

# UMCM Morning Worship

## January 07, 2024, 10:00 am

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

**Worship Theme:** Galatians Intro - Paul's Conversion

### WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

**Prelude** "To God be the Glory" Edward Broughton

**Welcome & Announcements (see insert)** Anita Stabler-Hussey

**\*Call to Worship (Responsively)** *Psalm 72* Leader

Leader: Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to a king's son.

**People:** **May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice.**

Leader: May the mountains yield prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness.

**People:** **May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor.**

Leader: May he live while the sun endures, and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.

**People:** **Long may he live! May gold of Sheba be given to him. May prayer be made for him continually, and blessings invoked for him all day long.**

**\*Opening Hymn** "Open Our Eyes Lord" (x2) TFWS #2086

**\*Opening Prayer (Unison)** Leader  
Heavenly Father, we thank you for the gift of another day. *This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.* Please clear our minds to appreciate the simple, yet profound, gifts of health, warmth, and security that we enjoy today. We're also reminded of the physical gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh that the Magi brought to the baby Jesus. However, in recalling the miraculous event on the road to Demascus, we're reminded that a relationship with Jesus is the most radically transforming gift we can ever receive. Open our eyes, and our hearts, to build that relationship today. It's in Jesus' name that we pray. Amen.

**Words of Assurance**

**Offering the Sign of Peace**

**Choir Anthem** "Treasures of the Heart" Pepper Choplin

**A Time for Children of All Ages** Betsy Sword

### WE PROCLAIM THE WORD OF GOD

**History Lesson:** [Acts 9:1-16](#) (NRSV) Leader

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God!**

**\*Gospel Lesson:** [Matthew 2:1-12](#) (NRSV)

Lector: The Word of God for the People of God

**People:** **Thanks be to God!**

**Sermon** "God's Instrument" Pastor Chuck

### WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD

**\*Hymn of Response** "Down by the Jordan" Insert  
(v. 1,3,4)

**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)**  
Lord Jesus, name above all names, what gifts can we truly give to you? The Evangelist wrote about you saying, "*All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being.*" Thus, please accept these treasures back into your possession. More importantly, may we have the strength to answer "*What am I to do, Lord?*" and to respond immediately when we hear your call on our lives. Service to you, is truly our gift to you. Please accept these gifts, and our lives, to use as you will for the advancement of your kingdom. Amen.

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Giving of the Bread and Cup

Pastor Chuck

Prayer of Thanksgiving

### WE CARRY THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

\*Sending Hymn "Jesus, Name Above All Names" UMH #204  
(sing twice)

\*Benediction

\*Benediction Response "Let There Be Peace on Earth" UMH #431

Postlude

*Join Us for Coffee Hour Hosted by Sue Simmons*

#### Coming Up:

*January 14th - Sunday Worship Service @10am - Join us LIVE or ONLINE as we begin the study of Paul's letter to the church in Galatia ([Galatians 1](#)) Are we "seeking human approval, or God's approval"?*

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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: Anita Stabler-Hussey  
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=OEVTYXdILzBucDR4YzBvdEwvSlkyQT09>

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

**January 07, 2024, 10:00 am**

***"Growing in the Body of Christ"***