

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



November 26th, 2023
Twenty Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
10:00 a.m.

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

Nov. 26, 2023

Twenty Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

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 among the original inhabitants of the land upon which our church worships this morning.



HYMN#426

Blessed Assurance

Wilson Music Collective

WELCOME

Rev. Michael Droege

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist, Angela Dell Ventura

Come, let us sing to God; let us should for joy to the cornerstone of our salvation.
We thank you for your goodness; we praise you for your mercy.

Give thanks to God, for God is good:

for their mercy endures forever.

Give thanks to the God who Provides:

for their mercy endures forever.

Give thanks to the God who created the light:

for their mercy endures forever.

Give thanks to the God who created our love:

for their mercy endures forever.

Today we express our gratitude for goodness and mercy and enduring love.

OPENING PRAYER

Generous God, just as your love knows no bounds and finds endless ways to reveal itself, so help us to express a gratitude that goes beyond words. Help us to learn to reveal our thanksgiving in the countless ways there are to love others, to support those in need, and to serve where service is rare. **AMEN.**



HYMN#440

Savior, Like Shephard Leads Us

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

The Prayer

Tracey Haskell & Timothy Walton



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 25:31-46

"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left.

Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.'

Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?'

And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'



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

Beyond Thanksgiving

Rev. Michael Droege

ANTHEM

I'm So Blessed

Wilson Music Collective

RECEIVING 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

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. 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
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

The flowers that grace the sanctuary
today are to celebrate the birthday of our friend, **Harold Kreis**.

Hanging of the Greens: Join us TODAY in the tradition of decorating the halls at Wilson Memorial.

For Prayer: Ruth Chalker • For peace • Joe Higgins

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

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

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

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. 3rd.

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.



Blue Christmas Service: Join us on Dec. 21st at 6pm for the winter solstice and to share in the opportunity to focus on the promise of hope.

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