

Sunday Worship

December 22, 2024, 10:00 am

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

Worship Theme: Love

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Prelude "Celebrate Christ's Coming with Joy" Rex Koury

Welcome & Announcements (see insert) John Rajpolt

Advent Candle Lighting Rajpolt Family

***Call to Worship** Luke 1:46–55 "Mary's Song"

Leader: *And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,*

People: for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Leader: 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.

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

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

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

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

People: He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

***Opening Hymn** "O Come All Ye Faithful" UMH #234
(v. 1-3)

***Opening Prayer (Unison)** *by a UMCM Angel*

What is small is mighty. What is ancient is born. What is promised is fulfilled. You turned the world upside down when you arrived on the

scene to walk with your creation. Your life here, over 2000 years ago continues to boggle the minds of so many. Share with us what You want us to hear today! Open our eyes, ears, and minds to understand, more fully, Your unending, pure love for us. We ask this in the name of the Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Words of Assurance Offering One Another the Peace of Christ

Gratitude Moment

Choir Anthem "A Christmas Prayer" P.Marino/G.Nelson

A Time for Children of All Ages

WE PROCLAIM THE WORD OF GOD

Old Testament Lesson: [Micah 5:2-5a](#) (NRSV)

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

*Gospel Lesson: [Luke 1:39-45](#) (NRSV)

Lector: The Word of God for the People of God

People: Thanks be to God!

Message "The Bethlehem Promise" Pastor Chuck

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD

Hymn of Response "Love Has Come" WS #3059

We Lift Up to God Our Prayers and Concerns

*Doxology/Offering Our Gifts Offering Prayer

Offering Prayer (Unison) *by a UMCM Angel*

Dear Lord, who are we, that You keep Your promises to us? Who are we, that You came for us? Your Kingdom is not of this world. Your way is beautiful. Everything we have, You have given to us. You have trusted that we will use it for good in this world. To share Your majesty, love, and peace with all; neighbor, friend and enemy. Bless what we give back to You to help shine Your bright light in this dark world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

WE CARRY THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

***Sending Hymn** "God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen" WS #3052
(v. 1,2,3,5)

***Benediction**

***Benediction Response** "Walk in the Light" Insert

Postlude

Join us for Coffee Hour hosted by Betty and Ed Hendricks

Coming Up:

December 24th. - Christmas Eve Worship Service @7pm - Join us LIVE or ONLINE as we celebrate the Light of the World!

December 29th - Worship Service @10am - Join us LIVE or ONLINE as we learn about the History of the music we sing!

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
Pianist/Organist: 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>

United Methodist Church of Monroe

A member of the Eastern Fairfield Cooperative Parish

515 Cutlers Farm Road
Monroe, CT 06468

Sunday, December 22, 2024

"Growing in the Body of Christ"