

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



December 3rd, 2023

First 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. 3, 2023

First 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 Hope will be lit by our 2023 confirmation class;
Emily Hauck, Sam Hunsinger, Lia Wighard.



HYMN# 154

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel.
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

WELCOME

Rev. Michael Droege

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist, Dick Hill

(from Isaiah 64)

Tear open the heavens and bring forth your presence.

We watch and we wait for You

We gather with hope, remembering your mercy.

Lead us in love; shine from above.

We watch and we wait for You

Awaken your people.

We watch and we wait for what's birthing ahead.

We watch and wait for You.

We gather with hope, remembering your justice.

Revive us, restore us; shine Your light among us.

We watch and wait for You.

OPENING PRAYER

God of Hope, we'd invite you to come down and dwell among us, yet we know that you are already and always with us—

God beside us, God before us, God behind us, and God within us.

Let your face shine so that we might remember you more clearly.

Give us life and we will call on your name as we worship you in spirit and in truth.

AMEN.



HYMN# 181

Of A Father's Love Begotten

Verse 1: Of the Father's love begotten, ere the world began to be, he is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he, of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see, evermore and evermore!

Verse 3: Let the heights of heaven adore him, angel hosts his praises sing: powers, dominions, bow before him, and extol our God and King; let no tongue on earth be silent, every voice in concert ring, evermore and evermore!



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.

WELCOMING OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Confirmation Class 2023:

Emily Hauck, Sam Hunsinger, Lia Wighard

New Members:

Anthony DiAndrea, Sophia DiAndrea, Matthew May, Diane Weber

HYMN#393

Blessed Be the Tie that Binds

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

Here I am to Worship

Refrain:

Here I am to worship, here I am to bow down, here I am to say that you're my God.
You're all together lovely, all together worthy, altogether wonderful to me.



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

Jeremiah 33:10-16

Thus says the LORD: In this place of which you say, “It is a waste without humans or animals,” in the towns of Judah and the streets of Jerusalem that are desolate, without inhabitants, human or animal, there shall once more be heard the voice of mirth and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the voices of those who sing as they bring thank offerings to the house of the LORD:

“Give thanks to the LORD of hosts,
for the LORD is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever!”

For I will restore the fortunes of the land as at first, says the LORD.

Thus says the LORD of hosts: In this place that is waste, without humans or animals, and in all its towns there shall again be pasture for shepherds resting their flocks. In the towns of the hill country, of the Shephelah, and of the Negeb, in the land of Benjamin, the places around Jerusalem, and in the towns of Judah, flocks shall again pass under the hands of the one who counts them, says the LORD.

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise, I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: “The LORD is our righteousness.”



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

Looking for Hope

Rev. Michael Droege

ANTHEM

Light of the World (Sing Hallelujah)

Refrain: Sing Hallelujah! Sing Hallelujah!

Sing Hallelujah for the things he has done!

Come and adore Him, bow down before Him.

Sing Hallelujah to the light of the world.

RECEIVING OUR CHILDREN



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. 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

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today: New member Sunday and Confirmation celebration.

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

United Family Gift Project: The gift project bags are due back today.

Cookie Exchange: Bring your favorite cookies to exchange at coffee hour on Sunday, Dec. 10th.

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: The family of Ruth Chalker who passed away this past week • For peace • Joe Higgins

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.

Christmas Eve Worship Services:

10am Morning Family Service

11pm Candlelight Service

Have a photo you'd like to share? We have an email to collect them all. Please send them to wilsonphotos@wilsonmemorialchurch.org