

Welcome to

WILSON MEMORIAL UNION CHURCH

A Member Congregation, International Council of Community Churches



Wassily Kandinsky, Improvisation 27 (Garden of Love II), 1912

January 28, 2024

Fourth 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 28, 2024

Fourth 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 #651

We Bring a Sacrifice of Praise

All: We bring the sacrifice of praise into the house of the Lord;
we bring the sacrifice of praise into the house of the Lord.
And we offer up to you the sacrifices of thanksgiving;
and we offer up to you the sacrifices of joy.

WELCOME

Rev. Michael Droege

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist, Russ Harding

Giving thanks with whole hearts...

In the company of this congregation.

Let us worship together!

We worship the One who is gracious and merciful...

Holy and awesome is God's name!

Let us worship together!

OPENING PRAYER

God of power and might, you sent prophets to your people, calling us back to your covenant, and teaching us the way of life. When it was time, you sent us your Son, who taught with such authority, that our hearts were filled with wonder. We want to see your way anew. Open our hearts and minds, that we may understand and live out your way of love for all to see. May we be amazed again. Amen.



HYMN #447

Because He Lives

Refrain: Because He lives, I can face tomorrow;
because he lives all fear is gone;
because I know he holds the future,
and life is worth the living just because He lives.



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

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

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 1:21-28

They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God."

But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching--with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him."

At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

 **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

“A New Way of Doing an Old Thing” Rev. Michael Droege

ANTHEM

Evidence

 **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.

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.

Wilson University is coming!

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

TODAY

Annual Meeting: January 28th 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.