

UMCM Christmas Eve Worship

December 24, 2023, 5:00 pm

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

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Prelude

Advent Candle Lighting Christ Zoe Robertson & Family

Special Music A Christmas Prayer by Marino/Nelson/Woodard

*Call to Worship Isaiah 9 (*Responsively*) Leader

Leader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

People: **those who lived in a land of deep darkness - on them light has shined.**

Leader: For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders;

People: **and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

Leader: His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom.

People: **He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore.**

*Opening Hymn "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" UMH #218
(v. 1-2)

*Opening Prayer (*Unison*) by Patti Schif Leader

Dear God, tonight will be the time we celebrate Your Most Precious gift to us, Your Son. Some of us here have celebrated 70 Christmases. Some of us, 30. And a few of us, only 7 or less. No matter the number of times celebrated, the gift of Your Son remains unchanged. Your promises to us remain unchanged. Your love for us remains unchanged. We ask that you prepare our hearts during this service. Center us to feel your presence with us now. Keep us at peace as we head into the celebrations upcoming. Most of all, please keep our focus on the Bright Shining Star, Your Son, Jesus the Christ. We ask this in His name. Amen.

Offering One Another the Peace of Christ

Choir Anthem "Noels of Christmas" Tom Fettke

WE PROCLAIM & RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD

1st Gospel Reading: [Luke 2:1-7](#) (NRSV) Lynn Abbott

Responsive Hymn "What Child is This?" UMH #219 v.1,3

2nd Gospel Reading: [Luke 2:8-14](#) (NRSV) Darlene Dobler-Palin

Responsive Hymn "Angels from the Realms of Glory" UMH #220 v.1,2

3rd Gospel Reading: [Luke 2:15-20](#) (NRSV) Patti Schif

Responsive Hymn "O Holy Night" Insert

Message/Skit "The Tale of Three Trees" Angela Elwell Hunt

*Doxology & The Offering of our Gifts

Offering Prayer (*Unison*)

Lord Jesus, we once again approach your altar in anticipation of your coming. While we offer these gifts to you, we know that your arrival as the long-awaited Messiah - and your presence in our lives today - are the true gifts of Christmas. With your power, allow these gifts, and our lives, to be a beacon of HOPE, PEACE, JOY, LOVE, and YOUR PRESENCE *for others* in our community so that they can feel your gifts as well. We love you Lord. Amen.

WE CARRY THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

*Sending Hymn "Silent Night" UMH #239

*Benediction

Postlude

Thank You for joining us tonight - Come back and join our weekly family get-togethers every Sunday morning!

Coming Up on Sundays:

Dec 31st - @10am - "Lessons & Carols"!

Join us LIVE or ONLINE for a service of Readings and Song celebrating Jesus.

Jan. 7th - Regular Service @10am - Jesus gets baptized!

Join us LIVE or ONLINE as we resume our study of God's Word to hear God speak to Jesus, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased" ([Mark 1:4-11](#))

Jan. 14th - Regular Service @10am - Follow Me!

Join us LIVE or ONLINE as we resume our study of God's Word to see how Jesus began to round-up his disciples ([John 1:43-51](#)) Are you ready to Follow Him?

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: Sue Simmons
Pianist/Organist: RoseAnne Homola Lay Leader: Rose Aiello
Music Leaders: Patti Early and RoseAnne Homola

The Tale of Three Trees Cast

Trees: Aiden Wallace, Aidan Zvovushe-Ramos, Liam Whalen
Woodcutters/Disciples: Zoe Robertson, Aubrey Z-Ramos,
Henry Whalen
Mary: Malenna Hornak **Joseph:** Mitchell Hornak
Baby Jesus: Amelia Rose **Grown up Jesus:** Matt Hornak
Narrators: Amy & Michelle Rajpolt

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Pastor's cell: 203.560.2220



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

December 24, 2023

"Growing in the Body of Christ"