

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



April 14, 2024

Third Sunday of Easter

10:00 a.m.

7 Valley Road, Watchung, NJ

Phone: (908) 755-5020

Website: www.wilsonmemorialchurch.org

Email: admin@wilsonmemorialchurch.org

APRIL 14, 2024

Third 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.



OPENING SONG Come by Here Good Lord

WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Michael Droege

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist, Russ Harding

We are people of God, created to love.

We will love the Lord our God with heart, soul, mind, and strength.

We are people of God determined to love.

We will love our neighbors and treat them as we would be treated.

We love neither from a sense of obligation nor to gain popularity or favor.

We choose to love both the lovely and the unlovable because love imitates God's nature.

For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment,

"You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

OPENING PRAYER

Loving God, we acknowledge your presence around us - the power to hold and the power to love, the power to give and the power to receive, the power to see and the power to make, the power to hear and the power to care. Indeed, grant us faith that is able to transfigure us and light not only the mountain tops, but the deepest valleys as well. Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer - be with us and help us to live out your love for us and your love for others. Amen.

 **HYMN#559** Here I am Lord

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.

CONTEMPORARY TESTIMONY

“The Phone Is Too Much with Us” by Benjamin Chase

The phone is too much with us, now and soon.
Searching and scrolling, we bypass our powers.
Little we live in moments that are ours—
we’ve given here away, forgotten boon.
The photo eclipses the actual moon.
Video lapses the blooming flower.
It all uploads like a captured hour—
what we have missed will be our ruin.
Well, as for me, I’d rather be
a man alive, in body outworn.
So might I, standing in truly me,
feel joy as joy, sorrowing forlorn.
See that which is the very thing I see,
until it ends or ending comes to me.

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

**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 12:28-34

One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well he asked him, “Which commandment is the first of all?” Jesus answered, “The first is, ‘Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” Then the scribe said to him, “You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that ‘he is one, and besides him there is no other’; and ‘to love him with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength’ and ‘to love one’s neighbor as oneself’—this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.” When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” After that no one dared to ask him any question.

 **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: Starting with your reflection

Pastor Michael

ANTHEM

Gratitude

 **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

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

Spring Clean Up: Saturday, April 27th 10am

Sunday Music Series: POSTPONED, Jaquie Grace Concert, Sunday, April 14th.

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

Blood Drive: Saturday, April 20th 8am-2pm at the Watchung Exempt Hall.
Use the QR code to make your appointment.



Reflections from Wilson U: *“Day 1 of Michael’s Homiletics course invited participants to engage with a foundation for developing a relevant and meaningful sermon. I am curious to discover what will take shape over the next few weeks.”*
Michelle L Marigliano

Classes meet Sunday Mornings at 9am April 21, May 5 & 19.

Mission Trip Corner:

All ages trip to support the work of Urban Promise in Camden, New Jersey.
July 28-August 2. Contact Kendal MacTaggart at kendalmactaggart@gmail.com

We will all support the trip to Camden by participating in some of the following opportunities:

- **Pasta Dinner** April 28th 4pm
(Tickets available in the office or at coffee hour)
- **Somerset Patriot Game** April 16th 6:35pm
(Tickets available in the office or at coffee hour)
- **Community Flea Market** June 1st 9am-2pm
(Vendors wanted, come sell your stuff!)