

Sunday Worship

December 14, 2025 10:00 am

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

Worship Theme: Strength Through Doubt

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Prelude "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" Edward Broughton

Welcome & Announcements (see insert) Darlene Dobler-Palin

Remembrance of Sandy Hook - December 14, 2012

***Call to Worship (Responsively)** *Psalm 146* Leader

Leader: Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God,

People: **who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever;**

Leader: who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry.

People: **The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.**

Leader: The Lord watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow,

People: **but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.**

Leader: The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations.

People: **Praise the Lord!**

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

***Opening Prayer (Unison)** Leader
Holy Father, we are blessed at another opportunity to gather to have fellowship and to lift-up praises to you. We confess that we often forget that blessing. We confess that we sometimes feel discouraged and doubt, wondering if you are still truly in control. Are you truly still coming, Lord? We ask that this day of worship, and the reminder of the grace shown to John the Baptist in his time of doubt, can encourage us to keep our eyes on you. May we be strengthened to

seek YOU first when we doubt. May this season of Advent prepare our hearts for you coming, once again, proving that you are still truly in control. We love you and we worship you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Offering the Peace of Christ

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Sue and Dave York

CHOIR ANTHEM

"Alleluia for Advent"

Patrick Liebergen

A Time for Children of All Ages

WE PROCLAIM THE WORD OF GOD

Old Testament Lesson: [Isaiah 35:1–10](#) (NRSV)

Leader

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

***Gospel Lesson:** [Matthew 11:2–11](#) (NRSV)

Lector: The Word of God for the People of God

People: **Thanks be to God!**

Message

"When in doubt..."

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn of Response** "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" UMH #224

We Lift Up to God Our Prayers and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

***Doxology**

The Offering of our Gifts

Offering Prayer (Unison) *by Patti Schif*

Dear Lord, you are coming soon! We are drawing closer to the remembrance of Your arrival into the World. Joy is the theme of today's candle. May it be our joy to serve You and to praise You. Take what we offer today into Your Kingdom. Multiply it in Your

hands. It is our joy to return to You what You have entrusted to us.
Use us to 'make heaven crowded' for You. In Jesus name. Amen.

WE CARRY THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

*Sending Hymn "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" UMH #216

*Benediction

*Benediction Response "Jesus, the Light of the World" WS #3056
(v.1)

Postlude

Join Us for Christmas Potluck Lunch and Cookie Decorating

Coming Up:

***December 21st. - Sunday of Worship Service @10am - Join us
LIVE or ONLINE as we celebrate with the youth of UMCM in our
annual Christmas Pageant!***

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
Pianist/Organist: RoseAnne Homola Lay Leader: Patti Early
Music Leaders: Patti Early and RoseAnne Homola

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Worship Livestream Zoom link:



United Methodist Church of Monroe

A member of the Eastern Fairfield Cooperative Parish

515 Cutlers Farm Road
Monroe, CT 06468

December 14, 2025, 10:00 am

"Growing in the Body of Christ"