

WEEKLY ADVENT DEVOTIONALS for you or your family are available in the sanctuary foyer. Please take as many as you need.

THE FLOWER COMMITTEE WELCOMES YOUR CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS to help beautify the sanctuary for Christmas. We have purchased a number of poinsettias which you may purchase for \$12.00 each or you may bring your own on December 15. If you care to purchase one, please leave \$12 with Patty Stalker in the church office and fill out a reservation form indicating your preferences. If you wish to honor a loved one, please leave this information with Patty by December 14.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES: we will host Christmas Eve services 5:00 and 7:00. Both services will include carols, candle lighting and the reading of the Christmas story. The 5:00 service will also include a time for children.

MISSION MOMENT – Our Christmas Eve Offering is three weeks away and the plan for the entire offering (and designated gifts received) is to assist in restoration of Wesleyan Academy and other relief in Puerto Rico in cooperating with Houghton Academy and World Hope International efforts. In addition to the services, gifts may also be received in the church office or online at <https://www.hwchurch.org/giving/> - choose *Christmas Eve Offering* from the designation choices.

PERSECUTED CHURCH - Bangladeshi Christians, especially evangelists who talk openly about Jesus, experience threats and intimidation. Christians often face discrimination from the Muslim majority. They are harassed, robbed of possessions, beaten and even killed, receiving little government protection.

PRAYER CONCERNS: for all who are grieving; for people with health concerns: Tim Nichols, Bob Brown, Jayne Swanson, Louise Prinsell, Laura Habecker, Hudson Hess, Nancy Cole, Brian Orbaker (Charlie and Connie Smith's son-in-law), Peter Lingenfelter, Ellis Brotzman, Chuck Barrett (Wendy Ott's brother), Sheryl O'Brien, Ben King, Doris Essepian, Eila Shea, Sheldon Emerson (Darby Luckey's brother), Bill Getty, Warren and Ella Woolsey, Mike Raybuck, Bev Rhett, Micah Christensen, Linda Roth, Dick Gould, Emily Crikelair; for the injured and grieving from recent violence and disasters; for refugees; for peace amid threats of war; for healing and unity in our nation; and for Fillmore Wesleyan Church (Pastor Bill Lawson).



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

11:00 MORNING WORSHIP

DECEMBER 3, 2017

As the prelude begins, let us observe silence as we prayerfully anticipate this hour of corporate worship of Almighty God.

Prelude: *O Come, Emmanuel*arr. Wilbur Held
Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silencearr. Noel Rawsthorne

Lighting of the Advent Candle: Sunshine, Aaron, Adelaide and Canaan Sullivan

*Hymn 119 ***Angels from the Realms of Glory***

*Words of Greeting and Peace

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 7:10-16
Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God!

Prayer of Confession
Father, in this season of Advent, when we grasp for power and things, remind us that Christ came in weakness, in humility as a child. When we allow darkness to overcome the light, forgive us Lord. When we reduce Christmas to things, have mercy on us, Father. When hardness of heart keeps us from seeing and believing in Your Son, let your grace fill us. Forgive our doubt and renew our hope in Christ alone, that we may watch and wait and once more rejoice to hear the glad story of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer / **The Lord's Prayer**
Please feel free to use the altar as your place of prayer as we bow in humility before our loving heavenly Father.
If kneeling is difficult for you, please use the red chairs or stand by the altar rail.

Our Response to Prayer: **Emmanuel**

*New Testament Reading: Matthew 1:18-25
Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God!

*Hymn 109 ***Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus***

Worship through the Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*arr. McDonald & Nelson
Dan Zambrano, cello

Sermon: **O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**
Pastor Wes Oden

The Lord's Supper

*Hymn 116 ***O Come, O Come, Emmanuel***

*Benediction

*Congregational Amen (Hymn 656, Threefold)

*Postlude: *Prelude and Fugue in E minor*, BWV 555attr. J. S. Bach

*Please stand if able
Organist: Judy Congdon

Worship Leader: James Mclean
Acolyte: Joseph Derck

Children's Worship bulletins are available in the church foyer for ages 3-12.

Nursery: We provide a fully staffed nursery for infants up to two years of age. The Nursery is located on the first floor of the Christian Education Building.

Children's Church: Children ages 2-5 are dismissed during the song before the sermon for Children's Church in room 116 in the Christian Education Building.

WELCOME TO THE HOUGHTON WESLEYAN CHURCH. The season of Advent is a time of expectancy and preparation. As the world centers much of its attention upon the commercialization of Christmas, Advent is a time for Christians to prepare—body, mind and spirit—to celebrate the birth of the Savior. As we prepare, let us open ourselves to the truths of God's word and to the leading of the Holy Spirit to make Christ the center of our Christmas.

HOLY COMMUNION: We practice open communion in the Wesleyan Church: all who come in faith of Christ's redeeming power are welcome. As the ushers release your row, come to the front, tear off a piece of bread, dip it into the cup, eat it, then return to your seat by the outside aisle. Feel free to remain at the altar rail in prayer. If you prefer to be served in your seat, inform the usher; we have trays of bread and cups to serve you. Pastor Wes has cups of juice and gluten-free wafers at the communion table. If you desire the grace of God in your life, enabling you to love God with all of your being and to love others through the Spirit in you, you are invited to receive the bread and cup of God's grace in Christ for the sins of the whole world.

TONIGHT AT 5:00 you are invited to hear one of our fall semester interns, James McLean preach. We will sing, read scripture and open our hearts to God's word proclaimed.

KID'S CLUB on Wednesday nights needs two more adult volunteer assistants for the next two weeks (6:00-7:15). If anyone would like to help, please contact Pastor Laurie.

NEXT SUNDAY MORNING is the Second Sunday of Advent. In our worship at 8:20, 9:40 and 11:00, Pastor Wes will focus on the carol *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*.

NEXT SUNDAY EVENING AT 5:00 you are invited to hear another of our fall semester interns, Andrew Sherman. The service will also include songs by children and other groups.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, Cologne, 1710

Translated by John Mason Neale, 1851 and Henry Sloan Coffin, 1916

VENI EMMANUEL (From a Paris Processional, 15th Century, Adapted by Thomas Helmore, 1854)

O come, O come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appears
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Day-Spring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Root of Jesse! Draw
The quarry from the lion's claw;
From those dread caverns of the grave,
From nether hell, thy people save.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Lord of David's key!
The royal door fling wide and free;
Safeguard for us the heavenward road,
And bar the way to death's abode.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,
And order all things, far and nigh;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And cause us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Desire of nations, bind
All peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife and discord cease,
Fill the whole earth with Heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.



HOLIDAY SERVICES

- Sunday, December 3 8:20 a.m., 9:40 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. – Worship Services
5:00 p.m. – Worship Service: James McLean, Intern
Preaching
- Sunday, December 10 8:20 a.m., 9:40 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. – Worship Services
5:00 p.m. – Worship Service: Andrew Sherman, Intern
Preaching
- Sunday, December 17 10:00 a.m. – Worship Service
5:00 p.m. – Carol Sing/Cookie Reception (Bring your
instruments)
- Sunday, December 24 10:00 a.m. – Worship Service
5:00 p.m. – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
7:00 p.m. – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
- Sunday, December 31 10:00 a.m. – Worship Service
- Sunday, January 7 10:00 a.m. – Worship Service
- Sunday, January 14 8:20 a.m., 9:40 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. – Worship Services
Small Groups