

# Congregational Church of Easton



Thursday, December 24, 2020  
Christmas Eve  
YouTube

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Youtube*

**PRELUDE**

“Christmas Medley”

**WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP PRAYER** (Based on a prayer by Robert Louis Stevenson)

**CAROL #132 PH**

O Come All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem; Come and behold him, born the King of angels; O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy evening, Jesus, to thee be all glory given; Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing; O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

**THE ADVENT CANDLES AND CHRIST CANDLE**

Isaiah 9: 2-7

Worship Assistant

**UNISON PRAYER OF ADVENT**

Father, all-powerful God, your eternal Word took flesh on our earth when the Virgin Mary placed her life at the service of your plan. Lift our minds in watchful hope to hear the voice which announces his glory and open our minds to receive the Spirit who prepares us for his coming. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Most Loving God, who teaches us to give thanks for all things, and to place all our cares upon You, keep us from faithless fear and needless anxieties, and grant that no clouds of this mortal life hide us from the light of your love which is immortal and made alive to us in Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Words of Assurance**

**PRAYERS**

Pastoral Prayer with Celebrations and Concerns of the Community

Silent Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (*debts/debtors*)

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.*

**CAROL**

Still, Still, Still

Still, still, still, He sleeps this night so chill! The Virgin's tender arms enfolding, warm and safe the Child are holding. Still, still, still, He sleeps this night so chill.

Sleep, sleep, sleep, He lies in slumber deep, While angel hosts from heav'n come winging, Sweetest songs of joy are singing. Sleep, sleep, sleep, He lies in slumber deep.

## THE CHRISTMAS STORY

**Luke 2: 1-7**

Worship Assistant

*It came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.*

**CAROL #140 PH (verses 2)**

*What Child Is This*

What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mary's lap is sleeping? Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, While shepherds watch are keeping? This, this is Christ the King, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing: Haste, haste to bring him laud, The babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies he in such mean estate Where ox and ass are feeding? Good Christian, fear: for sinners here The silent Word is pleading. This, this is Christ the King, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing: Haste, haste to bring him laud, The babe, the son of Mary.

**Luke 2: 8-16**

Rev. Amanda Ostrove

*And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them: and they were afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, glory to God in the highest, and on earth, goodwill and peace to all. And it came to pass, as the angels had gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, "Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us".*

**SOLO**

*Is There Room at the Manger for Me?*

Rev. Amanda Ostrove

**Matthew 2: 1-11**

Worship Assistant

*Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he that is born King of the Jews?" for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. And they said unto him, 'In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet, "And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, art not the least among the princes of Judah: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel." ' Then Herod, when he had privately called the wise men, enquired of them what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, 'Go and search diligently for the young child; and when you have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.' When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense and myrrh.*

**CAROL #143 PH****We Three Kings**

We three kings of Orient, are, Bearing gifts we traverse afar  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.  
O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light.

Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice;  
Alleluia, alleluia! Sounds through the earth and skies.  
O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light.

**Matthew 2: 12, Luke 2: 17-20**

Rev. Amanda

*The wisemen, being warned by God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, departed into their own country another way. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.*

**MEDITATION**

A Beacon of Hope

## THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

Gathering of the gifts with Offertory

Offertory Anthem *Star-Led and Wonder Bound*

*Rev. Amanda Ostrove*

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. Amen*

### **\*\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

### **\*\*CIRCLE OF LIGHT**

Join with me as we sing Silent Night and meditate upon how the light of Christ filters into our lives this Christmas Season.

### **\*\*BENEDICTION**

Confirming Deacon—*Leon March*

***The Reverend Amanda Ostrove***

***Organist, Carole J. Fanslow***

***Council Chair, Phillip Doremus***

***Deacon Chair, Nathalie Taranto***

***Sara Scoran, Sexton***

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*For pastoral emergencies after office hours call Rev. Amanda 860-449-4439*



*Silent Night,  
Holy Night*

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,  
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!

*Merry Christmas!*

*Welcome to worship this holy night.  
We are delighted to have you with us.*

*May the Christmas message of hope  
Permeate your heart and home  
And be the reason you celebrate  
With precious family and friends —  
And may a fresh expectation  
For the New Year and all it holds,  
Cause you to rejoice in God's goodness  
And fill you with Love, Joy and Peace.*

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