

*The*  
CONGREGATIONAL



CHURCH of EASTON

*The church on the hill*

Fourth Sunday of Advent  
December 22, 2024  
Lay Leaders: Joan Winter and Jim Waterbury

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## PRELUDE

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### \*\*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Alleluia, the Christ Child comes!

**All: We eagerly await Christ's birth.**

One: Let us come together throwing off all distractions and allowing chaos to settle.

**All: We eagerly await Christ's birth.**

One: Let us watch for signs and listen to the messengers.

**All: Today we eagerly await Christ's birth.**

### \*\*UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

**Ever present Christ Child, God of all peoples, we come into your presence with love inside our hearts and praise upon our lips. We hear the promise of the prophets and wait expectantly for the Lord. We come to experience the true joy and love of Christ and to learn to live with hope. We are excited, expectant, and hopeful. We are here and we are ready for your word. Amen.**

\*\*HYMN #125 PH

*"Good Christian Men, Rejoice"*

**LIGHTING THE 4TH ADVENT CANDLE** (Candle of Love) Judith & Pat McCarty

**READING** Micah 5: 2-5a

**\*\*Those who are able may stand**

PH - Red Pilgrim Hymnal

NCH - Black New Century Hymnal

BH - Little Blue Hymnal

## **UNISON PRAYER OF ADVENT**

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come, so that by your protection we may be rescued from the dangers that beset us through our sins. Come to us this Advent and be a redeemer to deliver us for you are the one who lives and reigns with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

## **\*\*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**

God forgives your sins and offers you a transformed future. Live fully into God's grace.

**\*\*Response of Praise #116PH**      *"Gloria in Excelsis Deo!"*      Chorus

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

### **PRAYERS**

Silent 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.*

### **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**\*\*HYMN # 139 NCH**      *"The First Nowell"*

### **SCRIPTURE**

First Letter of John 4:13-17

### **MEDITATION**

### **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 blessings flow; Praise him all creatures here below; Praise him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. A-men.***

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

Holy One, we thank you for the ways in which you have enfolded us in your love and called us by name to follow your son, Jesus. May these gifts and our lives be used to enfold others in your love. Amen.

**\*\*HYMN #123 PH**

*All My Heart This Night Rejoices*

**\*\*BENEDICTION**

**\*\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

**\*\*POSTLUDE**

***Please join us for Coffee Hour across the street.***

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**Confirming Deacon for December - Leon March  
Advent Candle Lighting - Judith and Pat McCarty  
Coffee Hour - Barbara Trup**

**Church Office Hours** will be on Monday from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.  
**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** is at 5:30 p.m.

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**Soon after the longest night of the year**, we have lit all four Advent Candles. *“Indeed, Christ’s light shines in our darkness, and the darkness cannot banish it.”* (see John 1:5)

Welcome to worship. If you are visiting, we hope you’ll sign our guest book and we hope all will join us across the street for fellowship after worship.

**Prayer List** - Please keep our members and friends in your prayers and especially at this time: *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.

**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 in the basket in the entranceway of the Church Hall year round. They are very appreciative of all the items we provide to them.

**Thank you to All who donated the live (and virtual) Poinsettias** which are now decorating our Sanctuary! Thank you to All who helped decorate the Church, the Hall and the grounds!

### **Calendar for the Congregational Church of Easton**

#### **Sunday, December 22**

10:00 a.m.

11:00 a.m.

4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

#### **Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Worship

Coffee Hour

Historical Society Holiday Celebration

#### **Monday, December 23**

1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Church Office Hours

#### **Tuesday, December 24**

5:30 p.m.

#### **Christmas Eve**

Candlelight Service

#### **Sunday, December 29**

10:00 a.m.

#### **First Sunday after Christmas**

Worship at Jesse Lee United Methodist Church

No Service at the Congregational Church of Easton

*Organist - Suzanne Lovejoy*

*Council Chair — Phillip Doremus*

*Deacon Chair — Nathalie Taranto*

*Kate Croarkin, Church Secretary*

*Sara Scoran, Sexton*

*Church Office 261-2527*

*Website eastonchurch.org*

*Email: cchurcheaston@gmail.com*