

UMCM Morning Worship

December 24, 2023, 10:00 am

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

Worship Theme: Love

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements (see insert) John Rajpolt

Advent Candle Lighting Love Patti Schif, Sheryl Rajpolt
Sue Simmons

***Call to Worship** *Magnificat ánima méa Dóminum* Leader
Leader: And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit
rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on
the lowliness of his servant.

People: Surely, from now on all generations will call me
blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for
me, and holy is his name.

Leader: His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to
generation.

People: He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered
the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

Leader: He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and
lifted up the lowly;

People: He has filled the hungry with good things, and sent
the rich away empty.

***Opening Hymn** "A Star Shone Bright" Insert

***Opening Prayer (Unison)** Leader
Lord Jesus, we come here today in Joy and Love. We come here to
worship you. We come here to worship a God that has placed you
and your birth squarely in the middle of "Phase 1" of God's plans of
redemption. However, you also invite others to join in that plan.
Today, we also remember your mother, Mary. After all, it is her
willingness to accept God's plans for her life that allows us to
celebrate you today. May the faith and humble acceptance of Mary

inspire us to do the same. May we all have the strength to say, "*Here
am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your
word.*" We pray this in your name. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Offering the Sign of Peace

Choir Anthem "Never Silent Night" Phillip Brooks
Wes Ramsay

A Time for Children of All Ages

WE PROCLAIM THE WORD OF GOD

Old Testament Lesson: [2 Samuel 7:1–13,16](#) (NRSV) Leader
Lector: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God!

***Gospel Lesson:** [Luke 1:26–38](#) (NRSV)
Lector: The Word of God for the People of God
People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon "Change of Plans" Pastor Chuck

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn of Response** "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" UMH #196
(v. 1 & 2)

We Lift Up to God Our Prayers and Concerns

Silent Prayer followed by the Pastoral Prayer

***Doxology & the Offering of our Gifts**

Offering Prayer (Unison)

All things come from you, O God. With praise and thanksgiving
we now return to you what is yours. You created all that is, and
with love formed us in your image. You gave your only Son Jesus
Christ to be our Savior, that we might have abundant and eternal
life. All that we are, and all that we have, is a trust from you. And
so, in gratitude for all that you have done, we offer you
ourselves, and all that we have, in union with Christ's offering for
us. *Let it be according to your word. Amen.*

WE CARRY THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

***Sending Hymn** “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” UMH #211
(v. 1,2,4)

***Benediction**

*Benediction Response	“Emmanuel, Emmanuel” (sing twice)	UMH #204
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Postlude

Join Us for Coffee Hour

Coming Up:

Tonight - @5pm - Christmas Eve Service!

*Join us for Lessons, Carols, "A Tale of Three Trees," and
Silent Night by candlelight - You WON'T want to miss it!*

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

Join us LIVE or ONLINE for a service of Readings and Song celebrating the birth of Jesus!

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: John 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=OEVTYXdllzBucDR4YzBvdEwwSlkyQT09>

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 24, 2023

“Growing in the Body of Christ”