

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

11:00 MORNING WORSHIP

JANUARY 21, 2018

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

Prelude: *Chorale Preludes of Johann Sebastian Bach*

“Wer nur den lieben Gott lässt walten” BWV 647 (If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee)

“Wenn wir in höchsten Nöten sein” BWV 668 (When in the Hour of Deepest Need)

Choral Introit: *Christ the Appletree* .....Stanford Scriven  
The Houghton College Choir

\*Call to Worship (from Philippians 2)

Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind.

**Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit.**

**Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.**

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

**Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.**

And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death – even death on a cross!

**Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

\*Invocation

\*Hymn 75 **All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name!**

\*Words of Greeting and Peace

Ministry Spotlight: Faith Promise

Anthem: *My Song in the Night* .....arr. Paul J. Christiansen

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 42:1-7

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

\*Doxology

Worship through the Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory: *How Great Thou Art* .....arr. Dan Forrest

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, in your gracious presence we confess our sin and the sin of this world. Although Christ is among us as our peace, we are a people divided against ourselves as we cling to the values of a broken world. The profit and pleasures we pursue far too often lay waste the land and pollute the seas. The fears and jealousies that we harbor set neighbor against neighbor, nation against nation, even disciple against disciple. We abuse your good gifts of imagination and freedom, of intellect and reason, and have turned them into bonds of oppression. Lord, have mercy upon us; heal and forgive us through the promise of Christ. In his name, set us free to serve you in the world as agents of your reconciling love in 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: **Surrender All**

\*New Testament Reading: Mark 9:30-37

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

\*Hymn 356 **Jesus, My Lord, My Life, My All**

Sermon: *What Were You Discussing on the Road?*

Pastor Wes Oden

\*Hymn 367 **O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee**

\*Benediction

\*Congregational Amen (Hymn 656, Threefold)

\*Postlude: *Kyrie, Gott heiliger Geist*, BWV 671 .....J. S. Bach

\*Please stand if able  
Organist: Judy Congdon

Worship Leader: Pastor Laurie Smalley  
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 C E Building.  
**Children’s Church:** Children ages 2-5 are dismissed during the song before the sermon for Children’s Church: 2 and 3 year olds meet in room 116; 4-5 year olds in room 115 in the Christian Education Building.

**WELCOME TO THE HOUGHTON WESLEYAN CHURCH.** Worship is both a privilege and a responsibility. It is a privilege because we have the opportunity to come together and encounter the Almighty God; it is a responsibility in that we are called to enter worship with all of our being, thinking about our lives and thinking about others who are in worship with us. Let us rejoice in this opportunity to worship God together and pray that our encounter with God this day will lead us to be His people every day.

**NEXT SUNDAY MORNING** we gather for worship at 8:20, 9:40, and 11:00. Next week's sermon (Mark 8) ponders Jesus' question: *Can You See Anything Now?*

**STONE SOUP DONATION DINNER TO BENEFIT VALLEY PRESCHOOL** this Friday, January 26, from 5:30-7:00 p.m. in the Community Room. Beef or vegetable soup, breads & dessert. Readings of *Stone Soup* at 6:00 and 6:30 p.m. Take out available.

**HISTORICAL BOOKS:** At the celebration of Houghton Wesleyan's sesquicentennial in 2002, we published a history book of our church. Since much has changed and transpired over the past 15 years, we have updated and published a revised edition of the 2002 edition. This 24-page book provides a brief overview of our denomination and a longer history of the Houghton congregation. If you have been around for a while, you will connect with many of the articles and pictures. If you are relatively new to the church, this book will familiarize you with the colorful history of this town and this church. The books are available in the church office or in the sanctuary foyer. The books are free, but donations would help to defray the printing costs.

**ALL WOMEN** Join us for our Winter Gathering: "Finding the Gifts in the Messiness of Your Life" on Saturday, February 3 from 9 am to 11 am in the Community Room. Spend the morning together with other women, enjoying breakfast, worship time, and inspiring moments, hearing how God brings us gifts, even in the challenging times of our lives. No need to sign up, just come and enjoy the morning with us. Child-care provided.

**MISSION MOMENT** – After earning medical degrees in the Philippines, the Caringals, who visit us next month, have served in mission for 30 years in places like Zambia, Nepal, and with Global Partner oversight for 11 Asian countries. They also have Public Health degrees from Yale and Boston Universities. It's our privilege to support them with our Faith Promise Funds as they return to Asia in 2018.

