Westhampton Congregational United Church of Christ
an Open and Affirming Congregation
1st Sunday of Advent
November 29, 2026

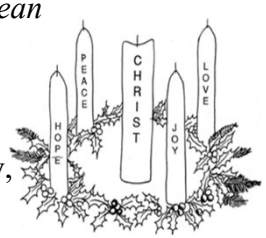
Reflection *"The season of Advent is like springtime in nature, when everything is renewed and so is fresh and healthy. Advent is also meant to do this to us – to refresh us and make us healthy, to be able to receive Christ in whatever form he may come to us." ~Mother Teresa*

Prelude

Announcements / Welcome to Worship / Lighting the Candle

Introit

Advent Wreath Lighting
Cong response: *A Candle is Burning, by Sandra Dean*
Melody: Away in the Manger (SL #176)



A Candle is burning, a flame warm and bright,
A candle of Hope in December's dark night.
While angels sing blessing from heaven's starry sky,
Our hearts we prepare now for Jesus is nigh.

Call to Worship
One: Come, all who wait.
Come with hearts open to possibility.
Many: For even now, a new light is dawning . . .
One: A light that reminds us not to give up dreaming . . .
Many: A light that calls us to watch, to trust, and to hope.
One: Come, let us make room for the Light of Hope among us.
All: And welcome the promise of Christ into our hearts!

Hymn SL #157 *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free.
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's Strength and Consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art –
Dear Desire of ev'ry nation, joy of every longing heart!

Born Thy people to deliver, born a Child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit, rule in all our hearts alone.
By Thine all-sufficient merit, raise us to Thy glorious throne.

Unison Prayer of Invocation

Holy One, in this season of waiting and expectation, draw us close. Help us look beyond the worries that weigh upon us and notice the small signs of hope all around us: in a kindness offered, a burden shared, a new beginning, a moment of grace. Remind us that your promises are still unfolding and that we are part of the story you are writing. Be present in our worship today. Open our eyes, stir our hearts, and let the light of hope find a home within us. 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

Hanging of the Greens



Scripture Reading Mark 13:24-37, p. 61

Message

Hymn NC #102 *O How Shall I Receive You*

O how shall I receive you, how meet you on your way,
blessed hope of every people, my soul's delight and stay?
O Jesus, Jesus, give me now by your own pure light,
to know what-e'er is pleasing and welcome in your sight.

Love caused your incarnation; Love brought you unto me;
Your thirst for my salvation procured my liberty.
O love beyond all telling, that led you to embrace
in love, all love excelling, our lost and fallen race.

You come, O Christ, with gladness, in mercy and goodwill,
To bring an end to sadness and bid our fears be still.
In patient expectation we live for that great day
when a renewed creation your glory shall display.

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…

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
STACEY Jenkins, member of the congregation
FLANNERY Wiemer, niece of Liz Grasty (Southampton UCC)
JACKIE LaFrance, sister of Janice Tracy
RITA Horn, wife of Chuck Horn
BUDDY Nevins, member of the congregation
WENDY Blow, member of the congregation

**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.

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

God of our waiting and watching, as Advent begins, turn our hearts toward the promise of what is yet to come. We bring these gifts as expressions of our hope, trusting that you will bless, multiply, and use them to bring kindness, compassion, and light into our world. As you awaken hope within us, help us share it generously, so that our giving and our living may reflect the love of Christ, who is drawing near. Amen.

Hymn SL #169 *O Little Town of Bethlehem (vs 1, 2, 4)*

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary; and gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars together proclaim the holy birth;
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend on us, we pray.
Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell.
O come to us; abide with us, our Lord, Emmanuel.

