

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



September 17, 2023

Just Peace Sunday
10:00 a.m.

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

SEPT. 17, 2023

Just Peace 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

We light this candle to welcome Christ into this new season of life.

HYMN #109

O, How I Love Jesus

Verse 1: There is a name I love to hear, I love to sing its worth; it sounds like music in my ear, the sweetest name on Earth. Refrain

Verse 2: It tells me of a Savior's love, who died to set me free; it tells me of his precious blood, the sinners perfect plea. Refrain

Verse 3: It tells of one whose loving heart can feel my deepest woe, who in each sorrow bears a part, that none can bear below. Refrain

Refrain: O, how I love Jesus, O, how I love Jesus, O, how I love Jesus, because he first loved me.

WELCOME

Rev. Michael Droege

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist, Angela Della Ventura

Bless the Lord, O my soul,

Bless all that is within us.

We bless the holy name of God.

We affirm that God forgives, and God heals;

God transforms our lives with steadfast love.

We are grateful for the works of God in our lives.

OPENING PRAYER

Nurturing God, like a hen gathers her brood under her wings, you desire to gather your children, but division and disagreement plague us. We cling to rigid certainties, approach each other in arrogance, and fail to listen. We walk away from conflict, rather than working through it. We come to you to give up our ways that we might be guided by your grace and love for us. Help us grow in faith, mature in relationships, and be transformed through your steadfast love. Amen.

HYMN#595

They'll Know We Are Christians

Verse 1: We are one in the spirit; we are one in the Lord. We are one in the spirit; we are one in the Lord. And we pray that all unity may one day be restored. **Refrain**

Verse 2: We will walk with each other; we will walk hand and hand. We will walk with each other; we will walk hand and hand. And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land. **Refrain**

Verse 3: We will work with each other; we will work side by side. We will work with each other; we will work side by side. And we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's pride. **Refrain**

Verse 4: All praise to the Father, from whom all things come. And all praise to Christ Jesus, his only Son. And all praise to the spirit, who makes us one. **Refrain**

Refrain: And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.

Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

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

Love Has a Name

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

Romans 14:1-12

Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat, for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on slaves of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also, those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God.

For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

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 Way We Disagree

ANTHEM *One Love* Wilson Music Collective

BLESSING OUR CHILDREN

BENEDICTION Rev. Michael Droege

POSTLUDE	<i>Various Melodies</i>	Ricky Francese
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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

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

Fall Cleanup Saturday, September 23rd 9am-11am

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: Joe Higgins • people of Maui • Hurricane victims • Morocco

Diaper Awareness Week: September 18th-24th. You can purchase diapers or donate monetarily to Moms Helping Moms. Look for our drop off location near Fisher Hall.

Music Ministry: The music collective will resume their Tuesday night sessions on Tuesday, September 19th from 6:30pm-8pm. All are welcomed.

Caring Hearts Grief Support: 6-week sessions starting September 27th. For more information email barbaragrangepeters@gmail.com.

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

Frippery re-opening! 9:30-12:30 Tues & Thurs.

Coffee with Michael: Sit with Rev. Michael in a group setting and express interests, ideas, and ask your theological questions. The first coffee hour will be on September 24th at 11am in Fisher Hall and continue to meet on the last Sunday of the month.



FALL GALA TICKETS are still available but going fast. Scan the QR code to go directly to the giving page. Order online or in the church office.

Tickets are going fast, don't miss out!

Basket Raffles, Music, Dinner, and Community!

Looking ahead:

Homecoming Brunch: October 1st after Worship Service.

Oct 28th Enchanted Forest

Nov. 12th Blood Drive