

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 6, 2020

10:00 STREAMING SERVICE

Prelude: Hymn Preludes on "O Come, Emmanuel" by Wilbur Held and Noel Rawsthorne

Welcome

Lighting of the Advent Candle: The Adenuga Family

Opening Prayer

Hymn of Praise 119: *Angels from the Realms of Glory*

Words of Greeting and Peace

Classic Choral Anthem: *The Hands that First Held Mary's Child*
(Recorded 2019)

Children's Sermon: Ann McNeill

Songs of Adoration:

Sing We the Song of Emmanuel; Hope is Alive; Who Would Have Dreamed?

Time of Prayer

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

Scripture Reading: Luke 1:57-66

Today's scripture reading will be read in Portuguese

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

Hymn of Preparation 136: *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

Sermon: **But Isn't It About Us?**

Pastor Wes Oden

Communion: *Welcome to Our World*

Benediction

Organist: Judy Congdon

Scripture Reader: Mila Lima

Music Ministry Team:

Kristen Sanasith, vocals; Matt Cox, guitar & vocals; Amanda Cox, piano & vocals;
Bekah Brennan, keyboard & vocals; Dan Zambrano, cajón

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/UoD4reGrpoM) (<https://youtu.be/UoD4reGrpoM>) 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 up-coming 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).

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