

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



Shai Azoulay, *Sacrificial Love*, 2019.

September 24, 2023
Seventeenth Sunday of Pentecost
10:00 a.m.

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

SEPT. 24, 2023

Seventeenth Sunday of Pentecost

10:00 AM

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

Bold print indicates a unison reading.

PRELUDE

Various Melodies

Christyn Morris

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

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

HYMN#564

God Is Working His Purpose Out

Verse 1: God is working his purpose out, as year succeeds to year; God is working his purpose out, the time is drawing near. Nearer and nearer draws the time, the time that shall surely be, when the earth shall be filled with the glory of God as the waters cover the sea.

Verse 2: From the east to the utmost west, where human feet have trod, by the mouth of many messengers goes forth the voice of God. Give ear to me, you continents, you isles, give ear to me, that the earth may be filled with the glory of God as the waters cover the sea.

Verse 3: March we forth in the strength of God, with the banner of Christ unfurled, that the light of the glorious gospel of truth may shine through-out the world. Fight we the fight with sorrow and sin to set the captives free, that the earth may be filled with the glory of God as the waters cover the sea.

Verse 4: All we can do is nothing worth unless God blesses the deed. Vainly we hope for the harvest tide till God gives life to the seed. Yet nearer and nearer draws the time, the time that shall surely be, when the earth shall be filled with the glory of God as the waters cover the sea.

WELCOME

Rev. Michael Droege

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist, Sophia DiAndrea

Come, all who need help!

Our help comes from our God!

Come, all who seek to be blessed!

Our blessing comes from the God of Abraham.

Come, all who long for salvation!

Our salvation comes from Jesus Christ, the one sent by God to save the world.

Come, offer yourselves to God!

Our lives are yours, God. Use us as a demonstration of your love.

OPENING PRAYER

God of the ages, we come into this holy space asking for your blessing, only to find that your love is already around us. Open our eyes to see the blessing of your creation in the beauty all around us. Open our ears to hear the blessing of your word. Open our hearts to experience the blessing of faith through the gentle touch of a friend. And open our doors, that we may become your vessels to a world still in need of salvation. All this we pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

HYMN#480

Open My Eyes

Silently now, on bended knee,

ready I wait your will to see;

open my

eyes/ears/heart,

illumine me,

Spirit divine!

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

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

Genesis 12: 1-3

Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

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	Born to Bless	Rev. Michael Droege
---------------	---------------	---------------------

ANTHEM	<i>Great Is Thy Faithfulness</i>	Wilson Music Collective
---------------	----------------------------------	-------------------------

BLESSING OUR CHILDREN

BENEDICTION		Rev. Michael Droege
--------------------	--	---------------------

POSTLUDE	<i>Various Melodies</i>	Christyn Morris
-----------------	-------------------------	-----------------

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

The flowers that grace the presences of the Sanctuary today are in memory of
Edith Scott for her birthday.

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 will continue to meet on the last Sunday of the month.

Fairy Hair: Luna Locks will be at our coffee hour **today!**

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

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

Caring Hearts Grief Support: 6-week sessions every Wednesday 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. Special request for tuna, jelly, pasta, cereal. All in non-family size.

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

Fall Gala: September 30th. Advance tickets only. SOLD OUT!

Homecoming Brunch: October 1st after Worship Service. No tickets required!

Looking ahead:

Oct. 8th Blessing of Animals @ 12:00 on the front lawn.

Oct.14th Christmas Tree Farm with WoW

Oct 28th Enchanted Forest

Nov.12th Blood Drive