PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING WORD

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Christ comes to our world to bring peace
   We come to sing our praises for the Christ Child.
Christ comes to bring love.
   We come to sing our praises for the Christ Child.
Christ comes to bring joy.
   We come to sing our praises for the Christ Child.
Christ comes to bring hope.
All: We come with hearts full of joy and love. Let us enter into worship and song this glorious day.

*HYMN #132 PH     O Come, All Ye Faithful   (See next Page)

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

   All forgiving and giving Lord, we call upon your name this day as we sing our joyous praise for the wondrous gift of the Christ into this world. We call upon your presence to lift our hearts and carry our high spirits through the coming year. We call upon your presence to bring us into your light as we welcome your son into our hearts and into our lives once more on this Christmas morn. Join in our shouts of joy and thanksgiving and bless our gathering today. Amen.

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

CHILDREN’S TALK

THE LORD’S PRAYER (debts)
O Come, All Ye Faithful

1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O
2. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
3. Child, for us sinners poor and in the manger,
4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,

Come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
We would embrace thee, with love and awe;
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;

Come and behold him, born the King of angels;
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;
Who would not love thee, loving us so dearly?
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! Amen.
Joy to the World! the Lord Is Come

Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

ANTIOCH C.M.
Attr. to Georg F. Handel, 1685-1759
Arr. by Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

1 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.

2 Joy to the earth! the Savior reigns: Let men their songs employ; While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy, Repeate the sounding joy.

3 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 heaven and nature sing, And heaven and nature sing.

Repeate the sounding joy, Repeate the sounding joy.

And wonders of his love, And wonders of his love.

A-men.
CONFESSION

Almighty and most Holy God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known and all fears revealed, come to us today healing our pains and redirecting our wrongs. May your patience guide us and lead us when we stray from your path and may your love and will be revealed to us as we are lead back to your path once more to resume our life journeys with you by our sides. So that we may come to know you better and continue our growth in relationship with you. Amen.

Words of Assurance

*Response of Praise # 116 PH (chorus)  Gloria in excelsis Deo!

PRAYERS

Pastoral Prayer

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.

CAROLING

#148 NCH  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, the angels sing, is Christ, God’s holy offering; Haste, haste your praise to bring the babe, the child of Mary!

#116 PH  Angels We Have Heard on High
Angels we have heard on high Sweetly singing o’er the plains; And the mountains in reply Echo back their joyous strains. Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo

#126 NCH  Angels from the Realms of Glory
Angels, from the realm of glory, wing your flight o’er all the earth; As you sang creation’s story, now proclaim Messiah’s birth: Come and Worship, come and worship, worship Christ, give thanks and sing.

#128 PH  In the Bleak Midwinter
In the bleak midwinter, Frosty wind made moan, Earth stood hard as iron, Water like a stone; Snow had fallen, snow on snow, Snow on snow, In the bleak midwinter, Long ago.

#129 PH  It Came Upon a Midnight Clear
It came upon the midnight clear, That glorious song of old, From angels bending near the earth To touch their harps of gold; Peace on earth, good will to men, From Heaven’s all gracious King. The world in solemn stillness lay To hear the angels sing.

#120 PH  Hark, the Herald Angels Sing
Hark! The herald angels sing, Glory to the newborn King; Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled! Joyful all ye nations rise, Join the triumph of the skies; With the angelic host proclaim, Christ is born in Bethlehem!

THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

Gathering of the gifts with Offertory

Offertory Anthem# 488 PH  Go Tell It on the Mountain

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 of Our Gifts
The First Nowell

Traditional English Carol

1. The first Nowell, the angel did say, Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
   In fields where they lay keeping their sheep, On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

2. They looked up and saw a star shining in the east, beyond them far, And to the king, their intent, And to follow the star wherever it went. Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Born is the King of Israel.

3. And by the light of that same star shining three wise men came from country far; To seek for a place where Jesus lay. Myrrh and frankincense.

4. This star drew nigh to the north-west, O'er Bethlehem it took its rest, And there it did both stop and stay, Right over the king's presence, Their gold and frankincense.

5. Then entered in those wise men three, Full reverently upon their knee, And offered night that was so deep, Tin-ued both day and night. Star wherever it went. Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Born is the King of Israel.
Welcome to worship this First Sunday after Christmas. May the Holy Spirit bless and strengthen you today. If you are visiting, we hope you will consider joining us for in person worship on Sundays at 10AM.

Church Office Hours - The office will be open Monday—Friday from 9:30 am -1:30 pm. Rev. Amanda will be taking some time off between Christmas and New Years but will be around if you need her. For a pastoral emergency, please call Rev. Amanda 860-449-4439.

Masks in Worship — In light of the rising numbers of infections, we recommend that all people please remain masked during the worship service. We will not police people but we ask that people be respectful of those that might have small children or compromised health. Thank you for your compliance.

Many thanks to all of our volunteers throughout the busy holiday season. All of your hard work and thoughtful giving of time and energy have been greatly appreciated.

Prayer List - Please keep our members and friends in your prayer; Don Landry, Jake Kelly, Donna Bibbins, Pat Glaser, Sara Trup, Rich Benedict, Kathy, Chad Goodhugh, Michelle Szabo, all who mourn or need special prayers of intention, our congregation and 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.

January Food Kitchen at the Bridgeport Rescue Mission is this Tuesday, January 18th Please check the sign up sheet to see what still might be needed.

Blanket Collection — We are collecting new blankets to be donating to the Bridgeport Rescue Mission this winter. We have already received a few donations but are looking for more. This is a very cold time of year for people in need and your donations will help bring them warmth this winter. All donations can be dropped off at the Old Academy building.

Bridgeport Rescue Mission Food Pantry— Non-perishable food items are collected all month. Please drop off donations to the baskets in the entrance to the church hall. Don’t forget that the first Sunday of the month is food Sunday where we collect non-perishables at worship. So please remember to bring your non-perishable donations to church with you on January 2nd.

Altar Flowers and Coffee Hour - Donation of Altar Flowers for a Sunday worship would be a wonderful addition to our services. You may order or provide the flowers yourself, or have the office order them. Coffee Hour is an exciting part of our congregational life. If you would like to host a Sunday or be included in the rotation, please call the office.
Calendar

Sunday, December 26  First Sunday after Christmas
10:00 a.m.  YouTube worship

Tuesday, December 28
11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  Blood Drive at the Easton Town Library

Wednesday, December 29
Private Baptism

Saturday, January 1  Happy New Year

Sunday, January 2  Second Sunday after Christmas
10:00 a.m.  In Person Worship with Zoom Option
11:00 a.m.  Coffee Hour
11:30 a.m.  Deacon’s Meeting Bishop Room

The Reverend Amanda Ostrove
Organist — Suzanne Lovejoy
Council Chair, Phillip Doremus  Deacon Chair, Leon March
Michelle Szabo, Church Secretary  Sara Scoran, Sexton
Website: eastonchurch.org  Church Office: 261-2527
Email: cchurcheaston@gmail.com

For pastoral emergencies call the church office
or after hours call Rev. Amanda Ostrove 860-449-4439.

** 283 Spirit of the Living God © Birdwing Music, 1963, Sparrow Corp. - ** 116 PH Angels We Have Heard on High – Trad. Carol,
**513 PH Gloria Patri  ** 515 PH  Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow; T. Ken, L. Bourgeois  Used by permission.
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