

# HOUGHTON WESLEYAN CHURCH

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

7:00 P.M.

DECEMBER 24, 2017

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Prelude: *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* .....arr. Wilbur Held  
*Variations on "Adeste Fidelis"* .....Raynor Taylor  
*Prelude on "Greensleeves"* .....Ralph Vaughan Williams  
*Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella* .....Keith Chapman  
*O Holy Night* .....Adolphe Adam, arr. Judy Congdon

Welcome .....Pastor Wesley Oden

Lighting of the Christ Candle.....The Roeske Family

\*Processional Carol 121 ***O Come, All Ye Faithful!***

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7 (page 683) .....Pastor Jon Cole

**Christ's Birth and Kingdom are Foretold by Isaiah**

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord. ***People: Thanks be to God!***

\*Carol 109 ***Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus***

Scripture Reading: Micah 5:1-5a (page 922) .....Mim Case

**The Prophet Micah Foretells the Glory of Little Bethlehem**

Choir Carol: *Behold the Marvel of this Night* .....Carl Schalk

Scripture Reading: Luke 1:26-38 (page 1012) .....Diane Emmons

**The Angel Gabriel Comes to the Virgin Mary**

Choir Carol: *In the Bleak Midwinter* .....arr. Albin C. Whitworth

Scripture Reading: Matthew 1:18-25 (page 955) .....Jeff Babbitt

**The Angel Appears to Joseph**

\*Carol 136 ***O Little Town of Bethlehem***

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:1-7 (page 1014) .....Jeanie Little

**St. Luke Tells of the Birth of Jesus**

\*Carol 125 ***Away in a Manger***

Christmas Eve Offering / Prayer .....Pastor Paul Shea

Offertory: *I Wonder as I Wander* .....Laurie Smalley, harp

*This year's Christmas Eve offering will be designated  
to assist in Puerto Rico relief following Hurricane Maria.*

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:8-20 (page 1014).....Rob McNeill

**The Shepherds Go to the Manger**

Choir Carol: *The Angel and the Shepherds* .....David Willcocks

Scripture Reading: Matthew 2:1-11 (page 956).....Pastor Laurie Smalley

**The Wise Men are Led by the Star to Jesus**

Ministry in Music: *Unto Us* .....JJ Heller

Scripture Reading: John 1:1-14 (page 683).....Andrew Oden

**The Word Becomes Flesh and Dwells Among Us**

Ministry in Music: *Mary, Did You Know?* .....Buddy Greene & Mark Lowry

Meditation: Pastor Wesley Oden

## ***Candle Lighting Ceremony***

The central candle of the Advent wreath represents Christ, the light of the world. During the service, the light from the Christ Candle has been carried to candles along the center aisle. During the singing of ***Silent Night***, those who are nearest the center aisle are asked to light their candle from the aisle candles.

Then all those who worship will pass the light, holding the lit candles upright and tilting the unlit candle to receive the flame. Ushers will bring the light from the Christ Candle to the balcony. When all the candles are lit, we will stand for prayer and ask God to help us be Christ's light in the world. Then we will join together in singing ***Joy to the World***. The texts of ***Silent Night*** and ***Joy to the World*** can be found on the back page of the bulletin.

Benediction

Ringling of the Bells

Postlude: *Organ Flourish on "Joy to the World"* .....Michael Dell

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Organist: Judy Congdon      Violin: Debbie Shea      Guitar: Alison Young Reusser

Acolytes: Sofia Gildemeister and Liam McNeill

As you leave, please extinguish your candle  
and place it in the proper receptacle in the foyer,  
but let the light of Christ's love burn on in your heart.

***May God bless you with  
a very merry Christmas.***

***Our Worship Service***

***on December 31 will begin at 10am.***

***There will be no Sunday School  
or evening service on December 31.***

### *Silent 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!  
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.

### *Joy to the World!*

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,  
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

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 wonders, wonders of His love.

