



central

united methodist church monroe

Christmas Eve
Candlelight

Wednesday, December 24, 2025

5:00 P.M. | Central UMC Sanctuary

DECEMBER 24, 2025
CHRISTMAS EVE
5:00 P.M. Candlelight Worship | Sanctuary

✝ *Please rise in body or spirit* | Congregational responses are in **bold**.

GATHERING MUSIC (*worshippers may enter*)

Still, Still, Still arr. D.E. Stempien/G.H. Turner

Ring Those Bells arr. Bob Krogstad

Messiah's Lullaby arr. David Schwoebel

O Holy Night arr. Brooks Holmes

PRELUDE

Berceuse (Rocking Carol)

Louis Vierne (1870-1937)

✝ **CALL TO WORSHIP**

The people who once lived in darkness have been given A great light!

Praise be to God who has heard our cries.

Our souls sing out God's praise!

God has brought us a light of Hope and Peace.

Tonight, in this place, the Light of God's Love is given to us!

And we shall see that light and let it shine through our lives. AMEN.

✝ **INVOCATION**

✝ **HYMN OF PRAISE**

O Come, All Ye Faithful

UMH 234

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

SONG OF RESPONSE

A Christmas Blessing

Dennis Jernigan

PRESENTATION OF OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

On Christmas Night

arr. Gerald Near

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

ANTHEM OF PREPARATION *The First Noel*

arr. Douglas E. Wagner

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 40:1-11 (NRSVUE)

SERMON

“The Glory of the Lord Revealed”

THE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

As the lights are dimmed, the light from the Christ candle will be shared. The ushers will light the candle of the persons seated closest to the center aisle and then we each will share the light with our neighbor. Remember that each lighted candle remains upright, and the unlighted candle is tipped to the lighted one. When you depart, please extinguish your candle and place it in the collection bins found in the Narthex.

✠ CAROL

Silent Night

UMH 239

Lift candles high on last verse.

**Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright, round yon
Virgin Mother and Child. Holy infant so tender and mild.
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night, Son of God, Shepherds quake at the
sight; glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing
Alleluia! Christ the savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!**

**Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light; radiant
beams from thy holy face with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord at Thy Birth.**

**Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend thy light; with
the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King; Christ the Savior
is born, Christ the Savior is Born.**

✝ HYMN OF SENDING

Joy to the World

UMH 246

At this time, the lights will return to brightness symbolizing the birth of Jesus Christ, the Light of the World

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.**

**Joy to the world, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.**

✝ BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella

arr. Keith Chapman



SERVING IN WORSHIP

Dr. Bill White, Jr. | *Senior Pastor*
Nathan Clements | *Organist & Pianist*
Abril Ruiz-Lopez | *Violin*

Rev. JD Moffett | *Associate Pastor*
Ed Mills | *Trumpet*
Trinity

Central Festival Choir
Ushers: David & Kalli Clements, Robert & Linda Hinson

If you purchased a poinsettia, please take it home after the Christmas Eve Service.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Tonight, we gather to remember with the prophet Isaiah:
For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Great will be his authority, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this (Isaiah 9:6-7).

All: We gather to once again bask in the glory that visited a stable and a manger, shepherds watching their flocks, and a young couple cradling the newborn Messiah.

We light the Christ candle as a sign of the glory that came among us in unexpected places and to unexpected people, that we may be people who seek and follow the glory of the Christ child here and now.



Welcome to Central United Methodist Church in Monroe, NC, where we believe in a holistic approach to ministry. We address the needs of the whole person: body, mind, and spirit. We have numerous ministries and programs that enable us to effectively serve God, our community, and each other.

Come and experience our vibrant and meaningful worship, where faith is formed and reformed and connections are strengthened through fellowship.

We hope that you will live out your call to Christian Discipleship by uniting with Central UMC, share your spiritual gifts and talents, and be a witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Yours In Christ,
Dr. Bill White, Jr.
"Dr. Bill"
Senior Pastor



Our Staff

Dr. Bill White, Jr. - *Senior Pastor*
Rev. JD Moffett - *Associate Pastor*
Julie Miles - *Director of Youth Ministries*
Erica Kirby - *Director of Children's & Weekday Ministries*
Debbie Eggleston - *Business Administrator*
Jessica Parker - *Administrative Assistant*
Sylvia Jenkins - *Custodian*



Scan the QR CODE to download **THE CENTRAL APP** to Register your attendance, Find a ministry, Give your offering, and more.

Central uses visual and audio images of participants in our worship services and events for broadcast, event promotion, publicity, and other related communications endeavors.

 801 S. Hayne St. | Monroe, NC | 28112  704.289.3186

Sundays in Advent

9:00 A.M. • Sunday School

10:00 A.M. • Combined Worship | Sanctuary

Regular Sunday Mornings

9:00 A.M. • Modern Worship | Central Hall

10:00 A.M. • Sunday School

11:00 A.M. • Traditional Worship | Sanctuary

Tuesday Evenings

6:00 P.M. • Dinner Church | FLC

Stream online at centralumcmonroe.org/media

Upcoming Opportunities

Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Musical Prelude, 4:45 P.M., *Sanctuary*
Christmas Eve Worship, 5 P.M., *Sanctuary*

Dec. 28 Sunday School, 9 A.M.
Combined Worship, 10 A.M., *Sanctuary*

Dec. 24-29 Church Office Closed in Observation of Christmas

Dec. 31 Church Office Closed in Observation of New Year's, 1 P.M. - 5 P.M.

Jan. 1 Church Office Closed in Observation of New Year's

Jan. 4 Modern Worship Service, 9 A.M., *Central Hall*
Sunday School, 10 A.M.
Traditional Worship Service, 11 A.M., *Sanctuary*

To Learn more about *Advent & Christmas Central*, visit www.centralumcmonroe.org/christmas

For more details about Central's Upcoming Opportunities and to view the full Central Link, visit centralumcmonroe.org/news OR visit the NEWS icon on the Central App home page!

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