

UMCM Morning Worship

January 22, 2023, 10:00 am

**Denotes Standing, in body and/or spirit*

Worship Theme: Follow Me

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Prelude RoseAnne Homola, Piano

Welcome & Announcements (see insert) Rose Aiello

***Call to Worship** Psalm 27 Leader

Leader: The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

People: **The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?**

Leader: When evildoers assail me to devour my flesh— my adversaries and foes— they shall stumble and fall.

People: **Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war rise up against me, yet I will be confident.**

Leader: One thing I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after:

People: **to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple.**

Leader: I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

People: **Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!**

***Opening Hymn** "Jesus Calls Us" UMH #398
(v.1,2,4,5)

***Opening Prayer** (by Patti Early) Leader
Gracious God, the stronghold of our lives, as we gather as brothers and sisters to worship your Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we humbly ask for your blessings on this time together. May your light shine in our hearts and move away the shadows of doubt and fear that prevent us from fully grasping your unconditional love for us. Help us, Lord, to seek you in all we do, to turn our fears into

faith, and to know that when we lay our worries and concerns at the foot of the cross, no burden is too great for you. Open our hearts and minds to the Good News as we are called to *follow* your Son in whose name we pray. Amen.

Offering One Another the Peace of Christ

Choir Anthem "Come Now and Follow Me" by Nancy Price
Don Besig

A Time for Children of All Ages

WE PROCLAIM THE WORD OF GOD

Old Testament Lesson: [Isaiah 9:1–7](#) (NRSV) Leader

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

***Gospel Lesson:** [Matthew 4:12–23](#) (NRSV)

Lector: The Word of God for the People of God

People: **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon "What's Holding You Back?" Pastor Chuck

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn of Response** "Lord, You Have Come" UMH #344
to the Lakeshore"
(v.1,3,4)

We Lift Up to God Our Prayers and Concerns

***Doxology & The Offering of our Gifts**

Offering Prayer (Unison)

Gracious Lord, while we know that your invitation to "Follow me" is an offer too good to ignore, we know that it also comes at a cost. We must give up our time, and our treasures, and that is not always easy. Perhaps hardest of all, we must give up control and put our trust in you. Lord, please allow the giving of these gifts to be an act of trust and worship so that we can part with the things that prevent us from truly *following* you. Take these gifts, and those who have given them, wherever you want to go. We trust you, and we love you. Amen.

WE CARRY THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

*Sending Hymn "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" TFWS#2129

*Benediction

*Benediction Resp. "Help Us Accept Each Other" UMH#560
(v.1)

Postlude

Coffee Hour Hosted by the Hornak Family

Coming Up:

Jan.29th - Regular Service @10am - THE Sermon!

Join us LIVE or ONLINE as we resume our study of God's Word to hear the beginning of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount! If you watched the end of season 2 of "The Chosen," you'll want to join us in our study of [Matthew 5:1-12](#). See you soon!

Join us Wednesday's @ 7:30am for

Wednesday-Wakeup Devotional & Fellowship



[Zoom Link](#)

(Live Meeting)



[YouTube \(https://bitly.com/WWakeup\)](https://bitly.com/WWakeup)

(Recorded Sessions)

Pastor: Reverend Charles J. Schif Liturgist: Rose Aiello
Pianist/Organist: RoseAnne Homola Lay Leader: Rose Aiello
Music Leaders: Patti Early and RoseAnne Homola

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Worship Livestream Zoom link:

<https://zoom.us/j/96540669674?pwd=OEVTYXdILzBucDR4YzBvdEwvSlkyQT09>

Meeting ID: 965 4066 9674

Passcode: 2819

Dial-in: +1 929 205 6099

United Methodist Church of Monroe

A member of the Greater Bridgeport Cooperative Parish

515 Cutlers Farm Road
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January 22, 2023

"Growing in the Body of Christ"