

OUTDOOR WORSHIP SERVICE  
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 20, 2020

11:15 A.M.

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Welcome & Opening Prayer

Songs of Adoration:  
*Angels We Have Heard on High*  
*The First Noel*

Time of Prayer

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:1-20  
Leader: This is the Word of the Lord. *All: Thanks be to God!*

Sermon: **But Doesn't that Say Something About Us?**  
Pastor Wes Oden

Song: *Away in a Manger*

Benediction

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Music Ministry Team:  
Matt Cox, guitar & vocals; Amanda Cox, vocals; Simon Sardina, cajón

**WELCOME TO THE HOUGHTON WESLEYAN CHURCH.** We have now arrived at the Fourth Sunday of Advent and the anticipation of Christ's birth is mounting. As Mary and Joseph make final preparations for their child, so we are called to make final preparations, too. In worship today, release your heart and mind to the movement of God's Spirit—to the whisper of His voice, to the miracles of His presence, to the love of His Son.

**CHRISTMAS EVE STREAMING 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. Please make sure that you have candles ready to light them with us at the end of the service.

**CHRISTMAS EVE GREETING:** For the streaming preservice, we are creating a collage of greetings to and from each other. We would love for you to make a very brief video of your family unit standing around your tree or a nativity or whatever you desire and just say something like: "Merry Christmas from the Odens." If you have family from out of town who might normally come to the Christmas Eve Service, invite them to send in a video that might say something like: "Merry Christmas from the Odens in Raleigh, NC." Please record in horizontal format. Send your 5-7 second video to [AmandaCox@hwchurch.org](mailto:AmandaCox@hwchurch.org) by today.

**CHRISTMAS EVE OUTDOOR SERVICE:** In addition to the full streamed service, we are going to gather outdoors at 5:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve for an abbreviated (about 30 minutes) service. We will sing carols, read scripture, hear a homily and light candles. We will also decorate with luminaries and have a living nativity.

**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.

**NEXT SUNDAY MORNING** we invite you to join us for streaming worship at 10:00. Pastor Paul Shea will preach from Luke 2: 30 on *My Eyes Have Seen the Glory*.

**STEWARDSHIP Budget Needed:** \$441,419.44 / **Budget Received:** \$404,050.71

**REMINDER:** All gifts for calendar year 2020 need to be

- delivered to the church office by the 31st
- mailed with a postmark date of December 31st or earlier,
- or need to be made online by December 31st at 2:00 p.m. with a gift date of December 31 or earlier.

**MISSION MOMENT** – “Flexibility” is big in missions. Martin and Sheri Hegeman, recently arrived on staff at Sahel Academy in Niger, are having the full experience. They work and teach at a temporary campus – Martin teaching PE across all grades and coaching with no gym facilities; Sheri engaging in language studies and administrative duties. Then a recent COVID-19 outbreak in school personnel requires everything online while campus recovery from complete flooding continues. We pray for wisdom, energy, and grace.

**PERSECUTED CHURCH** – Christians in many parts of the world are praying for healing and unity in our nation in this post-election time. Just as persecuted Christians must cope with opposing forces of all kinds, they pray that the American church will keep focus on Christ and engage in Kingdom priorities by the power of the Holy Spirit. We join their prayers.

**PRAYER CONCERNS:** for Josie Adenuga and her family at the death of her mother Joan Aina nee van der Puije, for Karen Williams and her family at the death of her sister, Alyce Petrzelka, for Jane Allen and her family at the death of her sister Carol Alstadt, 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 North Park Wesleyan Church, Cuba (Pastor Jon Ward).

*For more information about church activities, visit our website: [www.hwchurch.org](http://www.hwchurch.org).*