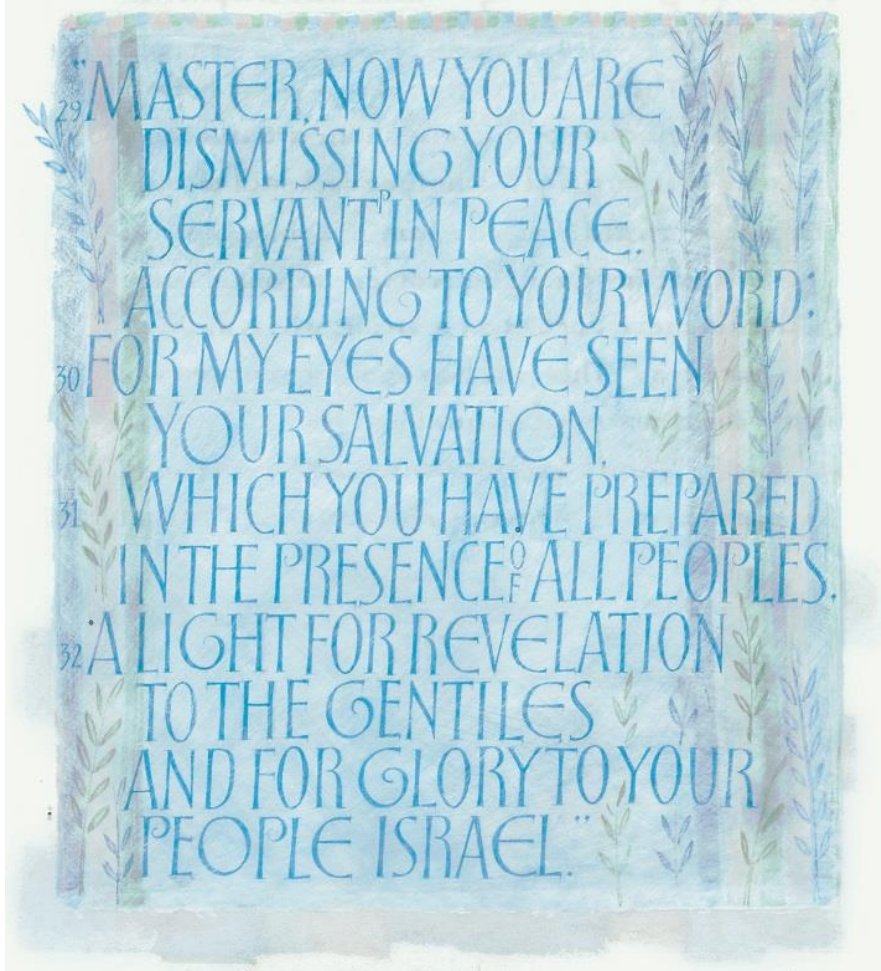


***Welcome to***

***WILSON MEMORIAL UNION CHURCH***

*A Member Congregation, International Council of Community Churches*



**December 31, 2023**

*Hats and Hymns*

10:00 a.m.

7 Valley Road, Watchung, NJ

Phone: (908) 755-5020

Website: [www.wilsonmemorialchurch.org](http://www.wilsonmemorialchurch.org)

Email: [admin@wilsonmemorialchurch.org](mailto:admin@wilsonmemorialchurch.org)

**DECEMBER 31, 2023**

*Hats and Hymns*

**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**

We light this candle today to recognize that God has made God's home with us.

**OPENING HYMN MEDLEY**

*#179 Joy To The World*

*Deck The Halls*

*#180 O Little Town Of Bethlehem*

*#188 Angels We Have Heard On High*

*#447 God Sent His Son, They Called Him Jesus*

**WELCOME**

Rev. Michael Droege

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Isaiah 61: 10-11

Isaiah 62: 1-3

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my whole being shall exult in my God,  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the  
robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause  
righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,  
until her vindication shines out like the dawn and her salvation like a burning torch.  
The nations shall see your vindication and all the kings your glory,  
and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give.  
You shall be a beautiful crown in the hand of the LORD and a royal diadem in the  
hand of your God.

## **HYMN MEDLEY**

*#192 Mary Did You Know*

*Ava Maria*

*#191 It Came Upon A Midnight Clear*

*#205 Away In A Manger*

*#225 I Wonder As I Wander*

## **SCRIPTURE READING**

Psalm 148

Praise the LORD!

Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!

Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!

Praise him, you highest heavens and you waters above the heavens!

Let them praise the name of the LORD, for he commanded and they were created.

He established them forever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps,  
fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command!

Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!

Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!

Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!

Young men and women alike, old and young together!

Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is  
above earth and heaven.

He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful, for the people of  
Israel who are close to him.

Praise the LORD!

## **HYMN MEDLEY**

*#182 O Come All Ye Faithful*

*#196 In The Bleak Midwinter*

*#233 We Three Kings*

*#209 Rise Up Shephard*

## **SCRIPTURE READING**

Galatians 4: 4-7

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir through God.

## **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 MEDLEY**

*#229 The First Noel*

*#614 Let There Be Peace On Earth*

*#587 Make Me A Channel Of Your Peace*

*#428 When Peace Like A River*

## **\*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.**

## **SCRIPTURE READING**

Luke 2:22-40

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,  
according to your word,  
for my eyes have seen your salvation,  
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,  
a light for revelation to the gentiles  
and for glory to your people Israel.”

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul, too."

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom, and the favor of God was upon him.

## **HYMN MEDLEY**

*#187 Oh Holy Night*

*#186 Silent Night*

*#218 Go Tell It On The Mountain*

## **BENEDICTION**

## **POSTLUDE**

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](http://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](https://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  
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:** Joe Higgins • The Cox family

**Coat Drive:** WoW will be collecting warm weather items throughout the season.

**Annual Meeting:** January 28th

**WoW:** Next meeting is February 1<sup>st</sup> at 11:30am to coordinate Ash Wednesday (Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>) and soup suppers.

Wilson University is coming!

A new semester of education is launching in February.

We are looking for faculty and new courses to offer. On our bulletin board (starting on January 4th) you can let us know what courses YOU would enjoy or what courses YOU would like to teach. Our departments will include:

- Practical Ministry (teaching, worship, usher, youth ministry)
- Theology (Holy Spirit, Jesus, Hebrew Scriptures, New Testament)
- Electives (Voice lessons, tap dance. Yoga, etc)

**HAPPY NEW YEAR Wilson Family!!  
2024**

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