

Westhampton Congregational United Church of Christ
an Open and Affirming Congregation

2nd Sunday of Easter

Lay Sunday

April 27, 2025



Reflection -

After Jesus rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, from whom he had cast out seven demons. She went out and told those who had been with him, while they were mourning and weeping. But when they heard that he was alive and had been seen by her, they would not believe it. ~ Mark 16:9-11



Piano Prelude

Announcements Welcome



Welcome to Worship / Lighting the Candle



Piano Introit



Call to Worship

One: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Many: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

One: We have not seen the risen Christ,

Many: But we see him in the lives of those transformed by grace.

One: We have not seen Jesus face-to-face,

Many: But we have seen him in the faces of everyone whose love encourages us.

One: We have not touched the wounds from the cross,

Many: But we have been called to bring healing to the scarred of the world.



Hymn NC #245 *The Day of Resurrection*

The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad;
The Passover of gladness, the Passover of God.
From death to life eternal, from earth unto the sky,
Our Christ has brought us over with hymns of victory.

Our hearts be pure from evil, that we may see aright
The Christ who reigns eternal in resurrection light;
We listen for the teachings once heard so calm and plain,
For we, too, want to follow and raise the victor strain.

Now let the heavens be joyful, let earth its song begin,
The whole world keep high triumph, and all that is therein;
Let all things seen and unseen, their notes of gladness blend,
For Christ again has risen, our joy that has no end.



Unison Prayer of Invocation

The tomb is empty. This is a time to reflect on what Jesus told us: He would rise after three days. No one knew what that meant at that time. No one had risen from the dead on his own. Lord help us to understand the full meaning of rising from the dead, and to understand what it meant to his followers.

The women were the first to the tomb. Mary Magdalene was first, who loved Jesus from the time He cast the demons from her and realized who Jesus was from a personal level, and who loved Him and followed Him more than any of the disciples.

The women were the first to discover Jesus had risen, then they told the apostles. Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene first.

Silence

Words of Assurance

This is the good news we have declare: God leads us out of the shadows to walk in the light of Christ. This is the word we have heard: our faithful God forgives our transgressions and raises us to new life. Thanks be to God. Amen.



Anthem



Moment for All Ages



Scripture Reading

Luke 24:1-12

John 20: 19-31

Message

Hymn SL #606 *In the Garden*

I come to the garden alone,
while the dew is still on the roses;
And the voice I hear, falling on my ear,
the Son of God discloses.

*Refrain - And He walks with me and He talks with me,
And He tells me I am His own;
And the joy we share as we tarry there,
None other has ever known.*

He speaks, and the sound of His voice
is so sweet the birds hush their singing,
And the melody that He gave to me
within my heart is ringing. *Refrain*

I'd stay in the garden with Him
though the night around me is falling,
But He bids me go; through the voice of woe,
His voice to me is calling. *Refrain*



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...

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

MELISSA Skiba, sister of Leslie and Derek Mitchell

ABIGAIL Labonte, friend of Kevin and Lorraine O'Keefe

WALTER Kleeberg, friend of Billi Jean Willard

GEORGE Guyette, brother-in-law of Joanne and Lorraine


After Prayer List is read...

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

Silent Prayer

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.

Prayer of Dedication

↑ 🎵 **Hymn SL #256** *Because He Lives*

God sent his Son, they called him Jesus;
He came to love, heal and forgive.
He lived and died to buy my pardon;
An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives.

*Refrain – Because He lives, I can face tomorrow,
Because He lives, all fear is gone.
Because I know He holds the future,
And life is worth the living just because He lives.*

How sweet to hold a newborn baby
And feel the pride and joy he gives;
But greater still the calm assurance:
This child can face uncertain days because He lives. *Refrain*

And then one day I'll cross the river;
I'll fight life's final war with pain.
And then, as death gives way to victory,
I'll see the lights of glory, and I'll know He reigns. *Refrain*

↑ 🙏 **Benediction**

As you leave know that God loves you and has always loved you. Especially those who feel that the Bible and the church have left you out. God works through women, men and LGBTQ. He loves you all equally. God is looking for your faith and love, no matter who you are. God knows your heart even if the people on earth don't see it.

↑ **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, 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
Greeters -	↑ Lynn Willard ↓ Wendy Blow
Lay Leader -	Paul Aloisi
Lay Reader -	Charlotte Wood
Pianist -	Michele Feldheim
Special Music -	Stacey Jenkins
Zoom Tech-	Bob Miller
Coffee Hour -	Joanne and Ted Brooks
Flowers -	In memory of our sisters and brother by Joanne and Ted Brooks

This Week at the Church...

Monday 7pm -	Council
Wed-Fri-Sat -	Food Pantry - see website for hours
Thursday 7pm -	Choir
Friday 7pm -	AA

Birthdays...

April 29 ★ -	Harper Johnson, Karl Norris
April 30 ★ -	Marcia Sullivan
May 3 ★ -	Trevor Brakey



**"I HAVE SEEN
THE LORD!"**