

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



January 7, 2024

Epiphany

10:00 a.m.

7 Valley Road
Watchung, NJ

Phone: (908) 755-5020

Website: www.wilsonmemorialchurch.org

Email: admin@wilsonmemorialchurch.org

JANUARY 7, 2024

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.



HYMN# 202 (AAHH) *Go Tell it on the Mountain*

Refrain:

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere,

Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.

Verse 1: While shepherds kept their watching O'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. ***Refrain***

Verse 2: The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth, rang out the
angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. ***Refrain***

Verse 3: Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born, and God sent us
salvation that blessed Christmas morn. ***Refrain***

WELCOME

Matthew May

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist, Judy Wall

Arise, shine; for your light has come.

We gather to praise God.

Darkness has covered the earth for far too long.

We gather to praise God.

Together, we raise glory to our God who has delivered us.

We gather to praise God.

OPENING PRAYER

Light of God, illuminate the path that leads us to hope and salvation. Fill this space and expose the darkness that stalks our souls. Shine with such brightness that we marvel in awe. Lead us as we wander through the darkness. Reveal to us the path of this new year so that we can follow your light more closely. We offer our wicks to be your guiding light in the world in the name of Christ. Amen.

Song

We Agree with Heaven

Refrain:

We agree with heaven, oh heaven
We agree with heaven, come heaven

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.

SONG *Hope Has Come/God Rest Merry Gentleman*

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 *Holy Forever*

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

GATHERING OF OUR CHILDREN

SCRIPTURE

Proverbs 16: 1-9

The plans of the mind belong to mortals, but the answer of the tongue is from the Lord. All one's ways may be pure in one's own eyes, but the Lord weighs the spirit. Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established. The Lord has made everything for its purpose, even the wicked for the day of trouble. All those who are arrogant are an abomination to the Lord; be assured, they will not go unpunished. By loyalty and faithfulness iniquity is atoned for, and by the fear of the Lord one avoids evil. When the ways of people please the Lord, he causes even their enemies to be at peace with them. Better is a little with righteousness than large income with injustice. The human mind plans the way, but the Lord directs the steps.

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

Today we celebrate with **Epiphany Stars** - simple wooden stars with a word on the back. Prayerfully (and randomly) choose a star and consider the word in your hand as your *guiding* star for this year.

For Prayer: For peace • Joe Higgins

WoW: Next meeting is February 1st at 11:30am 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

Annual Meeting: January 28th at 11:00am 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.