

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



April 30, 2023
Community Church Sunday
10:00 a.m.

7 Valley Road
Watchung, NJ
Phone: (908) 755-5020
Website: www.wilsonmemorialchurch.org
Email: admin@wilsonmemorialchurch.org

APRIL 30, 2023

Community Church Sunday

10:00 AM

***Please rise as you are able, in body or in spirit**

Bold print indicates a unison reading

PRELUDE

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

By, Beethoven

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

What a Mighty God We Serve

AAHH Hymnal

What a mighty God we serve. What a mighty God we serve.

What a mighty God we serve. What a mighty God we serve.

Angels bow before Him. Heaven and earth adore Him. What a mighty God we serve.

What a mighty God we serve. What a mighty God we serve.

WELCOME

Matthew May

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist, Judy Wall

Can you hear the voice of God?

We hear God calling us by name.

Are you troubled or distressed?

We come here to find a place to rest for a while.

Come and find a guide who knows these lands.

We come to praise our Shepherding God, whose pathways and doors lead to life.

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#391

Will You Let Me Be Your Servant

V1. Will you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you? Pray that I might have the grace to let you be my servant too.

V2. We are pilgrims on a journey, here to gather on the road; we are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.

V3. I will hold the Christ light for you, in the nighttime of your fear; I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.

V4. I will weep when you are weeping, when you laugh I’ll laugh with you; I will share your joy and sorrow till we’ve seen this journey through.

V5. When we sing to God and heaven, we shall find such harmony, born of all we’ve known together of Christ’s love and agony.

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**

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Acts 2:42-47

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

HYMN#134

Sweet, Sweet Spirit

Verse (sing twice) There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place, and I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord; there are sweet expressions on each face, and I know they feel the presence of the Lord.

Refrain: Sweet Holy Spirit, sweet heavenly Dove, stay right here with us, filling us with your love; and for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise, without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived when we shall leave this place.

***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

GOSPEL READING

John 10:1-10

“Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger’s voice.” Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them.

Therefore, Jesus said again, “Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life and have it to the full.

***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

They Were Together

Rev. John Woodcock

ANTHEM

Revelation 19:1

Wilson Memorial Collective

BLESSING OUR CHILDREN

BENEDICTION

Matthew May

POSTLUDE

Arr. By D Kartsonakis

The Lily of the Valley

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

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

Sound Healing: Tonight from 4:30-6pm. 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.

Wilson will welcome **Jim McKinney** as guest speaker on May 7th.

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. For more information and to donate look at Wilson's website or Cwsblankets.org

For Prayer: Marge Balcerski • Joe Higgins, and his family • Danielle Nunn
The family of Karen Cito who passed away on April 7th.

There will be a Celebration of Life service held for Karen, on **May 20, 2023**, at 1:00 pm 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.