

Prelude: *Alleluias* (Robert Lau)

Welcome

**Call to Worship**

Out of the darkness of grief and despair comes a message of hope: Christ is risen!

***Christ is risen, indeed!***

We run to the tomb to see for ourselves. And it is true. Christ is risen!

***Christ is risen, indeed!***

We hear a voice call our name, and we know our risen Lord is with us now and always. Christ is risen!

***Christ is risen, indeed! Thanks be to God! Alleluia!***

Opening Prayer

Hymn of Praise 179: ***Christ is Risen, Raise Your Voices***

Words of Greeting and Peace

Celebration of Ministry: College Ministries

Children's Sermon

Songs of Adoration: ***Amen (Because He Lives); Death Was Arrested***

Ministry in Music: *Even If*

Prayer of Confession

**Almighty God, we confess that we often fail in our calling to be Your holy people, a people set apart for Your divine purposes. We are often more cynical than hopeful. We are moved more by private ambition than by justice for those who need it most. We dream more of privilege and benefits than of service and sacrifice. We too often try to live in our own power rather than yours. Forgive us, revive us, and reshape us in Your image, reminding us that though our sins are as scarlet, in your grace, they are made white as snow. Amen.**

Time of Prayer

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

Quartet: *Great Gettin' Up Morning'* (recorded 2017)

Mike Cox, Wes Oden, Ralph Kerr, Daryl Stevenson

New Testament Reading: Revelation 21

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

Song of Preparation: ***Revelation Song***

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

Pastor Wes Oden

Hymn of Response 103: ***I Will Sing the Wondrous Story***

Benediction

Postlude: *Hail Thee, Festival Day* (arr. Michael Burkhardt)

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Organist: Judy Congdon

Scripture Reader: Nuk Kongkaw

Music Ministry Team:

Andrew Silbert, guitar & vocals; Kristen Sanasith, vocals;  
Amanda Cox, piano & vocals; Betsy Webb, keyboard; Alison Young Reusser, cajón

**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 as citizens of his kingdom. Our worship today leads us to think about the future of the kingdom.

**NEXT SUNDAY MORNING** Pastor Wes leads us to think about the reach of the kingdom (1 Kings 20). Join us for online worship 10:00 a.m.

**STAYING CONNECTED:** During this unusual time, we want to stay as connected to you as possible. Pastor Wes is sending out a weekly letter on Tuesdays and video on Thursdays. Both are distributed through email and text, and may be accessed on the church website ([hwchurch.org](http://hwchurch.org)) and Facebook pages. If you are not receiving these communications and would like to do so, please send your contact information to [office@hwchurch.org](mailto:office@hwchurch.org).

**WEEKLY 24-HR PRAYER VIGIL:** Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. to Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. sign up with friends for 15 minutes. Sign up [here](#) (each time allows three people to sign up). Resources are available at <https://www.hwchurch.org/prayer/>

**A TIME OF WORSHIP** will be streamed on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. This week Judy Congdon will play an Eastertide themed organ meditation.

**STEWARDSHIP** Received (June 1–Present): \$708,084.27 Budgeted (June 1–Present): \$726,973.91

**YOUTH GROUP:** Houghton/Fillmore Wesleyan Church Online Youth Group is hosting a Zoom meeting every Sunday at 6:00 p.m. Pastor Jon will make a link available prior to the gathering.

**MISSION MOMENT** – Let us remember Stacia Niver, our WNY missionary to Eastern Europe. She notes that in this time of Corvid-19 their country like ours discourages social contact. Her main ministry is meeting face to face with people so this is a time of adjusting and adapting friendship and ministry contacts. Pray for her and our whole Europe ministry partners as they seek new ways to spread the Good News.

**PERSECUTED CHURCH** – The surge of online services and ministry we experience here is paralleled by new opportunities for house churches and ministries in closed and restricted countries, but with both blessings and dangers. Some authorities have used this time to crack down on Christian activity. We pray that God will strengthen the courage and creativity of believers in Asian countries, indeed everywhere, so that the Good News reaches new people hungry for new life in Christ. We pray for safety so that newer harsh crackdowns on believers will be thwarted.

**PRAYER CONCERNS:** for all who are grieving; for people with health concerns: Wendy Ott, Lia, Victoria, and Evan O’Gorman, Keith Rugg (Kathy Moore’s father), 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 Elijah 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 the Oramel Community Church (Pastor Charlie Little).