

Prelude: *Crown Him with Many Crowns* (arr. Matthew Corl)

Welcome

Call to Worship

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand.

And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.

And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.

Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die.

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Opening Prayer

Hymn of Praise 97: ***Jesus, What a Friend for Sinners!***

Words of Greeting and Peace

Missions Moment: Global Partners

Children's Sermon

Scripture Reading: Ezekiel 37:1-14

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

Songs of Adoration: ***This is Amazing Grace; Great are You, Lord***

Ministry in Music: *Is He Worthy?*

Prayer of Confession

Eternal God, giver of every good and perfect gift, we bow before you acknowledging our corporate sin and our need for corporate forgiveness. In this past week, as your people, we have doubted Your goodness, we have pursued the idols of wealth and possessions, we have lusted for power, we have spoken harsh words and ignored people who are in need. Most grievously, we have been consciously and subconsciously negligent to give thanks for your blessings. As your people, forgive us and lead us in the way to everlasting life through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Time of Prayer

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

Scripture Reading: John 10:1-10

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

Hymn of Preparation 86: ***My Jesus, I Love Thee***

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

Pastor Wes Oden

Song of Response: ***Behold our God***

Benediction

Organist: Judy Congdon Scripture Readers: Emily Allen & David Huizenga

Music Ministry Team:

Alison Young Reusser, guitar & vocals; Mike Cox, vocals;
Amanda Cox, piano & vocals; Bekah Brennan, keyboard & vocals; Dan Zambrano, cajón

WELCOME TO THE HOUGHTON WESLEYAN CHURCH. As the Easter season continues, we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus and the promise of our resurrection as well. On this day when we celebrate God's gift of human relationships, we give thanks for mothers and family, recognizing that all of our human relationships are rooted in our relationship as children of our heavenly Father.

NO YOUTH ZOOM MEETING Tonight (Mother's Day)

THURSDAY WORSHIP: You are invited to join in a second Hymn Sing with our congregation leading us in various hymns. Be a part of this time together Thursday, May 1, 6:30pm. You may access the gathering through the regular streaming venues.

NEXT SUNDAY MORNING Pastor Wes leads us to think about the tension of the kingdom (Jeremiah 29; 1 Corinthians 15). Join us for online worship 10:00 a.m.

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

STEWARDSHIP Received (June 1–Present): \$743,810.13 Budgeted (June 1–Present): \$757,908.97

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) 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.

MISSION MOMENT – Our missionaries are stationed all over, from Asia to Europe to Africa and more. Today we report hearing from Joel and Barbara Trudell in South Africa where they report the COVID 19 threat has been taken seriously with measures to protect the poor and vulnerable. Meanwhile they continue pan Africa leadership on projects such as refugee elementary education in rural Uganda, and local language Scripture use in Kenya. Let's pray for the Trudells.

PERSECUTED CHURCH – In S. East Asia, a few weeks ago a pastor reported that three of his families had homes destroyed by traditional religionists for abandoning local beliefs to follow Jesus. They were chased a second time from hiding but fortunately Christians in a neighboring district have supplied housing and food. We pray for thousands persecuted for following Christ over fear of evil spirits. (Open Doors USA) One of our HWC missionaries also works in this land.

PRAYER CONCERNS: for families who feel the grief of loss on this family day and for all who are grieving; for people with health concerns: Marge Watson, 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 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—grieving, ill, healthcare professionals, the workforce at risk and leaders; 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 Short Tract United Methodist Church (Pastor Marian Luce).

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.

