

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
11:00 MORNING WORSHIP DECEMBER 8, 2019

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

Hymn Prelude on “There’s a Voice in the Wilderness Crying” ..Michael Burkhardt
English-born Canadian pastor and author James Lewis Milligan (1876-1961) penned
a hymn text that paraphrases this morning’s Advent readings: “There’s a Voice in
the Wilderness Crying.” Another English-born Canadian, composer Henry Hugh
Bancroft (1904-1988), wrote the tune for this text. Still-living American composer
Michael Burkhardt in turn took Bancroft’s tune and formed the organ setting for
this morning’s prelude. Burkhardt’s cheery setting or Bancroft’s energetic tune
captures well the hope embodied in Isaiah 40:1-5, as paraphrased by Milligan:

*There’s a voice in the wilderness crying, a call from the ways untrod:
Prepare in the desert a highway, a highway for our God!
The valleys shall be exalted, the lofty hills brought low;
make straight all the crooked places where the Lord our God, may go!*

Lighting of the Advent Candle: Nicholas, Bethie, and Evangeline Liddick

*Hymn 119 *Angels from the Realms of Glory*

*Words of Greeting and Peace

Anthem: *The Word was Made Flesh*James Woodman

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: *Thanks be to God!*

**Gloria Patri*

Worship through the Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory: *Advent Meditation*Michael Larkin

Prayer of Confession

**Merciful God, how many prophets of your light have we ignored because they
were not what we were looking for? How many times have we ignored voices
crying in the wilderness, “Make straight the way of the Lord?” How many times
have we breathed a sigh of relief, and turned our backs on your messengers,
because they did not speak the message we expected to hear? Help us hear anew,
the cry of those who would lead us to Christ. Tune our ears to your heralds that
we might also testify to your light. And through the coming of Christ, may we
hear your words of pardon and assurance: “If we confess our sins, he will forgive
our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” Amen.**

—adapted from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2008* by B.J. Beu.

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 Response: *Emmanuel*

*New Testament Reading: Matthew 3:1-12

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: *Thanks be to God!*

*Hymn 136 *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

Sermon: **Voices in the Wilderness**
Rev. Dr. Michael Walters

*Hymn 140 *Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne*

*Benediction

*Congregational Amen (Hymn 656, Threefold)

*Postlude: *Hymn Prelude on “Tell Out My Soul”*Paul Manz
**The postlude is based on another hymn appropriate for Advent, “Tell Out My Soul,”
Timothy-Dudley-Smith’s paraphrase of Mary’s song of praise recorded in Luke 1:46-55
(tune *Woodlands*, by Walter Greatorex).**

Tell out my soul, the greatness of the Lord! Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;

Tender to me the promise of his word; in God my Savior shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out my soul, the greatness of his Name! Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;

His mercy sure, from age to age the same; his holy Name—the Lord, the Mighty One.

*Please stand if able

Worship Leader: Sarah Derck

Organist: Judy Congdon

Acolyte: Zoey Clem

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
and is available during services.

CHILDREN’S CHURCH: Preschool Children ages 2-5 are dismissed during
the song before the sermon: they meet in the Nursery (Christian Education
Building)

There are **KID’S BAGS AND BIBLES** available in the bookshelf on the left side
of the foyer next to the Men’s restroom.

WELCOME TO THE HOUGHTON WESLEYAN CHURCH. Advent is a bittersweet
time: it’s a time of hopeful anticipation for what God is going to do and a time of
painful waiting for God to do what He has promised. Today, we are reminded that
the promises of old are still true and that the presence of God with us is still real.

GUEST PREACHER. We are pleased to welcome the Rev. Dr. J. Michael Walters
today. Dr. Walters was the Senior Pastor of this church for 13 years and taught at
Houghton College for 20 years.

NEXT SUNDAY MORNING is the Third Sunday of Advent. Join us for worship at
8:20, 9:40 and 11:00.

TONIGHT: *Koinonia meets in the Recital Hall (7:00 p.m.)*

WEEKLY ADVENT DEVOTIONALS are available in the sanctuary foyer. Please take as many as you need. There are also **Children's Advent Activities** in the Children's Corner of the foyer.

WEDNESDAY PRAYER GROUP does not meet. (resumes January 8)

CELEBRATE RECOVERY meets Thursday Evenings, 7-9 PM in the Good Shepherd Room. CR is a safe place to share hurts, habits and hang-ups.

