

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



May 7, 2023
Fifth Sunday of Easter
10:00 a.m.

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

MAY 7, 2023

Fifth Sunday of Easter

10:00 AM

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

Bold print indicates a unison reading

PRELUDE

My Tribute (To God Be the Glory)

By, D Kartsonakis

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 #426

Blessed Assurance

Refrain: This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long; this is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

WELCOME

Matthew May

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist, Sophia D'Andrea

We seek no glory for ourselves

You, Oh God, be glorified in us.

When we are not looking forward,

You, Oh God, show us where to go.

When we are bound,

You, Oh God, free us to be your people.

In all things,

Oh God, help us to follow your steps. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

When we cry out, Lord, you are close to us. You hear our every need and you show your love to us. Thank you for having heard us. We ask that our steps be guided by you and that our lives be yours as you mold us into your followers. We pray in the name of Jesus, Our Savior. Amen.

HYMN

My Shepherd, You Supply My Need

V1: My Shepherd you supply my need, most holy is your name; in pastures fresh you make me feed, beside the living stream. You bring my wandering spirit back when I forsake your ways; you lead me, for your mercy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.

V2: When I walk through the shades of death, your presence is my stay; one word of your supporting breath drives all my fears away. Your hand, in sight of all my foes, does still my table spread; my cup with blessings overflow, your oil anoints my head.

V3: Your sure provisions, gracious God, attend me all my days; O may your house be my abode, and all my work be praise. There would I find a settled rest, while others go and come, no more a stranger or a guest, but like a child at home.

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**

STORIES OF US

ANTHEM

You Are the Living Word

***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 READING A collection of passages from the Gospel of John
John 9:1-7,13-17

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see.

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.”

John 11:32-44

When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”

When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?” Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.” Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?” So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.” When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

John 20:30-31

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

***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	Life of Pi	Jim Mc Kinney
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COMMUNION

ANTHEM	<i>Blessings on Blessings</i>	Ricky Francese
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BLESSING OUR CHILDREN

BENEDICTION		Matthew May
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POSTLUDE	Postlude in C	
By, JS Bach		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

The flowers that grace the Sanctuary
today are in memory of
Joan Baylis
from her loving family

Today we welcome **Jim McKinney** to Wilson as our guest speaker.

The Executive Board invites all members of the congregation to attend an **open forum on Sunday, May 21st** in Fisher Hall directly after our worship service.

Massage Envy gift card for a one-hour session in the Warren Branch will be available for a discounted price of \$30 during coffee hour while supply lasts. Perfect for Mother's Day, Father's Day or Graduation presents.

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: Celebrate Mother's Day by working with Church World Services Blanket program giving people around the world supplies to keep them safe and healthy. Blankets can be given in honor of your own mother or a special friend for just \$10. Visit our website, see enclosed envelope, or go to Cwsblankets.org to donate.

VBS: Share your love of faith with our youth.

Volunteers needed for Vacation Bible School during the week of July 24th.
Contact Kendal for more details @ kendalmactaggart@gmail.com

For Prayer:

Marge Balcerski • Joe Higgins, and his family • The family of Karen Cito.

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

Join us in Fisher Hall to
celebrate Roberta and
20 years of making music at
Wilson Memorial.