

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



**November 19th, 2023**

*Thanksgiving Sunday*

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)

Nov. 19, 2023

*Thanksgiving 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.



**HYMN#473**

*What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

**WELCOME**

Matthew May

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Liturgist, Judy Wall

Lord, you have been our dwelling place  
throughout all generations.

Before the mountains were born  
or you brought forth the whole world,  
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

**Thanks be to God**

May the favor of the Lord our God rest on us;  
establish the work of our hands for us—  
yes, establish the work of our hands.

**Thanks be to God**

## **OPENING PRAYER**

God, we delight in your creation. We thank you for soft breezes, crisp apples, and changing seasons that remind us of your presence and provision.

We delight in our connectedness. We thank you for friends who check in, for church family who lift one another up, for neighbors who show up in the good and challenging times.

We thank you for your presence with us today. Grant us the sensitivity to you and to one another. **AMEN.**



### **HYMN#53**

*I Stand in Awe of You* Wilson Music Collective



### **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.

## **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**

*Indescribable*

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

Matthew 25:14-30

“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At once the one who had received the five talents went off and traded with them and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter, so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.



## 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

What's your gift(s)?

Rev. Phil Tom

### ANTHEM

*What a Beautiful Name It Is*

Wilson Music Collective

## RECIEVING OUR CHILDREN



## BENEDICTION

Matthew May

### 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**

### **Wilson Welcomes Rev. Phil Tom!**

Rev. Phil Tom currently serves as the Executive Director of the International Council of Churches and as a consultant to The Middle Collegiate Church in New York City. In addition, he has served congregations in Chicago, IL, St. Paul, MN, Indianapolis, IN, and New York City, as Coordinator of Urban Ministry for the National Presbyterian Church USA, and led several affordable housing organizations.

**Starfish:** Watchung Cub Scouts Pack 32 will be collecting non-perishable food *right from your door!* All donations collected will be delivered to the Starfish Pantry of Plainfield. To Participate, sign up via the QR code provided. Please place items in a bag or box labeled "**For Cub Scouts**" and leave out by your front door by **10am, Saturday, December 2nd.**

Wilson Memorial Church will also be a drop off location if you prefer to donate that way.



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

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

**Sunday, 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 • Joe Higgins

**United Family Gift Project:** The gift project begins this week! Bags with gift recipient names on them will be available near Fisher Hall and are due back by Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>.

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)