

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

11:00 MORNING WORSHIP

MARCH 4, 2018

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

Prelude: *Voluntary on "Love Unknown"*Robert Lind

***Call to Worship**

Let us worship God, who reconciles us to himself through Christ.

We are new creations; the old has gone, the new has come!

Let us worship God as Christ's ambassadors.

***Through us and through our worship
may we announce the good news to all.***

Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.

Praise God! We are reconciled, redeemed, renewed!

***Invocation**

*Hymn 457 ***My Hope is in the Lord***

***Words of Greeting and Peace**

Old Testament Reading: Exodus 26:30-34

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

***Doxology**

Worship through the Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory: *Hymn Prelude on "Just As I Am"*Robin Dinda

Prayer of Confession

Powerful and Forgiving Lord, by enduring the pain of the cross, You have shown us the price love must pay for taking sin seriously. The nails. The crown. The humiliation, mockery and shame You went through delivered us from the stronghold of sin and enabled us to live in the freedom only You can give. Unfortunately, in our contentment we forsake the transforming work of the cross. In our disobedience, we reject the redeeming and forgiving power of the cross. Forgive us, Lord, for the ways in which we do not take our sin as seriously as You do—for what it costs us daily is nothing in comparison to what You have already paid. Help us to reflect on the mercies of Your cross, and as we do, give us the strength and grace to take up our own and to follow. In confessing our sins, let us hear your words of assurance: *In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. 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.

Song of Preparation: ***The Power of the Cross***

*New Testament Reading: Mark 15:33-41

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

*Hymn 151 ***Behold the Savior of Mankind***

Sermon: **The Cross Casts a Shadow on Our Limitations with God**
Pastor Wes Oden

The Lord's Supper

*Hymn ***The Veil is Rent! Lo, Jesus Stands*** (on screen; tune of Hymn 59)

*Benediction

*Congregational Amen (Hymn 656, Threefold)

*Postlude: *Prelude and Fugue in G minor, BWV 558*attr. J. S. Bach

*Please stand if able

Worship Leader: Pastor Jon Cole

Organist: Judy Congdon

Acolyte: Ellie Brubaker & Evie Cox

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: 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. On this Third Sunday in Lent, we encounter the new and often surprising ways in which God works. The cross calls us to see and hear God in our lives in spite of who we are and what we have done. As we open our hearts in worship of God, let's ask God to help us live in openness to Him and to each other

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.

NEXT SUNDAY MORNING is the Fourth Sunday in Lent. During this season, we are contemplating how the shadow of the cross falls on us. Next Sunday's sermon ponders how the cross casts a shadow on our lives. We gather for worship at 8:20, 9:40, and 11:00.

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME begins next Sunday, March 11. Please turn your clocks ahead one hour.

RUSSIAN POTLUCK, MONDAY, MARCH 5 FROM 5-7 in the Community Room bring a dish-to-pass and enjoy fellowship with six wonderful teachers visiting from Russia. Questions, call Kathy Moore, 585-567-8625.

KID'S CLUB starts again on Wednesday, March 7, at 6 pm. Cars and boats for the Buddy Keith Grand Prix are available in Pastor Laurie's office for any K-6th who would like to participate.

HOUGHTON AREA SENIOR CITIZENS MEET THURSDAY, MARCH 8 in the Community Room. At 1:00 p.m. the Greatbach School of Music presents customized musical selections featuring a small percussion and vocal group.

EASTER BAPTISM: If you are interested in being baptized at the 7:45 a.m. Resurrection Service on Easter morning, April 1, please contact Pastor Wes. He will be hosting a preparatory class in mid-March.

MISSIONARY MOMENT – Western NYers, Chris and Melissa George, labor as church planters in Perth, Australia. Pray for Melissa's recovery from recent bone graft surgery, and while healing, for those to fill her ministry shoes. Pray for Chris' work load and for God to provide increased members of their support team. (See **MISSIONARY MAILBAG** in foyer for more missionary news.)

PERSECUTED CHURCH – Unknown to us, but seen by God, are thousands of secret Jesus-followers waiting for the right time to disclose their faith in Christ under threat of death or persecution. We pray for their growth in Christ, for exposure to the Word, for Christian fellowship, and for courage to tell others of their Savior at the right time. (See Open Doors USA for actual stories.)

PASTOR WES'S BLOG: Pastor Wes posts a new blog most Wednesdays. You may subscribe on the church website (www.hwchurch.org) in order to receive an email each week when the blog is posted.

PRAYER CONCERNS: for Skip Lord and family at the death of his mother this week and for all who are grieving; for people with health concerns: Florence Teuber, Roselyn Danner, Izabela Daugherty (Dave and Karen's daughter-in-law), Tim Nichols, Bob Brown, Louise Prinsell, Hudson Hess, Nancy Cole, Brian Orbaker (Charlie and Connie Smith's son-in-law), Peter Lingenfelter, 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 the leaders of our nation; and for Belfast First Baptist Church (Pastor Kyle Franklin).

For more information about church activities, and to read Pastor Wes's weekly blog, visit our website: www.hwchurch.org.



*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*

P.O. Box 127, HOUGHTON, NY 14744-0127 • (585) 567-2264 • WWW.HWCHURCH.ORG