When people walk up to me and tell me they are Christians, my first response is the question, ‘Really? Already?’ It seems to me it is a lifelong endeavor to try to live the life of a Christian.” – Maya Angelou

 **Organ Prelude** – Silent reflection to prepare your hearts for worship.

**Announcements / Welcome to Worship**

 **Organ Introit**

 **Call to Worship** (Inspired by Psalm 15)

One: O Holy One, who may abide in your tent?  
Who may dwell on your holy hill?

Many: **Those who want to journey with you,  
who may have missed a turn, and who may struggle  
with rocky patches and rough terrain.**

One: O Holy One, who may abide in your tent?  
Who may dwell on your holy hill?

Many: **Those who seek and search for you  
and for community with doubts and hopes,  
joys and fears, smiles and tears.**

One: O Holy One, who may abide in your tent?  
Who may dwell on your holy hill?

Many: **Those who try and those who sometimes give up.  
Those who are beautifully, wonderfully,  
and imperfectly human—all of us!  
Thanks be to God!**

 **Hymn SL #776** *For the Beauty of the Earth*

For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,  
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies,  
Lord of all, to Thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,  
Hill and vale and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light,  
Lord of all, to Thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.


For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child;  
Friends on earth and friends above; for all gentle thoughts and mild;  
Lord of all, to Thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For Thy Church that evermore lift-eth holy hands above,  
Offering up on every shore her pure sacrifice of love,  
Lord of all, to Thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For Thyself, best gift divine, to the world so freely given;  
For that great, great love of Thine, peace on earth and joy in heaven;  
Lord of all, to Thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

 **Unison Prayer Invocation**

**Loving God, we rejoice to be with you and with one  
another. You are the God who makes all things new and  
who redeems our past. In life, we find the fullness of life —  
from joy beyond measure to despair that consumes. Your  
presence sustains us through the depths and the plateaus.  
We acknowledge your sovereignty and express our bold  
trust that hope is our portion and assigned position in your  
everlasting and incomparable realm. Amen.**

 **Doxology** *tune Old 100<sup>th</sup> SL#7*

To God, all glorious heavenly light; To Christ, revealed in earthly night;  
To God, the Spirit now we raise; Our joyful songs of thankful praise.

 **Communion Hymn** *One Bread, One Body*

*Refrain*



One bread, one bod-y, one Lord of  
all, one cup of bless - ing which we bless.  
And we, though man-y, through-out the  
earth, we are one bod - y in this one Lord.  
1 Gen - tile or Jew, ser - vant or  
2 Man - y the gifts, man - y the  
3 Grain for the fields, scat-tered and  
free, - wom - an or man, no more.  
works, one in the Lord of all.  
grown, gath-ered to one, for all.

## Service of Communion

### Invitation

#### Prayer of Transformation and New Life

**Eternal God, may we break from the bonds of unaltered, unexamined, and unimaginative traditions. At the same time, may we be released from the compulsion to discount everything that has been a source of life and faithful formation across generations. Help us to discern what needs to be left in our past with honor, recognition, and gratitude, what needs to be eradicated with lament, repentance, and repair, and what needs to be envisioned, imagined, and created for the future. Amen.**

### Words of Grace

Beloved, the Holy One renews, redeems, and restores through continuing creative acts. God has not concluded the good work begun in you or in our faith communities. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we receive courage, counsel, and conviction to do the new thing God is calling us to do while holding fast to those things that build, sustain, and encourage.

