

Welcome to
WILSON MEMORIAL UNION CHURCH
A Member Congregation, International Council of Community Churches



April 21, 2024
Fourth Sunday of Easter
10:00 a.m.

7 Valley Road, Watchung, NJ
Phone: (908) 755-5020
Website: www.wilsonmemorialchurch.org
Email: admin@wilsonmemorialchurch.org

APRIL 21, 2024

Fourth Sunday of Easter

10:00 AM



Please rise as you are able, in body or in spirit
Bold print indicates a unison reading.

PRELUDE

Various Melodies

Ricky Francese

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

The Candle this morning shines to remind us of New Life.



OPENING SONG

He's Got the Whole World in his Hands

WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Michael Droege

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist, Carolyn Musacchio

O God, how magnificent is your name across the earth!

You've displayed your grandeur beyond the skies.

Even from the mouths of children and infants,
you've established strength to counter opposition,
quieting those who oppose and seek revenge.

When I ponder the wonders of nature, the creation of your hands,
the vastness of space and the intricacies of our universe;

what are we, mere humans, that you notice us?

Humans, crafted just a notch below the divine,
adorned with dignity and respect.

You've entrusted us with authority over the fruits of your labor;
 placing all creation beneath our stewardship,
from the livestock on the plains,
 to the creatures in the air and the depths of the sea,
 traversing every corner of our planet.
O God, how glorious is your name across the earth!

OPENING PRAYER

by Hélder Pessoa Câmara

Lord, isn't your creation wasteful? Fruits never equal the seedlings' abundance. Springs scatter water. The sun gives out enormous light. May your bounty teach me greatness of heart. May your magnificence stop me being mean. Seeing you a prodigal and open-handed giver, let me give unstintingly like a king's child, like God's own. Amen



SONG

Morning has Broken



PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION

(All who wish are invited to participate verbally in our prayer of reconciliation.)

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

 **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

 **PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

One: Peace be with you.

All: And also with you.

SONG

One Love

INTRODUCTION OF BRIDGET GRANHOLM

Bridget Granholm, LCSW is a social worker in Summit, NJ.
She specializes in Social Work and Clinical Social Work.

PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day, our daily bread,

and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen

ANTHEM

What a Wonderful World

 **DOXOLOGY**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
praise him all creatures here below; praise him above, you heavenly host,
praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

 **PRAYER OF GRATITUDE**

SCRIPTURE

Mark 12:28-31

One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another,
and seeing that he answered them well he asked him,
“Which commandment is the first of all?”

Jesus answered, “The first is,

‘Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your
God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all
your strength.’

The second is this,

‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’

There is no other commandment greater than these.”

 **GLORIA PATRI**

**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.**

SERMON

YOU ARE LOVED: The Divine Ecosystem

Pastor Michael

ANTHEM

How Great is our God

 **BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Various Melodies

Ricky Francese

How to Support the Work of Wilson Memorial Church

In Service: You are invited to place your offerings in the plate at the back of the Sanctuary.

By Mail: Gifts can be sent to the office at:
7 Valley Road
Watchung, NJ 07069

Online: Use our secure giving portal by clicking the “Giving” link on our website; www.wilsonmemorialchurch.org

Text-to-Give: Text WILSONCHURCH to (908) 460-8818 and follow the setup prompts for your first time. Once set up, you can simply text the gift amount to the above number.

Follow us on social media @mywilsonchurch

How to reach Pastor Michael: You can schedule an appointment online at calendly.com/michaeldroege or call the office for assistance at (908) 755-5020. In any kind of crisis, you can always call Pastor Michael at (908) 755-5589

Rev. Dr. Michael Droege, Pastor
Timothy Walton, Director of Music & Worship Arts
Ricky Francese, Accompanist
Jacob Feldman, A/V Specialist
Tina Kelly, Administrator
Harold Kreis, Sexton
The Rev. Barbara Peters, Pastor Emerita
Lisa Renaud, Frippery (908)625-5042
Bridget Granholm, counseling bgranholm.lcsw@gmail.com

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

For Prayer: For peace • Joe Higgins • Peter Della Ventura

Spring Clean Up & Kindness to the Kindness Trail: Saturday, April 27th 10am

Starfish food request: Please consider donating toilet paper, paper towels and toothpaste.

Wilson U: Classes meet Sunday Mornings at 9am on April 21, May 5 & 19.

Blanket Sunday: Wilson will be supporting Church World Services this Mother's Day. CWS is a global organization that helps distribute blankets to those in need. To support their mission, take a giving envelope in the narthex.

PJ Parker's Jazz Combo: Please join us on May 19th at Coffee Hour for jazz and brunch.

Church Picnic & Baccalaureate Service: Sunday, June 23rd at 10am.

Mission Trip Corner:

All ages trip to support the work of Urban Promise in Camden, New Jersey.
July 28-August 2. Contact Kendal MacTaggart at kendalmactaggart@gmail.com

We will all support the trip to Camden by participating in some of the following opportunities:

- **Pasta Dinner** April 28th 4pm
Tickets available in the office or at coffee hour
- **Community Flea Market** June 1st 9am-2pm
Vendors wanted, come sell your stuff! Register for your space online.