Benediction / Passing of the Peace

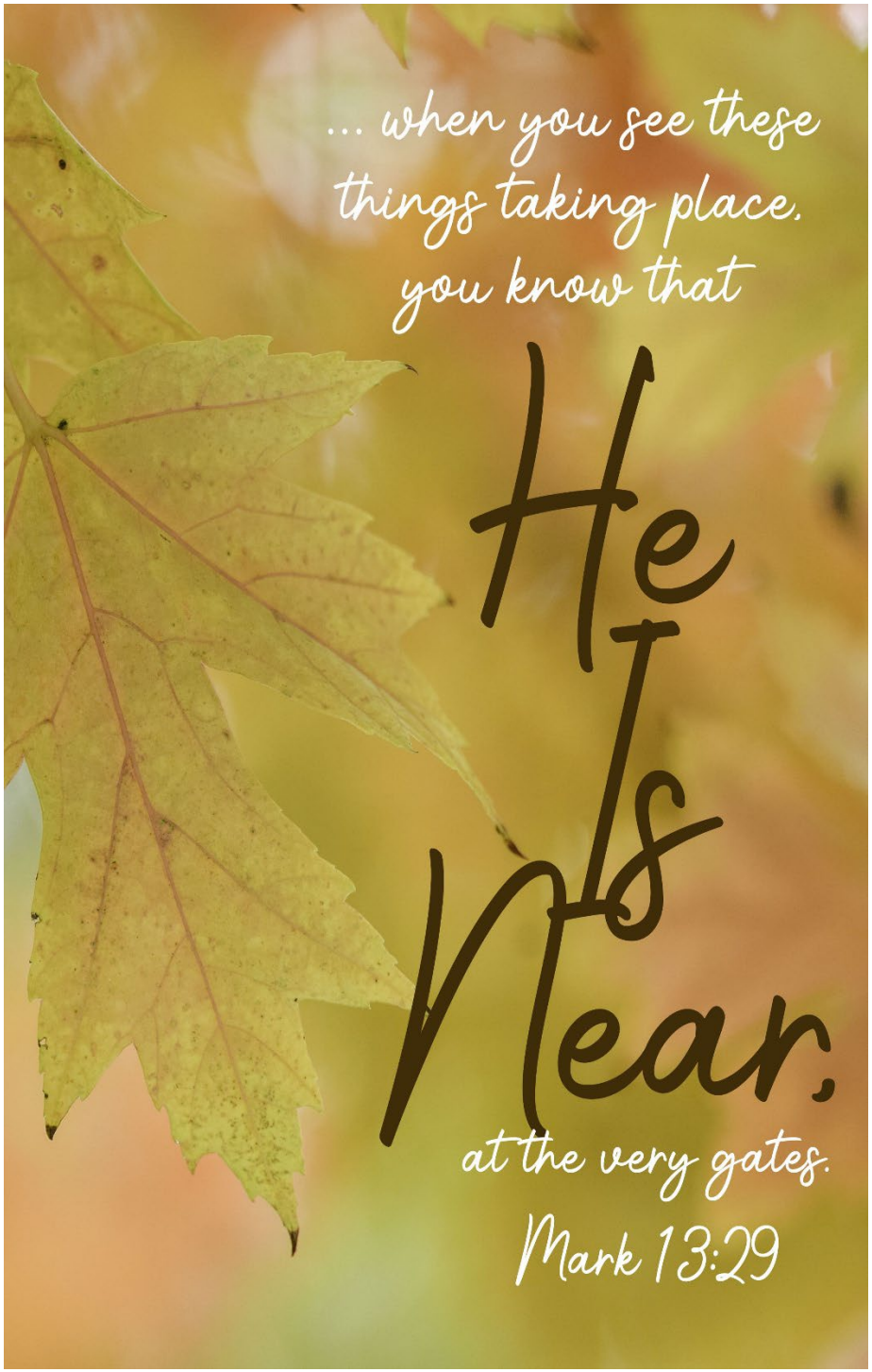
Cong Response SL #785 *God Be With You*

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.

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

Ministers -	People of the church
Minister -	Rev. Carol Smith
Greeters -	↑ Lynn, Billi, Brice and Grace Willard
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Lay Reader -	Kevin O'Keefe
Pianist -	Michele Feldheim
Special Music -	Jeanie McMahon, Julie Holt
Zoom Tech-	Bob Miller
Coffee Hour -	Lorraine and Kevin O'Keefe
Flowers -	Dolores and Mark Thornhill

This Week at the Church...

Today -	Advent Festival – Decorating the Church
Wed/Fri/Sat -	Food Pantry - see website for hours
Thursday 7pm -	Choir
Fri 7pm -	AA

Birthdays and Anniversaries...

November 30 ✶- Patty Greene
December 2 ✶- Frank Sansom
December 1 ♥- Lorrie and John Gougeon



The rosebud on the altar is in honor of the birth of Samual John Torry, born October 1, 2026. Samuel is the son of Brianna and Zach Torrey, and his great aunt is Kathy Robbins. *Welcome, little one!*