

Prelude: *Alleluias* (Robert Lau)

Welcome

**Call to Worship**

If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come; the old has gone, the new is here!

***All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them.***

We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us.

We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God!

***God made him who had no sin to be sin for us,  
so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.***

We know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.

***So then, just as we received Christ Jesus as Lord, let us continue to live our lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as we were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness!***

Opening Prayer

Hymn of Praise: ***We Know that Christ is Raised***

Words of Greeting and Peace

Celebration of Ministry: Local Outreach

Children's Sermon

Old Testament Reading: Malachi 1:6-14

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord. ***All: Thanks be to God!***

Songs of Adoration: ***Remember; Champion; He is Lord***

Ministry in Music: *Worn*

Prayer of Confession

**Merciful Lord, You have told us that if we love You, then we are to do so with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength. While knowing this command, we confess that instead of living in total surrender, we have resolved to give You 'just enough.' We declare 'You are Lord' with our mouths, but we do not affirm it with our lives. We follow the path of ease and comfort instead of choosing to live in faithful obedience. We hoard all that we can instead of trusting You for our daily bread. We seek vain recognition instead of bringing You glory. Forgive us, Lord—our thoughts, attitudes and actions that have hindered us and other people from experiencing Your great love. Amen.**

Time of Prayer

*Please feel free sit, stand, or kneel as we bow in humility before our loving heavenly Father.*

New Testament Reading: Philemon

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord. ***All: Thanks be to God!***

Hymn of Preparation 423: ***May the Mind of Christ My Savior***

Sermon: **What is the Personality of the Kingdom?**

Pastor Wes Oden

Song of Response: ***All the Poor and Powerless***

Benediction

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Organist: Judy Congdon Scripture Readers: Sunshine Sullivan and Ken Schenck

Music Ministry Team:

Alison Young Reusser guitar & vocals; Jeff Babbitt, vocals;  
Amanda Cox, piano & vocals; Bekah Brennan, keyboard & vocals

**WELCOME TO THE HOUGHTON WESLEYAN CHURCH.** We continue in the season that celebrates the great victory of God in Christ. The seven weeks of Easter season prompts us to rejoice that Christ has defeated death and that we are offered life through Him. Our worship today reflects the joy in our hearts for all that this season means for us.

**NEXT SUNDAY MORNING** we continue our celebration of the Easter Season by thinking about nuances of the kingdom of God. Worship is online at 10:00 a.m. Pastor Wes's sermon, *What Is the Future of the Kingdom* is from Revelation 21.

**STAYING CONNECTED:** During this unusual time, we want to stay as connected to you as possible. Pastor Wes is sending out a weekly update that can be accessed through email, text or the church website and Facebook pages. Pastor Wes is also creating a weekly video update that is sent and posted on Thursdays. If you have not received these either through email or text and would like to do so, please send your preference and information to [office@hwchurch.org](mailto:office@hwchurch.org).

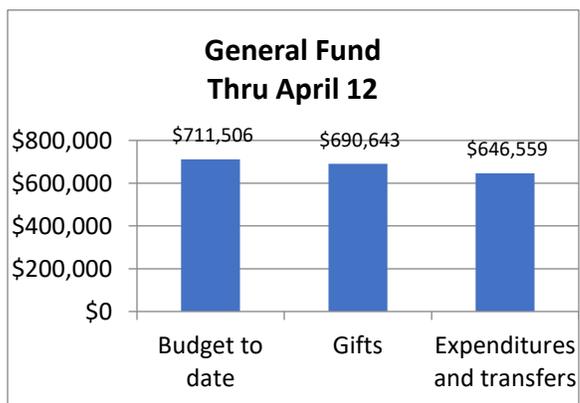
**24-HR PRAYER VIGIL** each week from Wed. at 6:30 to Thurs. at 6:30 p.m. Reserve a 15-minute time with two friends [HERE](#).

**STEWARDSHIP** Received (June 1–Present): \$690,643.27 Budgeted (June 1–Present): \$711,506.38

**MISSION MOMENT** - Did you know that our missions connections and families circle the globe in many unseen corners. This week we heard from Wesleyan church leaders in Mongolia, Nepal, Bangladesh, and India through a Global Partners on-line conference call. Many pastors and lay folks in rural and urban settings are suffering as unemployed or isolated day workers. Under imposed lockdowns many families are scrambling to even get one meal a day. Yet, many of our churches and people are sharing sacrificially to care for their people and neighbors. Believers from house churches in one Asian country have sent funds to help neighboring countries. God is at work and Jesus' is on display. We pray and seek to be part of God's hands and feet in this hour of need. Contact Pastor Shea if you would more info to help.

**PRAYER CONCERNS:** for the Mucher family at the death of Jason's sister-in-law; for the family of Rev. Paul Markell and for all who are grieving; for people with health concerns: Chelsea Ellis, Lia, Victoria, and Evan O'Gorman, Keith Rugg (Kathy Moore's father), Robin Pawling, Karen Szymanski, Cindy Lastoria, Leonard Watson, Mark Mayhle (Doug's brother), Paulette Schierer, Ruby Schierer Williams, Elly Plaza (Alejandra Koch's sister), Jeshu, Kurtis and Eliyah Perry, Reuben Samuels, 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, Phil Main, Emily Crikelair, Mike Raybuck, Eila Shea, Izabela Daugherty (Dave and Karen's daughter-in-law), Peter Lingenfelter; for all effected by the coronavirus, for healthcare professionals and for leaders helping the world navigate it; for the injured and grieving from tragedies and disasters; for refugees; for peace amid threats of war; for the leaders of our government; for Belfast United Methodist Church (Pastor Craig Buelow).

## STEWARDSHIP *A Life of Generosity*



A generous lifestyle is a way of living that reflects intentionally a life touched by God. It is living with eyes opened for opportunities to give (financially and otherwise) even to total strangers, to give repeatedly, and to give often. It is gratitude in action.

A generous life follows John Wesley's admonition to "give all you can." Even in times of personal scarcity, a generous life looks to the interests of others more than self.

At a time when many of us are "hunkering down" and concerned for our own family's health and safety, we need to find ways to help others. Focusing on others over ourselves takes our mind from the crippling fears that cause us to do nothing but spiral downward.

Be a voice of Hope - Let others know that God is with us and God is for us! (Psalm 46)

What does the Bible say about giving?

Giving is meant to be a joyful expression of thanks to God from the heart, not a legalistic obligation. "Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. (2 Corinthians 9:7, NIV)

Our attitude in giving is more important than the amount of our gift. In Luke's account of the poor widow giving two coins at the temple, Jesus watched everyone putting their offerings into the money box, but he stopped to comment on the widow. "Truly I tell you," he said, "this poor widow has put in more than all the others." (Luke 21:3 NIV) Perhaps what Jesus appreciated most was her attitude and her willingness to give.

Our financial giving reveals a picture of our lives surrendered to God. "Therefore, I urge you brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship." (Romans 12:1) NIV. When we truly recognize all that Christ has done for us, we'll want to offer ourselves wholly to God as a living sacrifice of worship to him. Our offerings (financial and otherwise) will flow freely from a heart of gratitude.

As you continue to serve God, may you find freedom and joy in the discipline and obedience of generosity.