

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



"Who Do You Say I Am" by Lauren Wright Pittman

March 3, 2024

Third Sunday in Lent

10:00 a.m.

7 Valley Road, Watchung, NJ

Phone: (908) 755-5020

Website: www.wilsonmemorialchurch.org

Email: admin@wilsonmemorialchurch.org

MARCH 3, 2024

Third Sunday in Lent

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.



OPENING SONG

Rough Side of the Mountain

WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Michael Droege

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist, Russ Harding

Inspired by Psalm 19

If you ask the sky who God is,
the sky will tell you of God's reach.

Thanks Be to God

If you ask the day who God is,
the sun will tell you of God's warmth.

Thanks Be to God

If you ask the night who God is,
the moon will tell you of God's comfort.

Thanks Be to God

“The heavens are telling the glory of God” (Psalm 19:1). Are you listening?

We are listening!

Let us worship Holy God.

OPENING PRAYER

Dear Loving One, for generations people have bowed their heads, have prayed the Psalms, have asked for your presence in their lives. For generations people have whispered their joys and their pain to you. For generations we have gathered here, we have quieted our minds, we have prayed to feel your presence in our midst. So once again, just as the generations before, we turn our hearts to you. Still our busy minds so that we might truly comprehend what you have to say to us today. With joy and hope we pray, amen.

SONG

Indescribable



PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION

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

Holy God, some days, we are quick to declare your goodness. Like Peter, we see you in our midst and we are confident in our faith. Other days, we are distracted and uncertain, desperate for answers.

Forgive us for losing sight of you.

Some days we are quick to trust your blessings—trusting that we are called, that we can make a difference. Other days, our praise falls silent and doubt creeps in.

Forgive us for losing sight of ourselves.

We know that fear and doubt are part of the journey of faith. But for the days when we are far from you and far from ourselves, we ask for your tender grace. Pull us closer toward you. Remind us of the mountaintop moments of our faith. Amen.



ASSURANCE OF PARDON

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

One: Peace be with you.

All: And also with you.

CONTEMPORARY TESTIMONY

written by: Rev. Sarah Speed

Praise the Mount

I have stayed quiet before.

I have held my tongue
while passing mountains.

I have slipped my hands deep into pockets,
despite the music that invites me to dance.

I have glimpsed a new moon and a new love
and have acted as if it was something other than a complete, God-given miracle. But
not today.

Not today.

Today I will dance.

Today I will tap my toes all the way to heaven's gates.

Today I will point out every shade of gold and periwinkle that we pass. Today I will
talk about my faith like we talk about the weather—
early and unprompted, comfortable and unashamed.

Today I will tell you that God did such a good job with freckles, willow trees, and
your entire being.

And I will not be embarrassed by my own conviction.

I will not swallow my praise.

I have stayed quiet before, but not today.

Today I will sing.

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

Pie Jesu

by: Andrew Lloyd Webber

Translation:

Merciful Jesus, who takes away the sins of the world, give us rest.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, give us rest, everlasting rest.



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

Matthew 16:13-18

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” And they said, “Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it.

 **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

Saying the Quiet Part Out Loud

Rev. Dr. Michael Droege

ANTHEM

Fear is Not My Future

 **BENEDICTION**

Jesus asked the disciples, “But what about you? Who do you say that I am?”
Church, what do you say?

**Jesus is a hand reaching out in the storm,
the voice of truth spoken over us,
and love without walls.**

**Jesus is justice for the weary,
healing for the hurt,
and welcome for the stranger.**

**Jesus is teacher, Messiah, and friend— with me on the mountain
and beside me in the valley.**

**Jesus is a star in the night,
and the love that knows my name.**

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

Soup Supper Sundays: March 3, 10, 17 @ 4:30 in Fisher Hall.

Please consider a food pantry donation for the Blue Bin and Star Fish.

WoW: International Women's Day is Friday, March 8, 2024. This year's theme is "INSPIRE INCLUSION". The first IWD was celebrated in March 1911 as a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women. Each year this day serves as a powerful reminder of the progress made towards gender equality and highlights the work that still needs to be done to ensure women's equality in all areas of life.

Wilson Memorial Union Church has always included women in its mission and ministries since the organization of the Women's Guild in 1912. Women of Wilson is the latest evolution of that mission and continues to shine a light for our women's ministry of compassionate care for our community and support of Christian values worldwide. (*Cota Kania Possien*)

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

Wilson University Weekly Reflections:

Class: Voice with Timothy Walton

“I’ve been struggling with voice issues for the last 3 years due to sinus surgery and age. Within 45 minutes, Timothy had helped my tone, resonance, and my ability to project my sound.”

Nancy Scott

Class: The theology of growing up

Rev. Dr Michael Droege

“It gave me a new perspective on how different generations have shaped our youth’s opinion and connection to the church.”

Reagan Thomson



Use the QR code for full course list. There is still time to register!

