

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



“Lift Off” by Nicolette Penaranda

February 25, 2024

Second Sunday in Lent

10:00 a.m.

7 Valley Road, Watchung, NJ

Phone: (908) 755-5020

Website: www.wilsonmemorialchurch.org

Email: admin@wilsonmemorialchurch.org

FEBRUARY 25, 2024

Second Sunday in Lent

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

We light this Candle this morning as a light to guide our Lenten journey.



HYMN #68

Come Thou Font

WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Michael Droege

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist, Judy Wall

God welcomes the dreamers and the doubters,

the courageous and the fearful,

the hungry and the hopeful,

the impatient and the reserved.

God welcomes the young and the old,

the poets and the prophets,

the faithful and the tired,

the curious and the convicted.

Wherever you are on your journey, wherever your boat is at sea,
there is room for all to gather here. This is God's house.

Let us worship the one whom even the seas obey.

OPENING PRAYER

Holy God,

There are days when the wind is loud. There are days where the rain tears through the trees and the storms of life beg for our attention. So just as you stilled the wind and the sea, still our wandering hearts. Quiet our restless minds. Reach out your hand to us and pull us to your side so that we might hear, really hear, your voice today. With one foot out of the boat, we pray, amen.

HYMN #451

Be Still My Soul



PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION

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

Gracious God, there are days that threaten to swallow us, days when the storms of life feel too big. In those moments, we often cling to the sides of our ships in fear, spending more energy hiding from storms than looking for you.

Forgive us for doubting ourselves.

Forgive us for doubting you.

Rescue us from the storms of today and from the fears that trap us. With hope in our hearts we pray, amen.



ASSURANCE OF PARDON



PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

One: Peace be with you.

All: And also with you.

CONTEMPORARY TESTIMONY

written by: Rev. Sarah Speed

I'd rather not need rescue.

I'd prefer a five-step plan and a quick-fix solution.

I'd prefer stubborn insistence over honest vulnerability,
because rescue requires asking for help.

Rescue names the rising water.

Rescue sees the tired, treading feet.

Rescue feels the swell of the wind
and the rain at a slant.

But when the floor falls out

and the world is on fire

and my small hands

cannot fix the hurt welling in me,

the prayer that slips out is rescue

rescue

rescue me.

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

**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**

Matthew 14:22-33

Immediately, he made the disciples get into a boat and go to the other side while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, “It is a ghost!” And they cried out in fear. But at once Jesus spoke to them and said, “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.”

Peter answered him, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” He said, “Come.” So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and, beginning to sink, he cried out, “Lord, save me!” Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?” When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

 **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

#epicfail

Rev. Dr. Michael Droege

ANTHEM

I Trust in God

 **BENEDICTION**

I believe in a God who moves toward me when storms rage.

I believe in a God who invites me to be brave.

I believe in a God whom the wind and waves obey.

I believe in a God who knows my name.

I believe in a God of love.

I am not afraid. Amen.

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

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

We welcome the **Boy Scout Troop #32**
this morning and thank them for their beautiful brunch.

Soup Supper Sundays: Feb. 25, March 3, 10, 17 @ 4:30 in Fisher Hall.

If you attend the soup suppers, please consider a food pantry donation for the Blue Bin and Star Fish.

Open Sanctuary during Lent: We invite you to use the space for quiet, self-guided reflection and prayer. Tuesdays from 8:30am -1pm.
Feb 27 March 5, 12, 19.

WoW: Next meeting is March 7th at 11:30 am. Wow is planning to meet at a showing of the new “Cabrini” movie on March 8th in honor of International Women’s Day.

Holy Week Schedule: Join us during Holy Week.
Maundy Thursday 2/28 @6pm, Good Friday 2/29 @6pm Service

For Prayer: For peace • Joe Higgins

Wilson University is here!

A new semester of education is available.

Find the full course list online, using the QR code or printed in the narthex.

