

**Welcome to**

**WILSON MEMORIAL UNION CHURCH**

*A Member Congregation, International Council of Community Churches*



*"Feed my Sheep" by Nicolette Peñaranda*

**April 7, 2024**

Second Sunday of Easter

10:00 a.m.

7 Valley Road, Watchung, NJ

Phone: (908) 755-5020

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**APRIL 7, 2024**

Second Sunday of Easter

**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 New Life!



*Serve*

**OPENING MEDLEY**

*Victory is Mine/What a Mighty God We*

**WELCOME**

Pastor Michael Droege

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Liturgist, Dick Hill

Jesus said, "Follow me."

Jesus said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

Jesus said, "Forgive seventy times seven."

Jesus said, "Feed my sheep."

In response, we say:

**"Here's my heart.**

**Take and seal it.**

**Seal it for thy courts above."**

Let us worship God with all our hearts.

## OPENING PRAYER

God of second chances and God of new life, we have spent our days wandering. Like Peter, we have had milled about through nearly every state of faith. We have had courageous days and convicted days, learning days and questioning days. We have had days where we run to you, days for diving out of the boat, days for deep joy, and days where the pain of the world feels too close to bear. So as we bring our wandering hearts to you, we ask that you draw us in. Allow this story to spark something new in us. Allow this story of grace to give us pause and pull us in. We are listening. Amen.

### HYMN #317

*Crown Him with Many Crowns*

### PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION

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

Gracious God, like Peter, we crawl out of the boat only to sink. You tell us your truth and we push it away. We ask about forgiveness and are surprised by abundance. We profess our faith and deny it three times. We run to the empty tomb and leave in silence. Over and over again, we find ourselves wandering along the journey of faith. Tether us to your heart. Forgive our surprise, our denial, and our limited imagination. Call us out of the boat once more. We are eager to return to you. With humble hearts we pray, amen.

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

### PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

One: Peace be with you.

All: And also with you.

## CONTEMPORARY TESTIMONY

*Here's My Heart*

by: Rev. Sarah Speed

As a child I made a nativity set for my mother— pinch pot clay, uneven angel wings, hair made with the help of a garlic press, Joseph's staff rolled out like I was God and it was an earthworm. There was nothing beautiful about it, nothing whispering of talent, but I made it for my mother! So, I wrapped that questionable piece of art in a box and gave it to her like I was handing her a Picasso.

*Here, mother, you carried me in your womb. You bandaged my knees when I fell. You made soup when I was sick. You rocked me to sleep as an infant and sewed my costumes by hand. In return, I made you this haphazard nativity!*

And in my childlike mind, I thought that the small white lamb, molded from a lumpy piece of clay, could somehow make us even, could somehow balance the scales, could somehow pay her back.

And bless my mother, because in her grace, she smiled and she displayed that hodge-podge nativity set on the mantel as if it were her pride and joy.

*(I believed that it was.)*

Maybe that's the way it is with God. I say, Here's my heart and God smiles. And God takes it. And despite the ragtag nature of my human-hearted faith, whatever I can give always ends up on God's mantel.

Whatever I can give always calls for pride and joy.

## 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**

John 21:1-19

After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, and he showed himself in this way. Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. Simon Peter said to them, “I am going fishing.” They said to him, “We will go with you.” They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach, but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, “Children, you have no fish, have you?” They answered him, “No.” He said to them, “Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some.” So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he had taken it off, and jumped into the sea. But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.” So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them, and though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, “Who are you?” because they knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my lambs.” A second time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Tend my sheep.” He said to him the third time, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” And he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep. Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.” (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, “Follow me.”

**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****YOU ARE LOVED - THE COMMISSION**

Pastor Michael

**ANTHEM***Revelation 19:1***COMMUNION**

\*If you prefer the elements to be brought to you in your seat, remain seated and an usher will come to you.

**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

Digital copies of our bulletin are available:



**How to reach Pastor Michael:** You can schedule an appointment by calling 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

**Care Team:** Join us TODAY during coffee hour if you are interested 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 14<sup>th</sup> at 4pm. Join us as we welcome R&B artist “*Jacqui 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.

### **New Wilson U Class Available:**

Homiletics: The Art of Preaching with Pastor Michael Droege  
Sundays, April 7, 21 and May 5, 19 at 9am  
Register at [mdroege@wilsonmemorialchurch.org](mailto:mdroege@wilsonmemorialchurch.org)

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

### *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 29<sup>th</sup>) or by participating in some of the following opportunities:

- **Pasta Supper** April 28<sup>th</sup> 4pm
- **Somerset Patriot Game** April 16<sup>th</sup> 6:35pm
- **Community Flea Market** June 1<sup>st</sup> 9am-2pm

Contact Kendal MacTaggart at [kendalmactaggart@gmail.com](mailto:kendalmactaggart@gmail.com)  
To order tickets go to our website or call the office.