

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



January 14, 2024
Second Sunday after Epiphany
10:00 a.m.

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

JANUARY 14, 2024

Second 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

We light this candle today to recognize that God has made God's home with us.



OPENING HYMN

Sign Me Up

Refrain: Sign me up for the Christian jubilee,

Write my name on the roll.

I've been changed since the Lord has lifted me. I
want to be ready when Jesus comes.

WELCOME

Rev. Michael Droege

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist, Carolyn Musacchio

In the beginning, God...

Swept over waters, spoke light into existence, created day and night and called it good.

As the days and nights of creation filled with life, God...

Made humanity out of the dirt to love and tend creation, to be loved and tended by God.

As we lost our way, God...

Sent Jesus, Love Incarnate, to show us the way back.

On the day Jesus came to the banks of the Jordan River to be baptized, God...

Declared, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Let us, then, follow Jesus into the waters, remembering our baptism in which God...

Claims us as beloved children, the family of God.

OPENING PRAYER

Holy God, Eternal Spirit, we thank you for baptizing us into one body in Jesus. Wash over us with your Spirit, that, like Jesus, we may serve you in serving humanity. Baptize us with the fire of your truth, through Jesus Christ. Amen.



SONG

Promises



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.

ANTHEM

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

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

A Thousand Hallelujahs



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 1:4-11

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And the whole Judean region and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him and were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the strap of his sandals. I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

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

"Starting Right"

Rev. Michael Droege

COMMUNION

ANTHEM

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

 **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 February 1st at 11:30 am to coordinate Ash Wednesday (Feb. 14th) and soup suppers.

Wilson University is coming!

A new semester of education is launching in February.

We are looking for faculty and new courses to offer. On our bulletin board you can let us know what courses YOU would enjoy or what courses YOU would like to teach. Our departments will include:

- Practical Ministry (teaching, worship, usher, youth ministry)
- Theology (Holy Spirit, Jesus, Hebrew Scriptures, New Testament)
- Electives (Voice lessons, tap dance, Yoga, etc)

Give us feedback on the board in the hallway or email our “Dean” Michael at mdroege@wilsonmemorialchurch.org

COURSE OPPORTUNITY: (check the weekly newsletter for more info)

‘Jan Term’ documentary now thru Jan. 14th : <https://www.1946themovie.com/>

Annual Meeting: January 28th at 11:00 am in Fisher Hall.

In person attendance is strongly encouraged.

ANNOUNCEMENT: 2024 Annual Meeting

To include our online community and those unable to attend in person, the Annual Meeting of the Mary E. Wilson Memorial Union Church will be held in a hybrid manner, both in person and online via Zoom on January 28 at 11 AM, following our Worship Service.

At this meeting the Annual Report, including committee reports will be reviewed and procedures will be followed regarding the approval of the 2024 Budget, the election of Executive Board members, Treasurer and Clerk, as well as any other business requiring votes.

At this meeting there will be an opportunity to comment and ask questions. Votes will be cast, using the paper ballots, as instructed during the annual meeting.