

# UMCM Morning Worship

March 10, 2024, 10:00 am

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

**Worship Theme:** For God so loved the world

## WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

**Prelude** "Jesus, I Come to Thee" Robert Thygerson

**Welcome & Announcements (see insert)** Darlene Dobler-Palin

**\*Call to Worship (Responsively)** Hebrews 11-12 Leader

Leader: By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going.

**People:** **By faith Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac.**

Leader: By faith Isaac invoked blessings for the future on Jacob and Esau.

**People:** **By faith Jacob, when dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, "bowing in worship over the top of his staff."**

Leader: By faith Joseph, at the end of his life, made mention of the exodus of the Israelites and gave instructions about his burial.

**People:** **Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.**

**\*Opening Hymn** "There is A Balm In Gilead" UMH #375

**\*Opening Prayer (Unison)** Leader  
Holy Jesus, we come today to your holy Sanctuary. However, we remember that we are also the Temple of your Holy Spirit, so we come to clean that Temple. Shine the light of your truth into us. Let it expose the evil that still hides in the darkness. Convict us, and convince us, of our need for you. May we *do what is true and come*

*to the light.* Guide us and strengthen us to be those who believe in you, in your *light of life.* Amen.

**Words of Assurance**

**Offering the Sign of Peace**

**Choir Anthem**

"Sacrifice of Love"

Timothy Webb  
Michael Popham

**A Time for Children of All Ages**

## WE PROCLAIM THE WORD OF GOD

**Old Testament Lesson:** [Numbers 21:4-9](#) (NRSV) Leader

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

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

**\*Gospel Lesson:** [John 3:14-21](#) (NRSV)

Lector: The Word of God for the People of God

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

**Sermon**

"The Open Invitation"

Pastor Chuck

## WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD

**\*Hymn of Response**

"I Want to Walk as a  
Child of the Light"

UMH #206

**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)**

God of unwavering love, you have held nothing back in your love for us, not even your Son. How we marvel at that kind of love, and how we long to reflect a portion of that devotion back to you. As we dedicate our offerings to you, lead us away from our tendency to hold back and worry that there will not be enough. Help us to live as the people of love and abundance you have called us to be. In Christ, we pray. Amen.

## WE CARRY THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

\*Sending Hymn            “We Walk by Faith”            TFWS #2196

\*Benediction

\*Benediction Response            “Here is Peace”  
(v.1)

Postlude

*Join Us for Coffee Hour hosted by Sue Simmons*

### Coming Up:

**March 17th - Sunday Worship Service @10am** - Join us LIVE or ONLINE as we continue to study God’s Word as Jesus tells his disciples what it means to follow him ([John 12:20–33](#))  
PLUS - The Baptism of Dylan Michael Cacace!

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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: Darlene Dobler-Palin  
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

**March 10, 2024, 10:00 am**

**“Growing in the Body of Christ”**