

Sunday Worship

December 15, 2024, 10:00 am

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

Worship Theme: Joy!

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Prelude "Angels and Shepherds" Patricia Lou Harris
Czech Carol

Welcome & Announcements (see insert) Michelle Rajpolt

Advent Candle Lighting Reynolds Family

***Call to Worship** *Isaiah 12:2-6*

Leader: *Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid,*

People: **for the Lord God is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation.**

Leader: With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

People: **And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim that his name is exalted.**

Leader: Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth.

People: **Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.**

***Opening Hymn** "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" UMH #196

***Opening Prayer (Unison)**

Heavenly Father, we come here today in anticipation of experiencing your joy. After teaching his disciples about his love, he reminded them, "*I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.*" Joy is internal. Happiness is based on the external. Joy persists despite circumstances. Happiness comes and goes. Joy is a fruit of the Spirit. Happiness is not. Lord, we come to experience your joy today. Open our hearts to receive this gift so that we might be changed - and share that joy with others. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Words of Assurance Offering One Another the Peace of Christ

Choir Anthem "Red is the Color of Love" Pepper Choplin

WE PROCLAIM THE WORD OF GOD

Old Testament Lesson: [Philippians 4:4-9](#) (NRSV)

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

*Gospel Lesson: [Luke 3:7-18](#) (NRSV)

Lector: The Word of God for the People of God

People: **Thanks be to God!**

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD

Christmas Pageant "Just a little Christmas"

Song: (After Scene 1) "Away in a Manger" Slides

Song: (After Scene 2) "Mary Had a Baby" (v.1-2)
(After Scene 3) (v. 3-4)

Song: (During Scene 4) "Twinkle, Twinkle Christmas Star"

Song: (End of Pageant) "Joy to the World"

We Lift Up to God Our Prayers and Concerns

*Doxology/Offering Our Gifts Offering Prayer

Offering Prayer (Unison)

Jesus, Brother, Lord, and Friend. Thank you for giving us a glimpse into that *complete joy* that you desire for us. While we offer these treasures to you, the talents just displayed are offered in worship to you as well. Take it all, to use and multiply in this world so that those around us may know who we serve. You are our Good Shepherd. Use these gifts and lead us as you will. Amen.

WE CARRY THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

*Sending Hymn "A Star Shone Bright" WS #3051

*Benediction

*Benediction Response "Walk in the Light" Insert

Postlude

JUST A LITTLE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT CAST

Narrators: Chris and Keegan Shope
Mary: Hailey Cacace
Joseph: Max Reynolds
Angel/Gabriel: Olivia Jennings
Emperor Caesar/King Herod: Vera Reynolds
3 Kings: Sophie, Dean and Dylan
Ensemble: G. Reynolds, Chela, Harper,
Beatrice, Smith, Amelia, Nicholas
S. Arnold, P. Chuck

Join us for Coffee Hour hosted by Sunday School

Coming Up:

December 22nd. - Fourth Sunday of Advent Worship Service @10am - Join us LIVE or ONLINE as we "jump for joy," just as John the baptist did even before he was born! ([Luke 1:39-45](#))

Join us Wednesday's @ 7:30am for

Wednesday-Wakeup Devotional & Fellowship



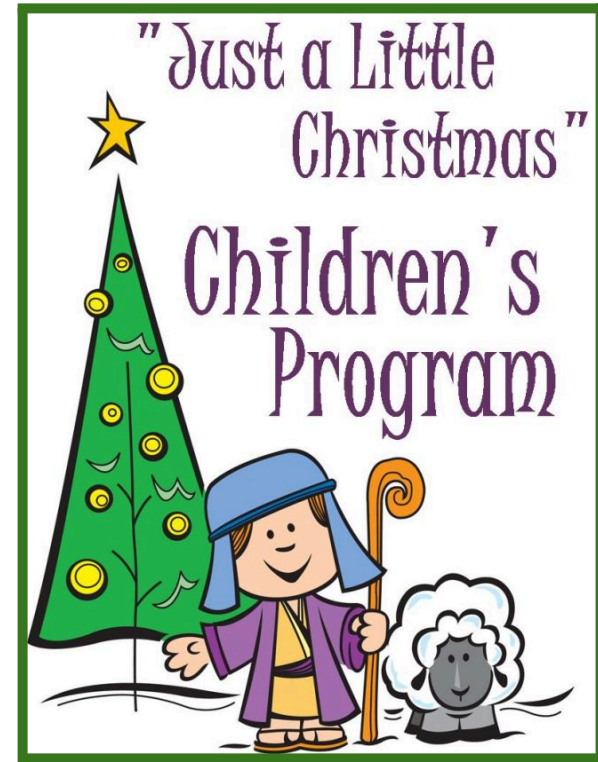
[Zoom Link](#)
(Live Meeting)



[YouTube \(https://bitly.com/WWakeup\)](https://bitly.com/WWakeup)
(Recorded Sessions)

Pastor: Reverend Charles J. Schif Liturgist: Michelle Rajpolt
Pianist/Organist: RoseAnne Homola Lay Leader: Rose Aiello
Music Leaders: Patti Early and RoseAnne Homola

Email: umc@umcmonroe.org Telephone: 203.268.8395
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Worship Livestream Zoom link:

<https://zoom.us/j/96540669674?pwd=OEVTYXdllzBucDR4YzBvdEwwSlkyQT09>

United Methodist Church of Monroe

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

Sunday, December 15, 2024

"Growing in the Body of Christ"