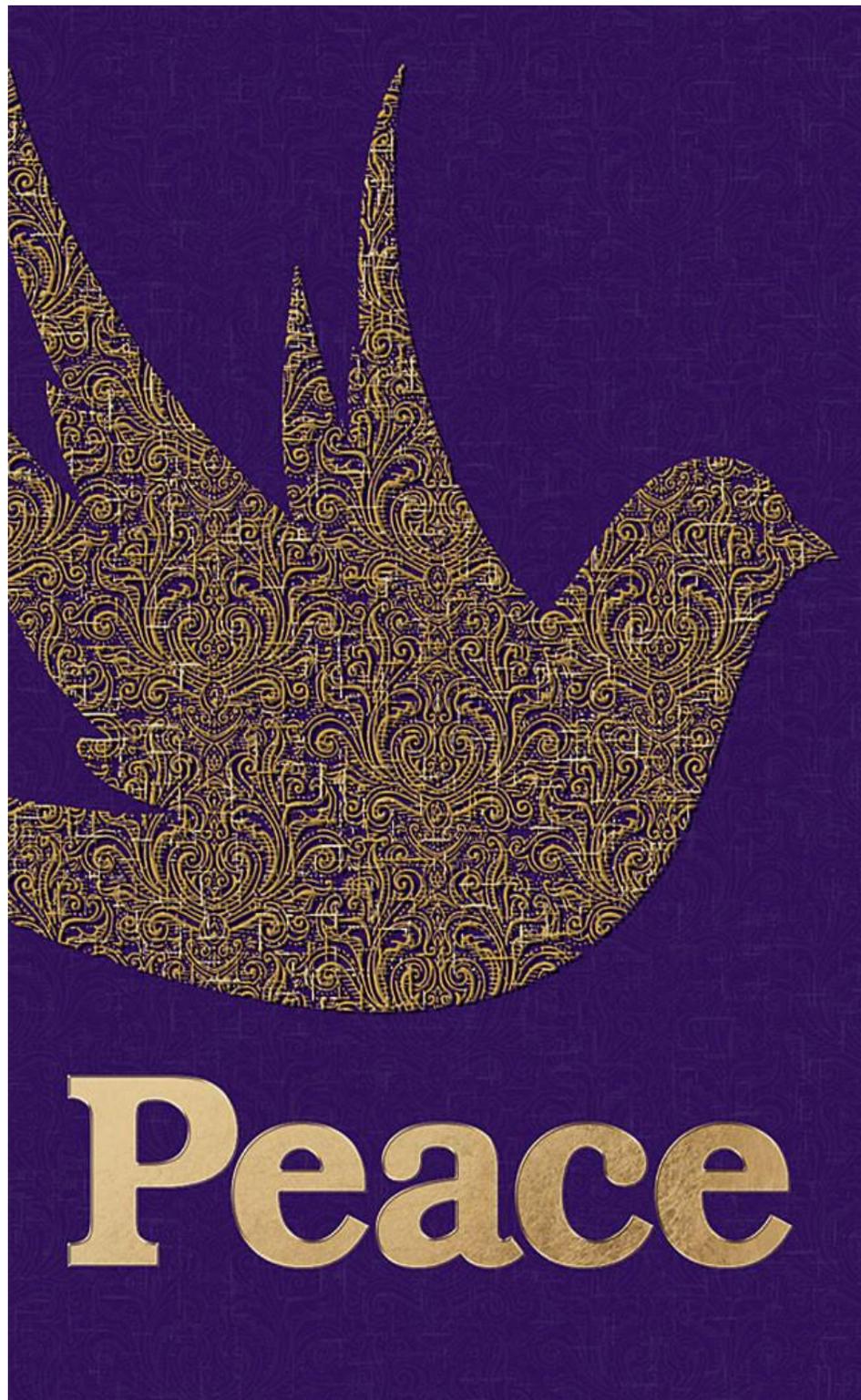
MISSION MOMENT – Jim and Karen Szymanski largely promote the work of TEN3 by speaking in churches in North America and by prayer ministry. We pray for their work on behalf of believers in Africa, and especially as Karen back surgery this week. TEN3 uses computers, education and other means to lift communities and spread the Gospel in Africa.

THE PERSECUTED CHURCH: Shocking news – Last Sunday armed men stormed a church in Hantoukoura, Burkina Faso. The Pastor and 13 worships were killed, including one 12-year-old. This is another in a wave of violence against Christians by extremist groups. Our brothers and sisters in Burkina Faso need our urgent prayers. (Open Doors USA)

STEWARDSHIP Received (June 1—Present): \$ 384,289.93
 Budgeted (June 1—Present): \$ 417,623.31

PRAYER CONCERNS: for all who are grieving; for people with health concerns: Diane Emmons, Chris Stewart, Karen Szymanski, Cindy Lastoria, Leonard Watson, Jerry Isaman (Joe Breton's step-father), Mark Mayhle (Doug's brother), Paulette Schierer, Ruby Schierer Williams, Elly Plaza (Alejandra Koch's sister), Jeshu, Kurtis and Eliyah Perry, Reuben Samuels, Debbie Alderman Wilson, The Marsh Family, Jon Retz, Emily Hood (A.C. Taylor's cousin), Bob Brown, Bill Getty, Nancy Cole, Eileen Spear, Evelyn Heil, Dan Gurley, Bethie Liddick, Bev Rhett, Phil Main, Emily Crikelair, Mike Raybuck, Sheldon Emerson (Darby Luckey's brother), Eila Shea, Izabela Daugherty (Dave and Karen's daughter-in-law), Peter Lingenfelter; for the injured and grieving from tragedies and disasters; for refugees; for peace amid threats of war; for the leaders of our government; for Eastern Hills Wesleyan Church, Williamsville (Pastor Pat Jones).

