

UMCM Morning Worship

March 19, 2023, 10:00 am

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

Worship Theme: **Darkness and Light**

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Prelude "The Old Rugged Cross" RoseAnne Homola, Piano
By C. Wilson

Welcome & Announcements (see insert) Rose Aiello

***Call to Worship** **Psalm 139** (*Responsively*) Leader

Leader: You have searched me, LORD, and you know me.

People: **You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar.**

Leader: You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways.

People: **Before a word is on my tongue you, LORD, know it completely.**

Leader: Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?

People: **If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.**

Leader: If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea,

People: **even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.**

Leader: If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me,"

People: **even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you.**

***Opening Hymn** "Open My Eyes That I May See" UMH #454

***Opening Prayer** (*by Denise Wiley*) Leader
Gracious God, our source of light and truth; we gather in your holy presence like the blind man. Look into our hearts today Lord. Help us to recognize the darkness that overshadows us in every way.

Give us the grace to have our hearts, our minds and our eyes see clearly your truths and desires for us. Bless us with the will to follow your holy light, no matter where it may lead. We ask you to open all the doors you want opened, close the doors you want closed and clear all the pathways you want cleared. Turn the darkness into blessings that will enable us to grow, love and serve you and our church. In your Holy Name we pray. Amen.

Offering One Another the Peace of Christ

Choir Anthem "Precious Lord, Take My Hand" by Thomas A. Dorsey

A Time for Children of All Ages

WE PROCLAIM THE WORD OF GOD

New Testament Lesson: [Ephesians 5:8-14](#) (NRSV) Leader

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

***Gospel Lesson:** [John 9:1-41](#) (NRSV)

Lector: The Word of God for the People of God

People: **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon **Rejected by the World, Found by God** Pastor Chuck

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn of Response** "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing" UMH #57

We Lift Up to God Our Prayers and Concerns

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

Offering Prayer

Holy Jesus, you are the Creator that can open eyes, and bring light into the darkness. You, and you alone. And yet you invite us to work alongside you in opening the eyes of the blind, and in providing that illumination. We offer these gifts, and our service, to you Lord. However, in whatever we do, *let our light shine before others, so that they may see our good works and give glory to our Father in heaven.* To God be the glory. Amen.

WE CARRY THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

***Sending Hymn** "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" UMH #206
***Benediction**
***Benediction Resp.** "What Does the Lord Require of You?" TFWS #2174
Postlude

Coffee Hour Hosted by Rebecca Denike

Coming Up:

Mar. 26th - Regular Service @10am - "Raised from the Dead!"

Join us LIVE or ONLINE as we resume our study of God's Word to hear about Lazarus - raised from the dead! ([John 11:1-45](#)). Join us and be brought back to life!

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
Monroe, CT 06468

March 19, 2023

"Growing in the Body of Christ"