

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



**November 12th, 2023**

*Stewardship Sunday*

10:00 a.m.

7 Valley Road  
Watchung, NJ

Phone: (908) 755-5020

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Nov. 12, 2023

## Stewardship Sunday

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

To honor November being Native American History Month, we light this candle to recognize the presence of God with the original inhabitants of the land upon which our church worships this morning.



### OPENING SONG

*Come By Here Good Lord*

Come by here good Lord,  
come by here.

Come by here good Lord,  
come by here.

Come by here good Lord,  
come by here;  
oh Lord, come by here.

### WELCOME

Rev. Michael Droeger

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist, Nancy Scott

We pause to remember those who go to war in our name.

**We give thanks for courage, for love of neighbor, for those who work to bring peace to our world.**

Remind us, Oh God, that the goal of any war must be justice and peace.

**On this day, we pause in our worship to give thanks for those veterans of war who, for the sake of love, entered theaters of war.**

We seek, through our love, to bind up the wounds of those who served.

**Enable us to know how to comfort, how to bind up their wounds.**

And remind us, Dear God, that the widow, the orphan, the widower, and the veteran – all know the cost of war.

**Challenge us to love the warrior but hate the cost of war.**

And we pray for a time when peace will reign and swords become plowshares once more, that war be known only in history books.

## OPENING PRAYER

We give thanks, Gracious God, that you remain with us as we celebrate the service of all who dared to go forth in our name. Remind us that such service is not a movie, an adventure, nor something to be glorified. Remind us that war is a failure by us to overcome hatred with love, injustice with righteousness, violence with peace. We give thanks for those who protect us from such failures. May we truly be Your people and be makers of peace. **Amen.**



## HYMN#493

*Cares Chorus*

Wilson Music Collective

I cast all my cares upon you,  
I lay all of my burdens down at your feet.  
And anytime that I don't know what to do.  
I will cast all my cares upon you.



## **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.

## **BAPTISM**

**Lucas Mac Osuch**

## **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**

*Breathe*

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 OF OUR CHILDREN**

### **SCRIPTURE**

Mark 1:4-5

(First Nations Version of the New Testament)

The prophesied messenger appeared in the desert wilderness. He came to tell everyone to turn from their wrong ways of thinking and return to the ways of the Great Spirit. The messenger's name was Gift of Goodwill. He came to perform the purification ceremony to show people that they had been released from their broken ways.

From the surrounding territory of the Land of Promise and from the Village of Peace, all the people came to him to participate in his purification ceremony performed in the river Flowing Down. As they came, they were admitting to their bad hearts and broken ways.



## **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**                                      The Prayer of Confession              Rev. Michael Droege

**ANTHEM**                                      *The Living Years*                              Wilson Music Collective

**RECIEVING 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](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

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**

**Baptism:** We celebrate and welcome **Lucas Mac Osuch** today. Blessings to Lucas and his godparents Skylar and Harry and parents Evan and Nicholas.

**United Family Gift Project:** Volunteers are needed today to sort out the gift closet from 11:30-12:30. Many hands make for light work.

\*The gift project begins on Sunday, Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>!

**Starfish:** Please send in your nonperishable items for starfish. Check the expiration dates and purchase the smaller sizes for single use.

*Special request for tuna, jelly, pasta, cereal.* All in non-family size.

**Covenant Committee Blood Drive:** TODAY!! Walk-ins are welcome. Sunday, Nov. 12<sup>th</sup> at the Watchung Exempt Hall from 8am-2pm.

You can still register using the QR code here, or go to [www.nybc.org/drive](http://www.nybc.org/drive)

Sponsor code: 09718



**Hanging of the Greens:** Join us in the tradition of decorating the halls at Wilson Memorial on Nov 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>:** Intergenerational Advent Workshop at 3:00 and Kick-Off Dinner & Tree Lighting at 4:00.

**Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>:** New member Sunday and Confirmation celebration. If you are interested in becoming a member, see Michael.

**For Prayer:** Ruth Chalker • For peace • The family of Ed Kresge • Joe Higgins