Welcome to Wilson Memorial Union Church

A Member Congregation, International Council of Community Churches



December 10, 2023 Second Sunday in Advent 10:00 a.m.

7 Valley Road Watchung, NJ Phone: (908) 755-5020

Website: www.wilsonmemorialchurch.org Email: admin@wilsonmemorialchurch.org **DEC. 10, 2023**

Second Sunday of Advent

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 of peace will be lit by Sara, Ron, and Lonnie Miller.

↑ HYMN#

Emmanuel

Verse: Come, Come let us adore him.

Kneel down before him,

Worship and adore him (repeat verse) **Refrain:** Emmanuel, Emmanuel, Emmanuel

We Worship You

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Michael Droege

Liturgist, Carolyn Mussachio

(from Isaiah 64)

WELCOME

A voice cries out declaring God's presence. Comfort, O Comfort my people.

We come preparing the way of the Lord.

Together, we actively wait for God's peace. Comfort, O Comfort my people.

A voice cries out declaring God's equity.

Valleys shall be lifted and hills be made low. Comfort, O Comfort my people.

We come to make straight in the desert a highway.

Together, we're pressing toward God's peace. Comfort, O Comfort my people.

We lift up our voices with strength and good tidings.

Together, we carry out God's peace.

OPENING PRAYER

God of Peace, we live in a world that does not know peace. For the political instability in Haiti—may peace come soon for those who have been suffering and surviving for centuries.

God, in your mercy, hear our prayers.

For the devastating conflict in Israel and Gaza

May your peace bring reconciliation and restoration.

God, in your mercy, hear our prayers.

For those fighting for liberation and human dignity around the world.

Who have endured years of occupation,

Who have demanded that colonialism cease,

May the powers and principalities realize the errors of their ways.

God, in your mercy, hear our prayers.

For the violence right here in our backyards

Fueled by decades of educational and economic neglect,

Racism, classism, and ableism,

Powered by political dysfunction and worship of wealth.

May peace come quickly through us, by us, and for us.

God, in your mercy, hear our prayers.

From Ukraine to Nashville, From Palestine to D.C., From Sudan to Chicago

And so many more—may your people lead us to peace.

God, in your mercy, hear our prayers.



† 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.

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.



GATHERING OF OUR CHILDREN

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 40:1-5, 11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be lifted up,

and every mountain and hill be made low;

the uneven ground shall become level,

and the rough places a plain.

Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,

and all flesh shall see it together,

for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms and carry them in his bosom and gently lead the mother sheep.



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 Walking in Peace Rev. Michael Droege

ANTHEM Fear Is Not My Future

RECEIVING OUR CHILDREN

† BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Various Melodies Ricky Francese

How to Support the Work of Wilson Memorial Church

<u>In Service</u>: 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

<u>Online</u>: Use our secure giving portal by clicking the "Giving" link on our website; www.wilsonmemorialchurch.org

<u>Text-to-Give</u>: 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. Michael Droege, Pastor
Timothy Walton, Director of Music & Worship Arts
Matthew May, Lay Minister
Ricky Francese, Accompanist
Pam Cox, Bell Choir Director
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

The flowers that grace the Sanctuary today are in honor of **Lonnie Miller's birthday** from her loving family.

Cookie Exchange: Today!!

The Madrigal Singers from Franklin High School will be providing music for our December 17th Sunday Service, and our friends from **Trinity United Church** with Pastor Amy Sandlin will be joining us in Worship.

Coat Drive: WoW will be collecting warm weather items throughout the season. Next WoW meeting is Dec. 7th at 11:30am.

Potluck Brunch: Join us for coffee hour brunch on Dec. 17th to celebrate the season. Please let Nancy know what you will be bringing.

Poinsettias: Order a poinsettia to decorate the Sanctuary for our Christmas Worship Services.

For Prayer: Family and friends are invited to a celebration of life memorial service for Ruth Chalker on Saturday, December 23, 2023, at 11:00AM at Wilson Memorial Church • Joe Higgins • The family of Joanne Hammon who recently passed away • Lou and Sharon Mancini ask for your prayers for their son, Lou, who recently suffered a stroke. He's in rehab and we pray for his recovery.

Blue Christmas Service: Join us on Dec. 21st at 6pm for the winter solstice and to share in the opportunity to focus on the promise of hope.

Kids Christmas Celebration: December 15th 6:30-9pm.

Come enjoy a movie, games, hot cocoa and treats with Santa. Dress in your Pj's and bring your pillows! Please help local cancer patients by donating a new blanket for Summit Health care. Sponsored by the Coptic Church.

★Christmas Eve Worship Services:

10am Morning Family Service 11pm Candlelight Service