

# Christmas Eve Service and Holy Communion

## Thursday, December 24, 2020, 7:00 pm

**Beginning Music** "O Holy Night" Connecticut Chamber Choir

**Prelude** "Hallelujah Chorus" Ron Giannattasio

**Centering Words:** "Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness flees as the light grows in power and beauty."

**Additional Scriptures for Christmas Eve:** Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14

**Scriptures for Christmas Day:** Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98;  
Hebrews 1:1-4 (5-12); John 1:1-14

### WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

**Welcome** Pastor Ed

**Advent Wreath** Simon Phillip Family

**Call to Worship** (*Responsively*) Leader

Leader: Christ is here on this night of nights.

**People:** Christ is here indeed.

Leader: Christ's love has called us here.

**People:** Christ's love has bathed us in holy light.

Leader: Let's sing with the angels and celebrate with joy.

**People:** For Christmas arrives this night.

**Opening Prayer** (*Unison*) Leader

Light of the world, shine upon us this night. Shine in our lives, that we may shine with your love. Shine in our world, that your light may overcome all darkness and fear. Shine through our worship, that our souls may be strengthened with the power of your light and love. In the name of love, we pray. Amen.

**Opening Hymn** "Joy to the World" Eunice Alberts,  
Patty Dayton, Patti Early, Julia Gehring, Ron Giannattasio

**Offering One Another the Peace of Christ**

**A Time for Children of All Ages**

Rose Aiello

### WE PROCLAIM THE WORD OF GOD

**Old Testament** Isaiah 9:2-7 Leader

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God!

**Gospel Reading** Luke 2:1-20 Leader

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

**People:** Praise to you, Lord Christ!

**Hymn of Preparation** "Emmanuel, Emmanuel" Heather Arnold,  
Sheryl Rajpolt, Dave York, RoseAnne Homola

**Sermon** "Look Up, Down and Around" Pastor Ed

### WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD

**Prayer of Confession** (*Unison*) Leader

Protect us with your light, when the darkness threatens. Redeem us with your grace, when sin separates us from your presence. Pour your love upon us throughout the world, that hatred may yield to companionship, and apathy may warm to compassion. In your mighty love, we pray. Amen.

### Silent Meditation

### Word of Assurance

**We Lift Up to God Our Prayers and Concerns** Bill Florin

### Silent Prayer followed by the Pastoral Prayer

**The Offering of our Gifts** (*Please mail in your offerings*)

### Doxology

**Offering Prayer** (*Unison*) With these gifts, O God, bring light to your people and love to the earth. With our lives, shine light into the deepest shadows and help us to share your love where it is needed most. In your loving name, we pray. Amen.

**Special Music**      “Mary Did You Know?”      Julia Gehrig

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**Giving the Bread and Cup**

**The Lord’s Prayer (*Unison*)**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**WE CARRY THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD**

**Sending Hymn**      “Silent Night”      Patty Dayton, Julia Gehring,  
Ron Giannattasio

**Benediction**

*Our Worship Tech Team*

Rose Aiello  
Eunice Alberts  
Patti Early  
Bill Florin  
RoseAnne Homola  
Amy Rajpolt  
Sheryl Rajpolt

Pastor: Reverend Ed Dayton

Leader: Patty Dayton; Children’s Time: Marsha Moore

Joys and Concerns: Bill Florin

Soloists: Eunice Alberts, Heather Arnold, Patty Dayton, Patti Early,  
Julia Gehring, Sheryl Rajpolt, Dave York

Pianist/Organist: Ron Giannattasio and RoseAnne Homola

UMC Monroe Lay Leader: Rose Aiello

LHUMC Lay Leaders: Maggie Flemma and Tim Quinn

Music Leaders: Patti Early, RoseAnne Homola, Eunice Alberts



**Join Zoom meeting:**

**<https://umcom.zoom.us/j/97378634387?pwd=WG9Hd0xWUzBEUm4xdm1oR2svQkFwQT09>**

**or by dialing in by phone:**

**1.929.205.6099 US (Meeting ID: 94299647637)**

**United Methodist Church of Monroe**

515 Cutlers Farm Road  
Monroe, CT 06468

**Long Hill United Methodist Church**

Main and Elizabeth Streets  
Trumbull, Connecticut 06611

**Sunday, December 24, 2020**

***“Growing in the Body of Christ”***

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