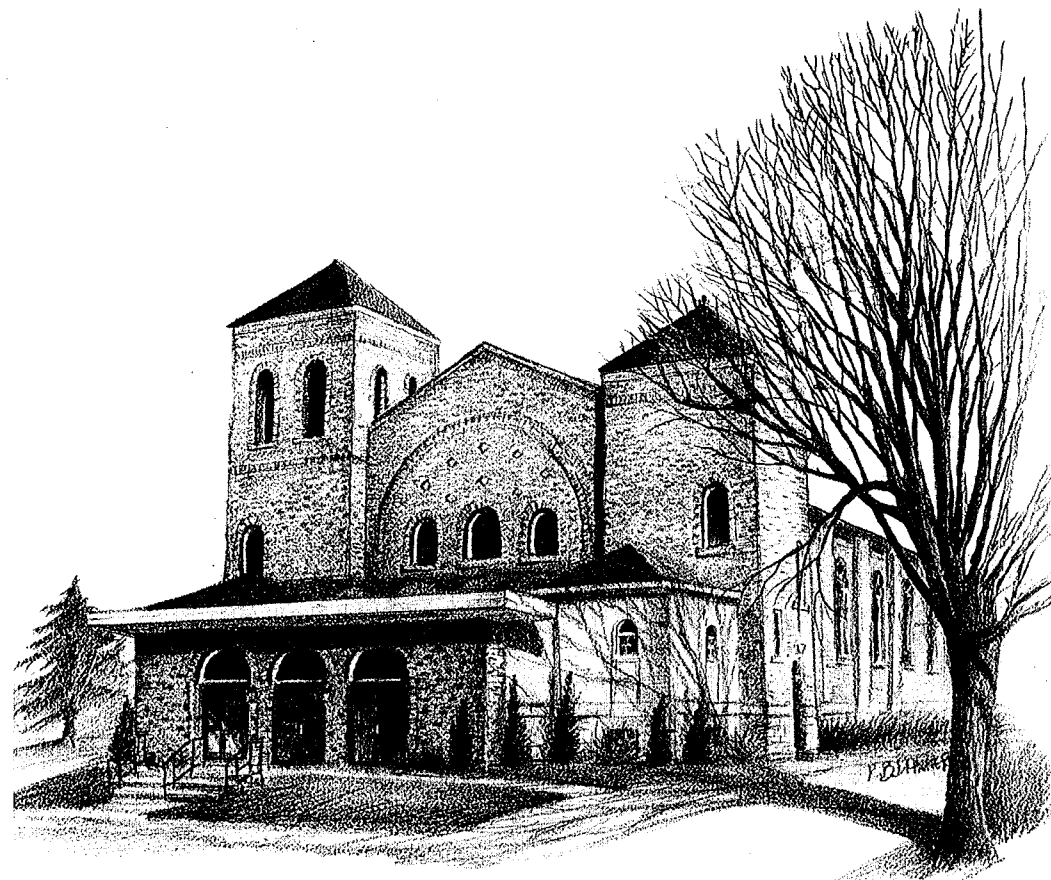
**PERSECUTED CHURCH** - Many Christians under threat of persecution are impacted by the current refugee and immigration policy debates. We pray for our leaders and civil servants to have God's wisdom as they deal with these and other complex issues. And we pray that believers from many countries would hold fast to their faith and trust God as they face an uncertain future.

**PRAYER CONCERNS:** for all who are grieving; for people with health concerns: Tim Nichols, Bob Brown, Jayne Swanson, Louise Prinsell, 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, Ella Woolsey, Mike Raybuck, Bev Rhett, Micah Christensen, Linda Roth, Emily Crikelair; for the injured and grieving from tragedies and disasters; for refugees; for peace amid threats of war; for healing and unity in our nation; and for Higgins Wesleyan Church (Pastor Bruce Smith).



**Houghton**  
WESLEYAN CHURCH

*Joyfully loving God,  
wholeheartedly serving others*



WESLEY ODEN, *Senior Pastor*

JON COLE, *Youth Pastor*

CINDY ODEN, *Assistant Pastor*

PAUL SHEA, *Assistant Pastor*

AMANDA COX, *Music and Worship Director*

LAURIE SMALLEY, *Children's Ministry Director*

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**WELCOME BACK POTLUCK LUNCH**  
**JANUARY 28 – NOON in Community Room**



It's a privilege to have students as part of our church!

- We need students to sign up.
- We need folks to bring food to serve.

**Please sign up and drop tear-off in the offering plate or in the box in the foyer today.**

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**

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(Students, remove and turn in)

YES, I/We plan to eat lunch here on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
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(Remove and turn in)

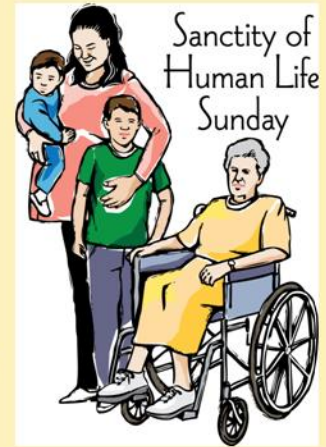
YES, I/We plan to welcome students and will bring a Main Dish and Salad or Dessert.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate [Salad] or [Dessert] with main dish.

**Today is Sanctity of Human Life Sunday**

Every year in the United States alone, more than one million babies are aborted. Statistics show that 50 % of U.S. women who obtain abortions are younger than age 25, and at current rates, nearly one-third of American women will have an abortion. Sanctity of Human Life Sunday, January 21, 2018, is a day to celebrate and focus on choosing life. The Wesleyan Church supports the sanctity of life and those who choose to trust God despite difficulties. January 21, 2018, marks Sanctity of Human Life Sunday, an event observed the third Sunday of every January. Wesleyans are encouraged to observe this day on which many take a stand for human life. Because all human beings are created in the image of God (Genesis 1:27) and are "fearfully and wonderfully made," (Psalm 139:14) abortion grieves his heart. God, the Creator of the universe, deeply values human life and it says so in his Word:



*For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb.*

*I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;*

*Your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.*

*Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.*