

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

NOVEMBER 29, 2020

10:00 STREAMING SERVICE

Prelude: *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence* (arr. Noel Rawsthorne)

Welcome

Lighting of the Advent Candle: The Romance Family

Opening Prayer

Hymn of Praise 109: *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

Words of Greeting and Peace

Children's Sermon: The Ogden Family

Songs of Adoration: *Do it Again; Even So, Come*

Song: *Magnificat* (Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, Stuart Townend)

Prayer of Confession

**Father, in this season of Advent, when we grasp for power and things,
remind us that Christ came in weakness,
in humility as a child. When we allow darkness to overcome the light, forgive us Lord.
When we reduce Christmas to things, have mercy on us, Father.
When hardness of heart keeps us from seeing and believing in Your Son, let your grace fill us. Forgive
our doubt and renew our hope in Christ alone, that we may watch and wait and once more rejoice
to hear the glad story of our Savior, 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: Luke 1:5-25

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

Hymn of Preparation 116: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

Sermon: **But We Don't Understand**

Pastor Wes Oden

Song: *Is He Worthy?*

Benediction

Organist: Judy Congdon

Scripture Reader: Andrew Oden

Music Ministry Team:

Jeff Babbitt, vocals; Caleb Hilsher, guitar & vocals; Amanda Cox, piano & vocals;
Betsy Webb, keyboard & vocals; Simon Sardina, cajón

*The rose on the pulpit is in honor of the birth of Samuel James Spateholts on November 10, 2020
to Emily, Michael and big sister, Sarah.*

WELCOME TO THE HOUGHTON WESLEYAN CHURCH. The season of Advent is a time of expectancy and preparation. As the world centers much of its attention upon the commercialization of Christmas, Advent is a time for Christians to prepare—body, mind and spirit—to celebrate the birth of the Savior. As we prepare, let us open ourselves to the truths of God’s word and to the leading of the Holy Spirit to make Christ the center of our Christmas.

YOUTH GROUP: Youth group this week, Nov 29, will be 5-6pm for both Jr and Sr high. Pastor Elijah Shamenda will be speaking about racism. We will meet in the gym: masks and social distancing required.

NEXT SUNDAY MORNING is the Second Sunday of Advent. We invite you to join us for streaming worship at 10:00 and outdoor worship at 11:15. Pastor Wes will preach about the naming of John the Baptist as a sign of God’s purposes for his people (Luke 1:57-66) and our response: *But Isn’t It About Us?*

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD: We have blessed 111 children in need of Christ's love with Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts! Thank you for your compassion and prayers in creating these presents and sending the good news of Jesus to others. There is still time before to pack a box online at our church link [here](#) before December 5.

POINSETTIAS: The church welcomes your Christmas poinsettias to help beautify the sanctuary for Christmas. We have ordered a number of poinsettias for \$12.00 each or you may bring your own to drop off at the Church office by December 18th. If you would like to purchase one or more poinsettias, you may use the online giving option, mail a check to the church (indicate poinsettias), or drop off payment at the church office. If you wish to purchase or donate a poinsettia in memory or in honor of a loved one, please email Patty at pattystalker@hwchurch.org or call Patty (567-2264) with your information by December 17th. Thank you.

STEWARDSHIP: Budget Needed: \$394,124.50 / **Budget Received:** \$369,235.33

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE: Due to the continuing rise of Covid-19 cases in our area, we will not be gathering for Christmas Eve Services in the building this year. We are putting together a service that we will stream on Christmas Eve. More details will be coming as we draw nearer to the 24th.

CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING: Every year our church receives a generous offering at Christmas for mission outreach. This year’s project is for Houghton Academy’s international student boarding program which has suffered Covid 19 setbacks. Our gift towards new Scholarships for Missionary Kids/Third Culture Kids and exchange partnerships with international Christian schools is a first step in jump starting this outreach. You may give online through the church web site, by mail or by dropping off a gift at the church office.

MISSION MOMENT - We join Kevin and Cindy Austin in Czech Republic as they pray for spiritual fruit despite limited ministries due to pandemic restrictions. They are thankful for Zoom Bible Studies, outdoor neighborhood walks and other unique contacts to touch lives for Christ.

PERSECUTED CHURCH - We pray for silenced believers in North Korea, which ranks high in nations suppressing Christians. As we thank God for our freedoms let’s remember those around the world suffering for their faith.

PRAYER CONCERNS: for all who are grieving; for people with health concerns: Nate Esh, Calvin Schierer, Sarah Gurley, Grace Taylor, Wendy Ott, Chelsea Ellis, Keith Rugg (Kathy Moore’s father), Karen Szymanski, Cindy Lastoria, Leonard Watson, Mark Mayhle (Doug’s brother), Jeshu, Kurtis and Eliyah Perry, Reuben Samuels, Emily Hood (A.C. Taylor’s cousin), Bill Getty, Nancy Cole, Eileen Spear, Evelyn Heil, Dan Gurley, 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 and for our response to the recent elections; for the logistics and safety of faculty, staff and students at all of our area public schools as well as Houghton College and Houghton Academy; for the Houghton Rehabilitation and Nursing Center; for the Evangelical Methodist Church, Scio (Pastor Carl Kemp).

For more information about church activities visit our website: www.hwchurch.org.