

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



February 4, 2024
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
10:00 a.m.

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

FEBRUARY 4, 2024

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

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 God's guidance into a new season.



HYMN MEDLEY

Bless That Wonderful Name/ There is Power/ When the Saints Go Marching

WELCOME

Rev. Michael Droege

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist, Nancy Scott

Praise the LORD!

How good it is to sing praises to our God, for he is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting. The LORD builds up Jerusalem; God gathers the outcasts of Israel. God heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

God's delight is not in the strength of the horse nor in the speed of a runner, but the LORD takes pleasure in the people of faith, in those who hope in his steadfast love.

Praise the LORD!

OPENING PRAYER

O God, we are gathered here under the shelter of your wings, nurtured by your motherly love, and encouraged, then, to fly by faith on the wind of your spirit.

You have spoken to us, saying,

"They that wait upon the Lord, shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings as eagles."

Teach us how to wait, then, that we may learn how to fly. May this nest we call "family" be built with sturdy materials. Don't let us forget, though, that this nest was not created as a fortress behind which to hide, but as a perch from which to take off. And strengthen us with the assurance that we do not fly alone. Amen.

HYMN # 426 *Blessed Assurance*

Verse 1: Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine!

Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of His spirit, washed in his blood. **Refrain**

Verse 3: Perfect submission, all is at rest, I in my Savior am happy and blest,
watching and waiting, looking above, filled with his goodness, lost in his love.

Refrain

Refrain:

This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long

This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long

† 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.

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN #122

He is Exalted

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 Friend We Have in Jesus



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 1:29-39

As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them. That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed by demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases and cast out many demons, and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also, for that is what I came out to do." And he went throughout all Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

 **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

“When Success Is Not”

Rev. Michael Droege

COMMUNION

*If you prefer the elements to be brought to you in your seat, remain seated and an usher will come to you.

ANTHEM

Trust In 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. 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

For Prayer: For peace • Joe Higgins

WoW: Next meeting is March 6th 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.

Shrove Tuesday: Feb. 13th at 6pm in Fisher Hall

Ash Wednesday: Feb. 14th ashes will be imposed by Rev. Michael Droege from 8am-8:30am, then again from 12-12:30. Self-imposition will be available all day. Service for Ash Wednesday will be at 6pm in the Sanctuary.

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

Open Sanctuary during Lent: Tuesdays from 8:30am -1pm
Feb 20, 27 March 5, 12, 19

Wilson University is coming!

A new semester of education is launching in February...stay tuned!

The Full Circle: Lorenzo and Michelle are delighted to share with you that “Prayer Stitches”, an embroidery on linen created by Lorenzo, is a part of the Full Circle Frontline Arts 50th Members Exhibition.

The Full Circle opening reception is Saturday Feb 3, 1-3pm at Frontline Arts, 440 River Road Branchburg NJ.

~If you are available, please do stop by.

Board Briefs:

Congratulations to our new Executive Board members,
Russ Harding & Isaac Onuorah

Thanks to everyone who made a Valentine's Day Card for the residents at Brandywine Assisted Living in Watchung!

We are close to reaching our goal of 85 - only 27 more to go!