

# EASTON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

## THE CHURCH ON THE HILL



DECEMBER 14, 2025

REVEREND DERRICK MORLAN

### PRELUDE

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### **\*\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: God is in our midst. Do not fear.

God rejoices to renew our lives with God's steadfast love.

All: God gathers us for this time of worship.

God claims us and promises us wholeness.

One: Trust in God who is our strength and life.

Give thanks for God the source of our salvation.

All: We will sing praises and exalt God's name.

With joyous shouts, we will tell of God's glorious deeds.

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

Loving God, we rejoice in this season of anticipation as we remember your promises and recall all the ways you reveal yourself to us. May your presence be real to us in this hour. Strengthen us for renewal of our love for you and one another, for leadership and service in your church. We give thanks that you have called us into community and commissioned us to make a difference in the world. Equip us for the tasks you set before us. Amen.

**LIGHTING THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE (Candle of Joy)     Elizabeth Boyce**

**READING Isaiah 61:1-3**

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\* \* \* THOSE WHO ARE ABLE MAY STAND.  
PH-RED PILGRIM HYMNAL NCH-BLACK NEW CENTURY  
HYMNAL BH-LITTLE BLUE HYMNAL

## **HYMN #15 PH PRAISE THE LORD, THE ALMIGHTY**

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

Enlivening God, we confess the sin of our separation from you. We have blamed you for hiding from us, rather than admitting we have failed to see you in the thousands of ways you reveal yourself every day. We have not called on you, and we have not listened for your call to us. Without you we have become tiny islands of self-concern. Our links with the rest of your children are stretched and broken. O God, we long for that loving community in which your reign is acknowledged and your purposes are served. Move us to that place, we pray. 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 (In Unison)

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.

## **HYMN #3 BH BLESSED ASSURANCE, JESUS IS MINE**

### **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.

#### **OFFERTORY**

Gathering of the gifts.

**\*\*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.**

**Presentation of the gifts with praise.**

**\*\*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.**

**SCRIPTURE James 4:13-17**

**SERMON “What is Your Life?”**

**H Y M N # 4 0 4 P H T A K E M Y L I F E A N D L E T I T B E**

**\*\*BENEDICTION**

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

**POSTLUDE-A Special Song Performed by visiting members of Crown College.**

**Please join us for coffee hour and fellowship across the street.**

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**Confirming Deacon- Leon March  
Offering - Barbara Trup and Rich McLaughlin  
Collector - Debbie Szegedi  
Coffee Hour - Don & Elizabeth Boyce and the Langdon Family  
Advent Candle Lighting- Elizabeth Boyce**

**A blessed Advent to you! Today as we worship, we begin the season of anticipation, hope, and preparation for the coming Messiah. If you are visiting, “Welcome!”, and we invite you to sign our guest book. Everyone is invited to 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:**

**Prayers for Suzanne Lovejoy’s niece, Alisa, who is recovering in the hospital from a car accident; healing for June’s brother, Claude; healing for 13 year old, Mikey, in intensive care from a bad car accident; prayers for Debbie Olson and her family with the loss of her mother, Annabelle Lee; and the family and friends of Nathalie Taranto with her sudden passing.**

**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.**

**\*Orders for virtual poinsettias, dedicated to loved ones, due December 14th.**

**\*Evening Prayer Service led by Reverend Derrick Morlan on December 14th at 5:30pm.**

**\*December 15th at 5:30pm, Tom and Debbie Berrill will be presenting a period talk on Thomas Hooker and Connecticut’s Fundamental Orders in the sanctuary.**

**\*“The second performance of “A Christmas Carol” at the church will be on December 18th at 7:30pm.**

**\*December 19th at 7pm, the Historical Society Annual Christmas Party at the Church Hall.**

**\*December 21st, Jonathan Hibbard will preside over our Sunday morning service.**

**\*December 24th at 5:30pm, Christmas Eve Candle Mass with Reverend Elyon Wells.**

**\*December 28th, John Remember will preside over our Sunday morning service.**

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**Organist - Suzanne Lovejoy  
Council Chair, Phillip Doremus; Deacon Chair, Elizabeth Boyce  
Sexton, Sara Scoran; Church Secretary, Genevieve Waterbury  
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