

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



**January 21, 2024**  
***Christian Unity Sunday***  
10:00 a.m.

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

**JANUARY 21, 2024**

Christian Unity Sunday

**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 is lit as a reminder and a beacon of Christian Unity.



**OPENING HYMN #80**

*He's Got the Whole World in His Hand*

**WELCOME**

Rev. Michael Droege

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Liturgist, Dick Hill

We come to this place and time of worship as worshipers.

**We are here...together.**

We come from north, south, east and west.

**We are here...together.**

We come as young adults, children, widows, families, single people,  
employed, retired, and somewhere between.

**We are here...together.**

We come with diverse political and theological viewpoints. We come with our own  
unique perspectives on life and faith, but...

**We are here...together.**

We come separate but are made one body by the love of Jesus Christ. In Christ we  
are one today, tomorrow, and all the days of ahead.

## **OPENING PRAYER**

Compassionate God, we live in a broken and hurting world,

**come and renew us.**

We nurse old wounds, we refuse to consider a different point of view, we are afraid of those we don't know, we act as if we have the best and only way,

**come and heal us.**

We succumb to the idea that things will never change, that situations are hopeless, that conflicts will never cease, that relationships will remain broken. But the good news is that God has the last word in our brokenness and that word is Jesus.

So, we ask you to come, Lord Jesus, with your saving love and grace. Come to save us from ourselves. Come Lord Jesus to restore and mend broken lives, broken families, broken communities, and broken churches. May we know our unity in love again. Amen.



### **HYMN #595**

*They'll Know We Are Christians*

**Refrain:** And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.

Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.



### **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**

**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**

*Gratitude*

 **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

### THE COVENANT AGREEMENT

In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we hereby commit ourselves to work together in the spirit of cooperation, love and understanding, to preserve the Christian traditions and values we share in our homes and in the community; to seek social justice and remove prejudice; and to search for a deeper knowledge of Christ through mutually sponsored worship, study, and prayer.

### SCRIPTURE

Mark 1:14-20 & Galatians 3:26-29

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea--for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people."

And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

 **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**

"Following Together"

Rev. Michael Droege

**ANTHEM**

*I'm So Blessed*

 **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](http://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](http://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**

Flowers from Kelly Friede at Flowers on the Ridge

**For Prayer:** For peace • Joe Higgins

**WoW:** Next meeting is February 1<sup>st</sup> at 11:30 am to coordinate Ash Wednesday (Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>) and soup suppers.

**Covenant Committee Meeting:** Renewing and signing the agreement between the two churches. Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup> at St Mary's.

### **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](mailto:mdroege@wilsonmemorialchurch.org)

**Annual Meeting:** January 28<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am.

*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 and counted at the meeting, in-person and via zoom.