

WELCOME TO THE HOUGHTON WESLEYAN CHURCH. Advent is a bittersweet time: it's a time of hopeful anticipation for what God is going to do and a time of painful waiting for God to do what He has promised. Today, we are reminded that the promises of old are still true and that the presence of God with us is still real.

YOUTH GROUP MEETS TODAY: Junior High (3:00-4:00) and Senior High (5:00-6:00). Youth Group will meet in the church gym wearing masks and practicing social distancing.

TONIGHT AT 6:30 enjoy a reposting of **CAROL SING 2017** [HERE](https://youtu.be/UoD4reGrp0M) (<https://youtu.be/UoD4reGrp0M>) Next Sunday we will repost Carol Sing 2018 and on December 20 we will enjoy Carol Sing 2019.

THURSDAY EVENING AT 6:30 we are streaming a Christmas Carol Hymn Sing. Many from the congregation have recorded a Christmas carol all of which will be streamed (through all of the regular channels, [the website](#) and [Facebook](#)) this Thursday at 6:30pm. We might be unable to gather for our annual Carol Sing but this gives us the opportunity to join our hearts and voices in our favorite carols nonetheless.

NEXT SUNDAY MORNING is the Third 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 angel's conversation with Joseph about taking Mary as his wife (Matthew 1:18-25) and our response: *But What Will People Think?*

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD: While our church-wide effort to pack online Operation Christmas Child boxes ends December 5th, you can still pack a virtual shoebox on the Samaritan's Purse link [here](#) until the end of the month. The website has informative and moving family friendly videos that confirm the effectiveness of this vital ministry. We encourage you to watch and pack gifts for needy children and their families

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.

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.

STEWARDSHIP Budget Needed: \$409,889.48 / **Budget Received:** \$374,831.12

MISSION MOMENT - On the other side of the world, Chris and Melissa George are going full steam in church ministry and community outreach in Perth, Australia. A recent thanksgiving fun activity day with 900 students and the upcoming Christmas activities keep them very busy. The region thankfully seems COVID-19 free so opportunities abound. Pray for strength and spiritual fruit.

PERSECUTED CHURCH - A recent ruthless Boko Haram massacre of over 70 farm workers in northern Nigeria reminds us to pray fervently for God to intervene against violent Muslim Islamist forces that oppose to the Gospel and civil peace across West Africa.

PRAYER CONCERNS: for the family of Beulah Avery and 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 Freedom Baptist Church (Pastor Robert Downer).

Outdoor Worship Service

Second Sunday of Advent
December 6, 2020 at 11:15am

Welcome & Opening Prayer

Songs of Adoration:
Angels from the Realms of Glory
Hope is Alive
Who Would Have Dreamed?

Time of Prayer

Scripture Reading: Luke 1:57-66
Leader: This is the Word of the Lord. *All: Thanks be to God!*

Sermon: **But Isn't It About Us?**
Pastor Wes Oden

Communion: *Welcome to Our World*

Benediction

Music Ministry Team:
Matt Cox, guitar & vocals; Amanda Cox, vocals; Dan Zambrano, cajón

Luke 1:57-66

⁵⁷ When it was time for Elizabeth to have her baby, she gave birth to a son. ⁵⁸ Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown her great mercy, and they shared her joy.

⁵⁹ On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him after his father Zechariah, ⁶⁰ but his mother spoke up and said, “No! He is to be called John.”

⁶¹ They said to her, “There is no one among your relatives who has that name.”

⁶² Then they made signs to his father, to find out what he would like to name the child. ⁶³ He asked for a writing tablet, and to everyone’s astonishment he wrote, “His name is John.” ⁶⁴ Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue set free, and he began to speak, praising God. ⁶⁵ All the neighbors were filled with awe, and throughout the hill country of Judea people were talking about all these things. ⁶⁶ Everyone who heard this wondered about it, asking, “What then is this child going to be?” For the Lord’s hand was with him.

Angels From The Realms Of Glory

Angels from the realms of glory
Wing your flight o'er all the earth
Ye who sang creation's story
Now proclaim Messiah's birth
Come and worship, come and worship
Worship Christ the newborn King

Shepherds in the field abiding
Watching o'er your flocks by night
God with us is now residing
Yonder shines the infant light
Come and worship, come and worship
Worship Christ the newborn King

Sages leave your contemplations
Brighter visions beam afar
Seek the great Desire of nations
Ye have seen His natal star
Come and worship, come and worship
Worship Christ the newborn King

Saints before the altar bending
Watching long in hope and fear
Suddenly the Lord descending
In His temple shall appear
Come and worship, come and worship
Worship Christ the newborn King

Hope Is Alive

After the silence of waiting so long
We hear a baby's first cry
And into our midnight
A heavenly song whispers
that hope is alive
Oh joy to the world
on this holy night

**So sing with the angels
that fill up the sky
Heaven broke through
and now hope is alive
He is right here among us
our God is with us tonight
And hope is alive**

In an old stable beneath the bright stars
A young mother is holding her son
Oh the beauty of feeling
the beat of God's heart
That tells us that we're not alone
Oh our Emmanuel has come

**So sing with the angels
that fill up the sky
Heaven broke through
and now hope is alive
He is right here among us
our God is with us tonight**

Into our aching into our breaking
Into our longing to be made whole
Your arms are reaching
Your love is holding us close
And into our suffering
into our weeping
Into this need
we have to be known
Your arms are reaching
Your love is holding us close

**So sing with the angels
that fill up the sky
Those in the shadows
have seen a great light
He is right here among us
our God is with us tonight
So sing with the angels
that fill up the sky
Heaven broke through
and now hope is alive
He is right here among us
our God is with us tonight
And hope is alive**

Who Would Have Dreamed

On a starlit hillside
shepherds watched their sheep
Slowly David's city
drifted off to sleep
But to this little town
of no great renown
The Lord had a promise to keep

Prophets had foretold it
a mighty King would come
Long awaited Ruler God's
Anointed One
But the Sovereign of all
looked helpless and small
As God gave the world
His own Son

***And who would have dreamed
or ever foreseen
That we could hold
God in our hands***

***The Giver of Life
is born in the night
Revealing God's glorious plan
To save the world***

Wondrous gift of heaven
the Father sends the Son
Planned from time eternal moved
by holy love
He will carry our curse and death
He'll reverse
So we can be daughters and sons

Chorus

Welcome to Our World

Tears are falling
Hearts are breaking
How we need to hear from God
You've been promised
We've been waiting
Welcome holy Child
Welcome holy Child

Hope that You
don't mind our manger
How I wish we would have known
But long-awaited holy Stranger
Make Yourself at home
Please make Yourself at home

Bring Your peace
Into our violence
Bid our hungry souls be filled
Word now breaking
heaven's silence
Welcome to our world
Welcome to our world

Fragile finger sent to heal us
Tender brow prepared for thorn
Tiny heart whose blood
will save us
Unto us is born
Unto us is born

So wrap our injured flesh
around You
Breathe our air and walk our sod
Rob our sin and make us holy
Perfect Son of God
Perfect Son of God
Welcome to our world

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