

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



March 26, 2023

Fifth Sunday in Lent

10:00 a.m.

7 Valley Road

Watchung, NJ

Phone: (908) 755-5020

Website: www.wilsonmemorialchurch.org

Email: admin@wilsonmemorialchurch.org

MARCH 26, 2023

Fifth Sunday in Lent

10:00 AM

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

Bold print indicates a unison reading

PRELUDE

Various Melodies

Pianist, Ricky Francese

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

On this child centered Sunday, we light this candle to acknowledge and celebrate the voice of God in our young that guides us into a deeper knowledge of God.

HYMN

Bless Me

Wilson Memorial Collective

Kirk Franklin

Verse 1&2: Bless me, bless me, bless me God indeed. Death has been defeated; He is our victory. Bless me, bless me, God, not just for me. But so, everyone around me can have everything they need. Let all these folks that's with me, God, have everything they need.

Verse 3: Favor, favor. Let it fall on me 'til I'm the conversation of all my enemies. Favor, favor, God, not just for me. But so, everyone around me can have everything they need. Let all these folks that's with me, God, have everything they need.

WELCOME

Rev. Michael Droege

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist, Lia Wighard

Here is the story of
Mazzie, Lazzie and Martie

Who would open their doors and throw a great party.

Or a quiet dinner

with one or two guests.

And if Jesus could come, that was always the best.

But life as you know is not always easy
One day poor old Lazzie began to feel queasy.

His body felt bad

**with such terrible sickness And Martie and Mazzie
had to act with great quickness.**

But Jesus was somewhere far off and away
And he didn't start travelling until the next day.

**Martie and Mazzie they looked after Lazzie
but he lay in his bed and then he was dead.**

Lazzie had died, the worst of their fears, Mazzie and Martie were full full of tears.

**They wrapped up his body placed him in a grave.
Their friends gathered round as they tried to act brave.**

But Jesus was out on the road coming soon
He arrived at the funeral, on the fourth day, by noon.

**But no one was happy to see Jesus now
Lazzie was totally dead anyhow.**

Mazzie and Martie met him at the gate.

“Jesus, you're here, but you've come way too late!”

**“Lazzie is Dead! Nothing more you can do.”
Though they had a strange feeling, that wasn't quite true.**

Martie spoke up through her tears and her grief
“I know you're from God, that's my solid belief.”

**And though Jesus cried at the death of poor Lazzie,
He said something strange to Martie and Mazzie.**

“Open the grave and move back the rock.”

“But Jesus, the smell will be worse than a sock!”

“He's dead as a doornail, he's dead as a dog”

“If you think you can help him, you're quite off your nog!”

But Jesus is someone who knows about death.

And he's knows about life, that we live by God's breath.

**So, they opened the tomb and Jesus called Lazzie
And he came out alive back to Martie and Mazzie.**

Now imagine the party with Mazzie and Martie, and Lazzie and Jesus
their life-giving friend, who shows God's great love, and that death's not the end.

OPENING PRAYER

Dear God, thank you for the stories we will get to hear today. Thank you that we get to remember today that you are bigger than anything that makes us afraid. Amen.

HYMN#437

Jesus Loves Me

Wilson Memorial Collective

Refrain: Yes, Jesus loves me!

Yes, Jesus loves me!

Yes, Jesus loves me!

The Bible tells me so.

PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION

(All 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.

ANTHEM

Can't Stop the Feeling

Wilson Memorial Collective

BAPTISM

Kacey Joan Drust

PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Please respond with "Lord, hear our Prayer"

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

True Colors

Wilson Memorial 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 OUR CHILDREN

SCRIPTURE READING

Ezekiel 37:1-14

One day I was guided by God's Spirit and set down in the middle of an open plain strewn with bones. He led me around and among them – the whole place was full of bones! There were bones all over the valley - dry bones, bleached by the sun. He said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?"

I said, "Master God, only you know that."

He said to me, "Preach to these bones: 'Dry bones, listen to the Message of God!'" "God is bringing the breath of life to you, and you'll come to life! God will put your bodies back together and breathe life into you again!"

I preached just as I'd been commanded. As I did, there was a rustling sound! The bones moved and came together, bone to bone. I kept watching. Connections formed, then muscles on the bones, then skin stretched over them. But they had no breath in them.

He said to me, “Tell the wind, ‘God, the Master, says, Come from the four winds. Come, breath. Breathe on these bodies. Breathe life!’”
So, I said that, just as God commanded me. The breath entered them, and they came alive! They stood up on their feet, a huge crowd!
Then God said to me, “Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Listen to what they’re saying: ‘Our bones are dried up, our hope is gone, there’s nothing left of us.’
“Therefore, prophesy. Tell them, ‘God, the Master, says: I’ll raise you up and bring you out alive—O my people! Then I’ll take you straight to the land of Israel. When that happens, you’ll realize that I am God. I’ll breathe my life into you, and you’ll live. Then I’ll give you a home of your own and you’ll realize that I am God. I’ve said it and I’ll do it.’”

***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

Dry Bones Dance

Thomas Henry
and Jack Hennelly

ANTHEM

A Little More Homework

Wilson Memorial Collective

BLESSING OUR CHILDREN

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Various Melodies

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. Of course, in any kind of crisis you can always call or text Pastor Michael at (908) 578-9432.

Please note, Fridays are Pastor Michael’s Sabbath Day.

Rev. Michael Droege, Pastor
Timothy Walton, Director of Music & Worship Arts
Matthew May, Seminary Intern
Roberta Smith, 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

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: Prayers for Joe Higgins, and his family. Prayers for Karen Cito and her family. Prayers for peace in places of War.

Starfish: Please considering donating canned fruit, crush, peeled, or diced canned tomatoes, cans of vegetables and cereal boxes to Starfish.

Please check expiration dates before donating. *Thank you to Bruce and Ruth Ryno for volunteering at Starfish weekly.*

Open Sanctuary during lent: Tuesdays from 8:00-12:30

Soup Suppers: Sundays, **March 19**, 26 at 4:30 in Fisher Hall.

Sponsored by: Harold Kreis, Laurie Conley and Jake Jacus

God on Tap: Lenten conversation hosted by Thomas Henry on Saturday, April 1st at 4pm at “Untied Brewery” 140 Spring St. New Providence.

Please RSVP to admin@wilsonmemorialchurch.org.

Gift a lily to honor a loved one and decorate the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday.

Baptism: Congratulations to parents; Kimberly and John Drust and God Parents; Courtney Shideler and Craig Cornelison on the baptism of baby **Kacey Joan Drust**.

HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday: April 2, Worship Service at 10:00am

Maundy Thursday: April 6, Service at 6:00pm

Good Friday: April 7, Service at 6:00pm

Easter: April 9, Worship Service at 10:00am