### Telling the Story

#### Sharing the Bread and Cup

#### Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving

**Grant, O God,  
that the ears which have heard the voice of your song  
may be closed to the voice of clamor and dispute;  
that the eyes which have seen your great love  
may also behold your blessed hope;  
that the tongues which have sung your praise  
may speak the truth;  
that the feet which have walked your courts  
may walk in the region of light;  
and that the bodies which have tasted your living body  
may be restored in newness of life.  
Glory be to you, O God!**

### Anthem

 Scripture Reading p. 278 James 1:17-27

p. 51 Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

### Message

### Hymn NC #27 *From All That Dwell Below the Skies*

From all the dwell below the skies,  
Let the Creator's praise arise; Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Let the Redeemer's name be sung  
Thru every land, by every tongue.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Eternal are your mercies, God;  
Your truth stands ever high and broad; Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Your praise shall sound from shore to shore  
Til suns shall rise and set no more.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

### Prayers of the People – Help, Thanks, and Wow

Lift up your hearts.... **We lift them up to God.**

#### Individual Prayers

Loving and beloved God... **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  
**PATTY** Schmidt, friend of Lorraine O'Keefe and Joanne Brooks  
**MIKE** Carriveau, husband of Jessica Carriveau  
**LORRAINE** Spencer, member of the congregation  
**OLLIE** Bishop, member of the congregation  
**LAURA** Vachula, friend of Lynn Cooper  
**BRENDA** Hodge, sister of Mark Thornhill  
**BRENDA** Pelc, neighbor of Jackie and Larry Didier  
**MICHAEL**, friend of Maria Yorgakopoulou and Niko Sinodinos  
**KIMBERLY** Start, daughter-in-law of Deb Barthelette  
**KATHY** Bergeron, friend of Wendy Wilcox  
**BILL** McCloud, friend of the community  
**ELLIE** Scott, member of the congregation  
**DON** Eddy, member of the congregation  
**TOM** Cleary, Sr., friend of the community  
**RUTH ANNE** Bennett, friend of Kathy and Mike Robbins  
**JEAN** Stawarz, friend of the Scrabble Club  
**JOHN** Gougeon, husband of Lorrie Gougeon

CAROL Cahill, friend of Jean Webster  
DENNY Preston, cousin of Betty-Anne Gould  
TERRI Toner, friend of Mikki Nevins  
CONNER Brown, grandson of Bob and Deborah Fuller  
DONNA Burns, cousin of Julie Holt

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

DAVID Bridgman, friend of the community

Silent Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer NB#G-6 (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

🎵 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 #164** *Arise, Your Light Is Come*

Arise, your light is come! The Spirit's call obey;  
Show forth the glory of your God which shines on you today!

Arise, your light is come! Fling wide the prison door;  
Proclaim the captive's liberty, good tidings to the poor.

Arise, your light is come! All you in sorrow born,  
Bind up the broken-hearted ones and comfort those who mourn.

Arise, your light is come! The mountains burst in song!  
Rise up like eagles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.

📌 **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.

📌 🎵 **Organ 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](https://zoom.us), click Join a Meeting and enter Meeting ID 321 069 9076; Passcode 248423. 646-558-8656.

**Pastor Greg Briggs Office Hours & Contact Info**

Pastor Greg Briggs' email and cell phone:

[pastor.greg.briggs@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.greg.briggs@gmail.com); 616-283-2971

Office Hours – M 10-4; T/Th by appt; emergencies anytime

Julie Holt church secretary - church email and office phone:

[westhamptonchurchucc@comcast.net](mailto:westhamptonchurchucc@comcast.net); 413-527-4204

**Worship Participants**

Ministers - People of the church

Interim Minister - Pastor Greg Briggs

Organist - Jean McMahan

Greeters -  Erika Subocz

 Wendy Blow

Lay Reader - Maureen Dempsey

Special Music - Judee Wayne

Zoom Tech- Stacey Jenkins

Coffee Hour - Sarah Madden

Flowers - Maureen Dempsey and Rick Tracy

**This week at the church...**

**TODAY 10am – WELCOME folks from Southampton!!!**

Wed-Fri-Sat - Food Pantry – see website for hours

Thurs 6pm - Transition Team

Thurs 7pm - Choir begins!

Fri 7pm - AA

Next Sunday - Blessing Sunday

**Birthdays and Anniversaries...**

September 1 ★ - Lori Ingraham, Sue Morton

September 2 ★ - Steve Malinowski

September 4 ★ - Shade Nehring

September 5 ★ - Daniel Young

September 2 ♥ - Hannah Tracy and John Wermer