

# FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

10:00 MORNING WORSHIP

DECEMBER 29, 2019

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

Prelude: *Improvisation on "Good King Wenceslas"* .....Noel Rawsthorne

\*Call to Worship (from John 1)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning.

***Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all humankind.***

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

***The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.***

\*Hymn 115 ***Joy to the World!***

\*Words of Greeting and Peace

Old Testament Reading: Psalm 2

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

***All: Thanks be to God!***

\*We Sing in Adoration: ***Light of the World  
Welcome to Our World***

\****Doxology***

Worship through the Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory: *Unto Us* .....JJ Heller

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.*

\*New Testament Reading: Matthew 2:13-23

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

***All: Thanks be to God!***

\*Song of Preparation ***Show us Christ*** (children released)

Sermon: **The Nightmare after Christmas**  
Rev. Dr. Michael Walters

\*Hymn 114 ***Savior of the Nations, Come***

\*Benediction

\*Congregational Amen (Hymn 656, Threefold)

\*Postlude: *Improvisation on "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing"* .....Noel Rawsthorne

\*Please stand if able  
Organist: Judy Congdon

Scripture Reader: Doug Gaerte  
Acolyte: Lauren Cox and Grayson Cox

Music Ministry Team:  
Evie Cox, vocals; Matt Cox, guitar & vocals;  
Amanda Cox, piano & vocals

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 and is available during services.

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

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH:** During the 10:00 services, we will staff 2 children's church rooms. Room 116 will have the 2-3 year olds and Room 115 will have the preschooler 4-5 year olds.

**JUNIOR CHURCH AND SUNDAY SCHOOL** will begin again on January 12th.

**WELCOME TO THE HOUGHTON WESLEYAN CHURCH.** This morning we continue to celebrate the coming of Christ in human flesh even as we stand on the precipice of a new year. It is because Christ is born that we approach the new year in a spirit of hope and anticipation for what God is going to do in all of the circumstances of life. In this hour of worship, may God fill us with the hope of Christ.

**NEXT SUNDAY MORNING** we gather for one worship service at 10:00.

**THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED** for the holiday on January 1.

**CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING:** We give thanks to God and to all who gave generously to our Christmas Eve offering. If you have not given and would like to, please mark a check "Christmas Eve Offering" or make this designation for your online gift.

**COATS & WINTER GEAR NEEDED:** Through the end of the year, Jr. Church is once again collecting coats and winter gear to give to Wellspring for local families in need. They've already filled one large box but can always use more. Please drop off your new or gently used winter wear to the box in the foyer of the Christian education building. Thank you!

**STEWARDSHIP**

Received (June 1—Present): \$434,571.89 / Budgeted (June 1—Present): \$464,025.90

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

- Given in church today 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

**MISSION MOMENT** – We praise God for the privilege as HWC of partnering with over 30 Kingdom workers around the globe. We pray for them as they enter a new year of ministry in the Name of Jesus.

**PERSECUTED CHURCH** – Our prayer: “Lord Jesus, strengthen and be near all believers who face oppression and uncertainty in the year ahead. My God be glorified as they let the light of Christ shine in the midst of suffering. May Your Kingdom come and Your will be done on earth.”

**HOLIDAY SERVICES**

Sunday, January 5 10:00 a.m. – Worship Service

Sunday, January 12 8:20 a.m., 9:40 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. – Worship Services

**PRAYER CONCERNS:** for all who are grieving; for the youth and leadership at the Follow Youth Convention in Cincinnati (December 28-31); for people with health concerns: Diane Emmons, Chris Stewart, Karen Szymanski, Phyllis Osgood, 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 Elijah 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, 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 2020 to be a blessed year of ministry in the Churches of WNY.

