

# The **CONGREGATIONAL**

#### CHURCH of EASTON

The church on the hill

Second Sunday after Christmas

January 5, 2025

Lay Leaders, Elizabeth and Don Boyce

#### **PRELUDE**

#### **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

\*\*CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 147:12-20

One: Praise God, O Jerusalem! For God strengthens the bars of your gates and He blesses your children within.

All: God grants peace within your borders and fills you with the finest of wheat.

One: God sends out his command to the earth and His word runs swiftly.

All: God gives snow like wool and scatters frost like ashes.

One: God declares his word to Jacob and declares His statutes and ordinances to Israel.

All: May all praise be to God.

#### \*\*UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Ever Present and Ever Knowing God, we come before you as a humble people seeking to know more of your great mystery. We look towards you this day searching for meaning in life. We look towards you for the strength, guidance, hope, and comfort that only you can provide for us in this ever changing world. We look towards you this morning, O Lord, as a people in need of the Christ Child to lead us into your grace and light. We call upon you, O Lord, to enter into our lives leading us with your great message of love and salvation. Amen.

#283 NCH Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me; Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

\*\* Those who are able may stand.

PH-Red Pilgrim Hymnal NCH-Black New Century Hymnal BH-Little Blue Hymnal

#### \*\*UNISON CALL TO CONFESSION

When we do not accept as our sisters and brothers in Christ those who are different from us, forgive us, O God. When we oppose you by opposing those who disrupt our routines and challenge our assumptions, forgive us, O God. When we willfully disobey you and lose faith in your future, forgive us, O God. God, in your mercy, restore us to newness of life. Bind together your church universal through the coming of your Holy Spirit. Empower us to witness with courage to the presence of Jesus Christ among us. Amen.

#### WORDS OF ASSURANCE

\*\*Response of Praise #513 PH Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be world without end. Amen.

#### **CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS OF THE COMMUNITY**

#### **PRAYERS**

Silent Prayer

**Pastoral Prayer** 

The Lord's Prayer (debts)

Choral Response: #769 NCH Hear our prayer, O God, hear our prayer, O God.

Incline your ear to us and grant us your peace. Amen.

### **SCRIPTURE**

Isaiah 60:1-6 Pew Bible pg. 639 Matthew 2:1-12 Pew Bible pg. 835

MEDITATION Elizabeth Boyce

**HYMN** #547 NCH "Amazing Grace" verses 1, 2 & 4

#### THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

God asks us for an accounting of what we have done with the wealth entrusted to us. All that we have and all that we are belongs to God. May we give with thankfulness.

Gathering of the gifts with Offertory Presentation of the gifts with praise

\*\*Doxology: #515 PH Praise God from whom all blessing flow; Praise him all creatures here below; Praise him above ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

#### \*\*UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Almighty and eternal God, we thank you that in your mercy you have fed us at this table with spiritual food and assured us of your goodness and love. Keep us, we pray, in the faith and fellowship of your Church; enable us to continue to live for your glory; and bring us at last to your heavenly kingdom; through Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

\*\***HYMN** #319 PH

"Just as I Am, Without One Plea"

verses 1 - 4

\*\*BENEDICTION

(Threefold Amen)

\*\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

**POSTLUDE** 

Please join us for Coffee Hour across the street.

Confirming Deacon for January - Jon Stock
Offering - Leon March and Jon Stock
Collectors - Nathalie Taranto and Daisy Colonnese
Coffee Hour - Jon Stock

**Church Office Hours** will be on Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

**Welcome to worship in this new year of our Lord 2025.** Please greet one another in the spirit of Christ. If you are visiting, we hope you will sign our guest book.

<u>Prayer List</u> - Please keep our members and friends in your prayers, and especially at this time: Rosie Cassatt and her family, Elizabeth Boyce and her family, Suzanne Lovejoy's mother and family, the family of Margaret Sica Valbona, the Waterbury Family, the family of Barbara Lee, and the McLaughlin Family.

Please pray for all who mourn or need special prayers of intention, for our congregation, and for friends of our community. You may fill out a Prayer Request Card, or call or email the church office to add or remove a name from the list. Thank you for your prayers.

**2025 Stewardship** - If you did not receive a letter, please contact the Office.

Next Food Kitchen will be Tuesday, January 21. Chicken, any style, or any main dish of your choosing, mac and cheese, pasta, vegetables, fruit, rolls, and/or dessert. Food may be dropped off on the prior Sunday or Monday mornings between 8:00 and 10:00 a.m., or no later than Tuesday, January 21, by 9:30 a.m. Please indicate that it is for the Food Kitchen. Food should not be warm or hot. Containers cannot be returned. The Sign Up Sheet is located in the Church Hall. For more information, contact Gen Waterbury (203) 981-9373, g.e.waterbury@gmail.com

**Merton House** Food Pantry provisions and sample size toiletry items are collected year round in the basket in the entranceway of the Church Hall. They are very appreciative of all the items we provide to them.

#### CALENDAR for THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH of EASTON

Sunday, January 5	Second Sunday after Christmas, First Sunday of 2025!
10:00 a.m.	Worship with Lay Leaders, Elizabeth and Don Boyce
11:00 a.m.	Coffee Hour
Manday January C	Eninhany

# Monday, January 6 Epiphany

# Tuesday, January 7 7:00 p.m.

AA Meeting

# Thursday, January 9

9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Office Hours

#### Saturday, January 11 1:00 p.m.

Memorial Service and Reception for Allen J. Cassatt

# Sunday, January 12 First Sunday after Epiphany

10:00 a.m. Worship with Fellow Elyon Wells 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour

# Tuesday, January 14

7:00 p.m. AA Meeting

# Thursday, January 16

9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Office Hours

# Sunday, January 19 Second Sunday after Epiphany

10:00 a.m. Worship with Reverend Susan Davis 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour

Organist - Suzanne Lovejoy