

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



March 12, 2023

Third Sunday in Lent

10:00 a.m.

7 Valley Road
Watchung, NJ

Phone: (908) 755-5020

Website: www.wilsonmemorialchurch.org

Email: admin@wilsonmemorialchurch.org

MARCH 12, 2023

Third Sunday in Lent

10:00 AM

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

Bold print indicates a unison reading

PRELUDE

Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior

Pianist, Roberta Smith

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

During Women's History Month, we light this candle to acknowledge and celebrate the voice of God in the feminine that guides us into a deeper knowledge of the Divine.

HYMN#68

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Wilson Memorial Collective

WELCOME

Rev. Michael Droege

CALL TO WORSHIP

Dr. Lisa Hancock

Liturgist, Thomas Henry

Welcome pilgrims on the way to the cross.

We are learning to follow Jesus.

The way is long, and we are thirsty.

We seek the living waters of Jesus.

We feel the weight of scarcity warring with hopeful whispers of abundance.

We need the living waters of Jesus.

We wonder if God will provide us with what we need, here and now.

As God gives us the living waters of Jesus, so God calls us to quench the thirst and meet the needs of our neighbors.

Pilgrims on the way, come let us worship God!

We come to worship God as we learn to live inside out! Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

Ciona D. Rouse,

The Africana Worship Book, Year A, edited by Valerie Bridgeman Davis and Safiyah Fosua

We are dry, Lord, like the pavement on a sweltering summer day. Our lives are heated, and the streams of our souls sometimes run dry. We catch our tears, but they cannot ease our thirst. We drip in sweat, but this cannot ease the heat. So we beg for only a few drops of refreshing rain to moisten the dryness in our world. Amen.

HYMN#447

Because He Lives

Wilson Memorial Collective

Refrain: Because He lives, I can face tomorrow; because He lives all fear is gone; because I know He holds the future, and life is worth living just because He lives.

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.

INSTALLATION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD 2023

Nancy Scott, *President*; Judy Wall, *Vice President*; Pam Davis, *Treasurer*;

Yvette Nora Whitley, *Clerk*.

Members: Laurie Conley, Angela Della Ventura, Bruce Heyman, Cota Possein Kania, Kendal Mac Taggart, Sally Reagan, Lisa Shpunder

CONTEMPORARY TESTIMONY

Thirst, by Mary Oliver

Another morning and I wake with thirst
for the goodness I do not have. I walk
out to the pond and all the way God has
given us such beautiful lessons.

Oh Lord, I was never a quick scholar but sulked
and hunched over my books past the hour
and the bell; grant me, in your mercy,
a little more time. Love for the earth
and love for you are having such a long
conversation in my heart. Who knows what
will finally happen or where I will be sent,
yet already I have given a great many things
away, expecting to be told to pack nothing,
except the prayers which, with this thirst,
I am slowly learning.

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**

ANTHEM

Piece by Piece

Wilson Music 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 OUR CHILDREN

SCRIPTURE READING

John 4:5-26

So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water." Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem."

Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.” Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one who is speaking to you.”

***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

Follow Your Thirst

ANTHEM

Fill My Cup O Lord

Wilson Memorial Collective

BLESSING OUR CHILDREN

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Down to the River to Pray
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

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. Of course, in any kind of crisis you can always call or text Pastor Michael at (908) 578-9432.

Please note, Fridays are Pastor Michael’s Sabbath Day.

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

The flowers this morning are in memory of
Joyce Hauser Olafson, and **Ed and Toshiko Kania**
who left this world during March.

They are greatly missed by Cota, Steve, and Ed.

Flower Ministry: If you would like to honor a special someone, or occasion, please consider supplying flowers for a future service. Contact the office for assistance.

For Prayer: Prayers for Joe Higgins, and his family. Prayers for Karen Cito and her family. Prayers for peace in places of War.

Starfish: Please considering donating canned fruit, crush, peeled, or diced canned tomatoes, cans of vegetables and cereal boxes to Starfish.
Please check expiration dates before donating. *Thank you to Bruce and Ruth Ryno for volunteering at Starfish weekly.*

Open Sanctuary during lent: Tuesdays from 8:00-12:30

Soup Suppers: Sundays, **March 12**, 19, 26 at 4:30 in Fisher Hall.
Sponsored by: Michelle Marigliano, Kelly Friede, Linda Basilio, Carol Penn.

God on Tap: Lenten conversation hosted by Thomas Henry on Saturday, April 1.
Please RSVP to admin@wilsonmemorialchurch.org

Gift a lily to honor a loved one and decorate the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday.

HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday: April 2, Worship Service at 10:00am

Maundy Thursday: April 6, Service at 6:00pm

Good Friday: April 7, Service at 6:00pm

Easter: April 9, Worship Service at 10:00am