

UMCM Morning Worship
December 17, 2023, 10:00 am

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

Worship Theme: Joy

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements (see insert) Sheryl Rajpolt

Advent Candle Lighting Joy Liam Whalen

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

Leader: Come, holy people, called by God, let us follow the way prepared for us.

People: **Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth among those who please God.**

Leader: Once again the world is surprised at a manger, as the glory of God surpasses what is expected.

People: **Let us go to Bethlehem to see what God has made known to us.**

Leader: There in Bethlehem and here today at the United Methodist Church of Monroe, we are reminded anew of the wonder of God's ways.

People: **Let us glorify and praise God for all that we have seen and heard!**

***Opening Hymn** "Lord, I Lift Your Name on High" (x2) TFWS #2088

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

Amazing God, on this night so long ago, You gathered a group of unlikely outsiders—Mary, Joseph, shepherds, and others to be part of a great miracle: the birth of Jesus, our Savior. Today You have sought us out and brought us to the manger. You have interrupted our routines with Your Good News. You have gathered this unlikely assortment of folk to become a holy people, a community of faith. We want to respond. Show us how. Help us receive your renewing love as we praise You for offering us salvation in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Offering the Sign of Peace

The Offering of our Gifts

***Doxology**

Offering Prayer (Unison)

God thank you for the gifts you have given us. Help us to see these gifts and to share them with others. We ask your blessing on these gifts that we offer today. Thank you for your love, mercy, and grace. We pray these things in your name, Amen.

We Lift Up to God Our Prayers and Concerns

Silent Prayer followed by the Pastoral Prayer

Interactive Family CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Narration: S.Rajpolt
Reading: John 1:1-4, 9, 18 Henry Whalen

Song: "This Little Light of Mine" Insert #1

Narration:
Reading: Luke 1:26-38 Malenna Hornak

Song: "Here I Am, Lord" Insert #2

Narration:
Choir Anthem "Bethlehem" R.Cox, K.Stokes

Song: "O Little Town of Bethlehem" Enter...Mary & Joseph Insert #3

Narration: Enter...The Angel with Star
Song: "Away in a Manger" Insert #4

Narration: Enter...The Host of Angels
Song: "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" Insert #5

Narration: Enter...The Shepherds
Song: "O Come, All Ye Faithful" **Insert #6**

Narration: Enter...The Animals
Song: "Do You Hear What I Hear?" **Insert #7**

Narration: Enter...The Townspeople
Song: "Go Tell It On the Mountain" **Insert #8**

Proclamation of the Good News **S.Rajpolt**

Song: FULL CAST in the Front
 "Joy to the World" **Insert #9**

Join Us for Christmas Potluck Lunch & Cookie Decorating

Coming Up:

December 24th - Sunday Worship Service @10am - Join us LIVE or ONLINE as we continue to study God's Word as Mary receives a special message from an angel of the Lord about the birth of Jesus! ([Luke 1:26-38](#)). How do YOU deal with God's plans for you?!?

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: Sheryl Rajpolt
 Keyboards: 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=OEVTYXdILzBucDR4YzBvdEwwSlkyQT09>

Meeting ID: 965 4066 9674

Passcode: 2819

Dial-in: +1 929 205 6099

United Methodist Church of Monroe

A member of the Eastern Fairfield Cooperative Parish
 515 Cutlers Farm Road
 Monroe, CT 06468

Sunday, December 17, 2023

"Growing in the Body of Christ"