For more information about church activities, and to read the December Highlights Newsletter, visit our website: www.hwchurch.org.

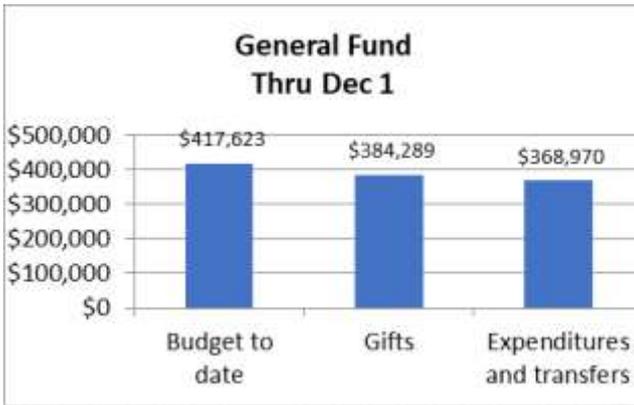


STEWARDSHIP *A Life of Generosity*

Thanksgiving is a time to reflect on God's grace to us as a body and as individuals. We have much to be thankful for. Everything we have and everything we are is a gift from God. We are free to give because our Heavenly Father freely gives. One way God uses us to bless others is through our giving to the church.

Among many other things, our giving to Houghton Wesleyan Church helps young people know about God's love and promises through the children and youth ministries; the Food Pantry provides nourishing food for families in need; the music ministry team helps us worship with relevant songs and beautiful music; and the missions ministry provides ongoing support and encouragement for missionaries.

Thank you for enabling all these things through your faithful support. Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for men, for he satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things." Psalm 107: 8-9 (NIV).



REMINDER: All Gifts for Calendar Year 2019 need to be:

- Given in church on December 30 or delivered to the church office by the 31st
- Mailed with a postmark date of December 31st or earlier
- Given on-line by 2:00 pm on December 31st in order to ensure a transaction date in 2019

CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING 2019

Canaan, Haiti School Project

Goal \$20,000

Classroom Completion and Solar Power

WHERE: Canaan is a sprawling city 20 miles from Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

Almost all residents' former homes and belongings were destroyed in the devastating 2010 earthquake. The Wesleyan Church has a strong presence and a school in a section of Canaan with over 5,000 people.

WHAT: World Hope International and the WNY District Wesleyan Churches and friends have committed to long term development of school, community center, water and power, and Child Sponsorship projects. Houghton Wesleyan is excited to join this effort this Christmas.

HOW: Our gifts will help complete much needed classrooms and upgrade solar power supply. Hundreds of children attend our Wesleyan school under the local church's leadership.



HWC and friends may give to the Christmas Eve Offering:

- ◆ **By check through December 24th with note, “Haiti Christmas Offering” on memo**
- ◆ One-time December 24th Offering by cash or check or
- ◆ **Online Giving at www.hwchurch.org “Haiti Christmas Offering”**



Live Nativity at Kids Club Family Christmas Party & Dinner December 11, 5:45 - 7:15

The December 11th Kids' Club starts at 5:45 for our Family Celebration. Parents are asked to bring a dozen cookies or another holiday snack to complement our pizza supper. Kids, we hope to see you and your families there for songs, crafts, and our living nativity.



Next Sunday-



Carol Sing and Cookie Reception

December 15 at 5:00 p.m.
Bring your instruments.

Bring a plate of cookies to share (leave them in the church kitchen) before joining voices in celebrating our annual Carol Sing in the sanctuary.

HWC College Ministries Christmas Caroling December 15th



The College Ministry Committee invites you to join us at 2:00pm in the Community Room on December 15th for an afternoon of Christmas Caroling throughout the community and at the Nursing Home. Hot chocolate and homemade cookies by Noah Weuthrich will be served afterward in Room 105 across from the church Library. All are invited! The best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear!



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 14. If you care to purchase one, please leave \$12.00 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 information with Patty by December 17.



Jr. Church COAT DRIVE

Once again, Jr. Church is accepting donations of winter coats, hats, and gloves for a local charity through the month of December! If you have items to donate, please drop them by either Emily and Ann's office, the primary assembly room, or the box in the CE foyer. Thanks!



SUNDAY SCHEDULE FOR THE HOLIDAYS

December 15 Worship Services 8:20 a.m., 9:40 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
(Final Sunday School classes until January 12)

2:00 p.m. Community & Nursing Home Christmas Caroling with College students; gather in the Community Room and ends in Room 105 for hot chocolate and homemade cookies by Noah Weuthrich. All are invited.

5:00 p.m. Carol Sing/Cookie Reception (Bring your instruments)

December 22, 29 & January 5: Worship Service at 10:00 a.m. (no Sunday School)

January 12 Worship Services: 8:20 a.m., 9:40 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
Small Groups resume meeting

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES DECEMBER 24

5:00 p.m. Includes a special time for children

7:00 p.m. Candles, carols, and the reading of the Christmas story