

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



April 23, 2023
The 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 23, 2023

The 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

A Quiet Song Medley

By, L Smith & J Rasley

Pianist, Roberta Smith

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

We light this candle as a symbol of the crucifixion, resurrection, and ongoing rising of Christ.

HYMN#652

This is the Day

This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made, that the Lord has made; we will rejoice, we will rejoice and be glad in it, and be glad in it. (*Repeat*)

WELCOME

Matthew May

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist, Kendal MacTaggart

You, O God, have provided the vision of your Kingdom,

ALL: But sometimes we lose sight.

You have created a path that leads to joy and love,

ALL: But sometimes we wander away because we are unsure of where we are going.

You call us to walk a journey of faith,

ALL: But sometimes we are afraid to let go of what we know and walk toward uncertainty.

Open our eyes that we might see,

ALL: Open our eyes. Light our way.

OPENING PRAYER

Holy one, we recognize that sometimes our lack of faith prevents us from seeing the path you have prepared for us. Like the disciples before us we cry out, “increase our faith!” You would weave together the tapestry of our lives while guiding us along the threads to the fulfillment of your will if only we would have faith to follow you. Grant that our faith be rooted firmly even during the darkest times that we might recognize your constant presence surrounding us. All of these things we ask in Christ’s name. Amen.

HYMN#381

Open my Eyes

Verse 1: Open my eyes, that I may see glimpses of truth thou hast for me; place in my hands the wonderful key, that shall unclasp and set me free. Silently now I wait for thee, ready my God, thy will to see; open my eyes, illumine me, spirit divine.

Verse 2: Open my ears, that I may hear voices of truth thou sendest clear; and while the wave notes fall on my ear, everything false will disappear. Silently now I wait for thee, ready my God, thy will to see; open my ears, illumine me, spirit divine.

Verse 3: Open my mouth, and let it bear gladly the warm truth everywhere; open my heart, and let me prepare, love with thy children thus to share. Silently now I wait for thee, ready my God, thy will to see, open my heart, illumine me, spirit. divine.

Amen

PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION

(All 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.

PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Please respond with "Lord, hear our Prayer"

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**

HYMN#502

Be Thou My Vision

Wilson Memorial Collective

***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 READING

Luke 24:13-35

On that same day, two disciples were traveling to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking to each other about everything that had happened. While they were discussing these things, Jesus himself arrived and joined them on their journey. They were prevented from recognizing him.

He said to them, “What are you talking about as you walk along?” They stopped; their faces downcast.

The one named Cleopas replied, “Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who is unaware of the things that have taken place there over the last few days?”

He said to them, “What things?”

They said to him, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth. Because of his powerful deeds and words, he was recognized by God and all the people as a prophet. But our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him. We had hoped he was the one who would redeem Israel. All these things happened three days ago. But there’s more: Some women from our group have left us stunned. They went to the tomb early this morning and didn’t find his body. They came to us saying that they had even seen a vision of angels who told them he is alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found things just as the women said. They didn’t see him.”

Then Jesus said to them, “You foolish people! Your dull minds keep you from believing all that the prophets talked about. Wasn’t it necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” Then he interpreted for them the things written about himself in all the scriptures, starting with Moses and going through all the Prophets.

When they came to Emmaus, he acted as if he was going on ahead. But they urged him, saying, “Stay with us. It’s nearly evening, and the day is almost over.” So, he went in to stay with them. After he took his seat at the table with them, he took the bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, but he disappeared from their sight. They said to each other, “Weren’t our hearts on fire when he spoke to us along the road and when he explained the scriptures for us?”

They got up right then and returned to Jerusalem. They found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying to each other, “The Lord really has risen! He appeared to Simon!” Then the two disciples described what had happened along the road and how Jesus was made known to them as he broke the bread.

***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.**

SENDING OUR CHILDREN

**SERMON
ANTHEM**

How Open Are Our Eyes?

Matthew May

Believe for it

Soloist: Angela Della Ventura, Jack Hennelly, Matthew May
Wilson Memorial Collective

BLESSING OUR CHILDREN

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

By, A Page

How Firm a Foundation

Pianist, Roberta Smith

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

You can call the office for Pastoral assistance at
(908) 755-5020 or email admin@wilsonmemorialchurch.org
Our Pastor, Rev. Michael Droege, will be on leave until the end of June. In his absence, pastoral concerns will be attended to by Matthew May, our Seminarian from Drew Theological School and Rev. Beth Scibenski, a longtime friend of Pastor Michael and friend of Wilson.
Please contact Tina in our office and she will direct your concern.

Rev. Michael Droege, Pastor
Timothy Walton, Director of Music & Worship Arts
Matthew May, Seminary Intern
Roberta Smith, Accompanist
Pam Cox, Bell Choir Director
Jacob Feldman, A/V Specialist
Tina Kelly, Administrator
Harold Kreis, Sexton
The Rev. Barbara Peters, Pastor Emerita

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

April 30th: We will welcome **Rev. John Woodcock** to Wilson as our guest speaker for Worship Service on Community Church Sunday.

Sound Healing: A Watchung resident and local practitioner, Judit Duran will offer another Sound session from 4:30-6pm on Sunday, April 30th. This session will be 90 minutes and will offer discussion to better understand the technique. Please register on our website. Space is limited.

Equity Committee: May 2nd at 5:15 pm

WoW: May 4th at 11:30 am in Fisher Hall.

Blood Drive: The Wilson Memorial and St Mary's Covenant Committee will be hosting a blood drive in loving memory of Fran Ellis on Saturday May 13th from 8am-2pm. Registration can be found on our website.

May 14th: Mother's Day and Blanket Sunday.

Board Briefs:

- *We are expanding our social media network (send us your photos)
- *WMC purchased a banner at Watchung's Phillips Field
- *Angela Della Ventura is our new facilities liaison
- *We want to know about your talents

For Prayer: Marge Balcerski • Joe Higgins, and his family •

The family of Karen Cito who passed away on April 7th.

There will be two Celebration of Life services held for Karen, one in New York and one in New Jersey. In NEW YORK, services will be held on April 22, 2023 from 1pm-4pm at 10 Third Street, Camden, NY with Father John Hogan of St. John the Evangelist Church being present. Come and have a bite to eat and reminisce with the family. In NEW JERSEY, services will be held at the Wilson Memorial Union Church, 7 Valley Rd, Watchung, NJ 07061 on May 20, 2023, at 1pm with Pastor Michael Droege officiating. She will be laid to rest privately in the Memorial Garden at the Wilson Memorial Union Church Cemetery in Watchung, NJ.

