

Morning Worship

Epiphany Sunday, January 3, 2021, 10:00 am

Beginning Music "I Know That My Redeemer Liveth"
Prelude "We Three Kings" RoseAnne Homola
Words to ponder: "Light shines in the darkness. A star guides our way to the Christ-child. Hope is born again."

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Welcome/Announcements Pastor Ed/Rose Aiello

Call to Worship (*Responsively*) Leader
Leader: Arise; shine, for your light has come!
People: **We are called out of our darkness into light.**
Leader: Lift up your eyes and look around.
People: **We rejoice in the gift of light.**
Leader: Come let us worship the God of light and joy and peace.
People: **We come to kneel at the cradle of the babe, the light incarnate.**

Opening Prayer (*Unison*) Leader
God of promise and light, open our eyes this morning, that we may see your light in the darkness. Open our hearts, that we may perceive your promises of justice and righteousness fulfilled in the babe of Bethlehem. May we, like the Magi, have a star to guide us on our journey quest to find the one who will truly set us free. May this time of worship bring us closer to you, that the good news of the birth of light and love will transform our lives. Amen.

Opening Hymn "We Three Kings" Worship Design

Offering One Another the Peace of Christ

A Time for Children of All Ages Sheryl Rajpolt

WE PROCLAIM THE WORD OF GOD

Old Testament Micah 5:2-5a Leader
Leader: The Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God!**

Gospel Reading Matthew 2:1-12 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 "*Daddy, is that a true story or were you just preaching?*" Pastor Ed

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD

Prayer of Confession (*Unison*) Leader
Ever patient God, we are a people who live in thick darkness. We stumble around, bombarded by news of war and poverty, famine and genocide, injustice and oppression. The maelstrom of things and issues and people of the dark, can overwhelm and paralyze us. Help us to be people of the light, shining your light of righteousness, peace, and joy into all the dark places of our lives and world. Unlock the mystery and glory of the babe born in Bethlehem. Turn our aimless wanderings into a journey of purpose guided by your star. Let the light break into our lives and our world, and transform us into people of the light.

Silent Meditation

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*) God of light and promise, we bring our gifts to further your work in a dark world. May they bring your light to those overwhelmed by darkness, pain, and loneliness. Accept these gifts of money and time, indeed, the gift of our very selves.

Let them shine for all to see, and be brought into the sphere of your love and righteousness.

Great Thanksgiving

Lord's Prayer

WE CARRY THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

Sending Hymn "Beautiful Star of Bethlehem" Rose Aiello,
Heather Arnold, Dave Aiello (guitar)

Benediction "Go Tell It on the Mountain"

Our Worship Tech Team

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

Ed Dayton – Pastor

Leader: Sue Simmons; Children's Time: Sheryl Rajpolt

Soloist(s): Rose Aiello, Heather Arnold, Sheryl Rajpolt, Dave York

Organist: RoseAnne Homola; Pianist Ron Giannattasio
Dave Aiello, Guitar;

Bill Florin – Joys and Concerns Leader

UMC Monroe Lay Leader: Rose Aiello

LHUMC Lay Leader: Maggie Flemma

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)

Passcode 2020

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Long Hill United Methodist Church

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Sunday, January 3, 2021

"Growing in the Body of Christ"

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