

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



“Then They Remembered” by Lisle Gwynn Garrity

March 24, 2024

Palm Sunday

10:00 a.m.

7 Valley Road, Watchung, NJ

Phone: (908) 755-5020

Website: www.wilsonmemorialchurch.org

Email: admin@wilsonmemorialchurch.org

MARCH 24, 2024

Palm 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 shines to remind us of God's guidance into a new season.



HYMN#674

What a Mighty God we Serve

WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Michael Droege

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist, Gerald DiAndrea

Sing songs of loudest praise!

Hosanna!

Sing songs that are unashamed.

Hosanna!

Sing songs without being afraid.

Hosanna!

Sing for the God of tomorrow and today.

Hosanna!

Let us worship the One worthy to be praised.

OPENING PRAYER

God of grace, your love is like a song. It is the melody that we long to sing, the refrain that we pray will get stuck in our heads. So, as we gather here once more, we pray that you would allow us to sink into this song. Allow us to hear the truth in what we experience today. Allow the cries of the crowd's "hosannas" to feel like our own. With open hearts and open ears, we pray, amen.



HYMN

The Palms



PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION

(All who wish are invited to participate verbally in our prayer of reconciliation.)

Holy God, we want to run into the streets and sing your praise! We want to be bold and unashamed of this good-news Gospel. However, too often we find ourselves standing against the wall.

Too often we stay quiet. Too often we let others carry the song.

Forgive us for the moments when we could lead the parade but instead find ourselves standing on the sidelines.

Show us which songs are ours to sing. Show us which parades are ours to lead, and then give us the courage and conviction to do both. With hope and honesty, we pray, amen.



ASSURANCE OF PARDON

 **PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

One: Peace be with you.

All: And also with you.

CONTEMPORARY TESTIMONY

A Day with a Donkey

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 Beautiful Name it is

 **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

John 12:12-16

The next day the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So, they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting,

“Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord—
the King of Israel!”

Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, as it is written:

“Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion.
Look, your king is coming,
sitting on a donkey’s colt!”

His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written of him and had been done to him.

 **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

I Just Don't Get It...

Rev. Dr. Michael Droege

ANTHEM

Made a Way

 **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. Dr. 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

The flowers that grace the Sanctuary this morning is from
THE FLOWERS ON THE RIDGE

For Prayer: For peace • Joe Higgins • Peter Della Ventura

Palm Sunday: Join us TODAY for brunch, Easter egg hunt and palm folding after Worship Service.

Holy Week Schedule: Join us during Holy Week.

Maundy Thursday March 28 @6pm, *Good Friday* March 29 @6pm Service

Care Team: An information section will be held during our April 7th coffee hour for those interesting in restarting our Congregational Care Team. The CCT is made up of members of the congregation who would be willing to send cards, organize meals, visit, or call those who cannot make it out to church, etc. Please see Michael for more information.

Sunday Music Series: Sunday, April 14th @4pm. Join us as we welcome R&B artist “*Jacquie Grace*”. Purchase your \$10 tickets after Worship Services.

Starfish food request: Please consider donating pasta, tomato sauce, diced/canned tomatoes, cereal (non-family size), and tuna.

Mission Trip Corner:

All ages trip to support the work of Urban Promise in Camden New Jersey.

July 28-August 2. We will all support the trip to Camden by either direct participation (applications due by March 29th) or by participating in some of the following opportunities:

- Pasta Supper April 28th @ 4pm
- Somerset Patriot Game TBA
- Community Flea Market June 1st 9am-2pm

Contact Kendal MacTaggart at kendalmactaggart@gmail.com