

HOUGHTON WESLEYAN CHURCH

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

DECEMBER 24, 2020

Christmas Greetings

Prelude: *Of the Father's Love Begotten*.....arr. W. Held

WelcomePastor Wesley Oden

Opening: *Gather Round, Ye Children, Come*Andrew Peterson

Lighting of the Christ Candle.....The Roeske Family

*Carol 121 ***O Come, All Ye Faithful!***

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7 (page 683)Doug Gaerte
Christ's Birth and Kingdom are Foretold by Isaiah

*Carol 109 ***Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus***

Scripture Reading: Micah 5:1-5a (page 922)Ann McNeill
The Prophet Micah Foretells the Glory of Little Bethlehem

Song: *Light of the World*Lauren Daigle

Scripture Reading: Luke 1:26-38 (page 1012)Andrew Silbert
The Angel Gabriel Comes to the Virgin Mary

*Carol 136 ***O Little Town of Bethlehem***

Scripture Reading: Matthew 1:18-25 (page 955)James Mullen
The Angel Appears to Joseph

Choir Carol: *The Hands that First Held Mary's Child*Dan Forrest
Debbie Shea, violin

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:1-7 (page 1014)Pastor Cindy Oden
St. Luke Tells of the Birth of Jesus

Ensemble: *In the First Light*Bob Kauflin

Christmas Eve Offering / PrayerPastor Paul Shea

Offertory: *You're Here*Francesca Battistelli & Ben Glover
This year's Christmas Eve offering 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.

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:8-20 (page 1014).....Jessica Romance

The Shepherds Go to the Manger

Children's Sermon

Emily Spateholts

Songs: ***Who Would Have Dreamed; O Holy Night***

Scripture Reading: Matthew 2:1-11 (page 956).....Pastor Jon Cole
The Wise Men are Led by the Star to Jesus

*Carol 117 ***Hark! The Herald Angels Sing***

Scripture Reading: John 1:1-14 (page 683).....David Brubaker
The Word Becomes Flesh and Dwells Among Us

Song: *Mary, Did You Know?*Buddy Greene & Mark Lowry

Meditation: Pastor Wesley Oden

Candle Lighting Ceremony

The central candle of the Advent wreath represents Christ, the light of the world. During the service, the light from the Christ Candle has been carried to candles along the center aisle. During the singing of ***Silent Night***, those who are nearest the center aisle are asked to light their candle from the aisle candles.

Then all those who worship will pass the light, holding the lit candles upright and tilting the unlit candle to receive the flame. Ushers will bring the light from the Christ Candle to the balcony. When all the candles are lit, we will stand for prayer and ask God to help us be Christ's light in the world. Then we will join together in singing ***Joy to the World***.

Benediction

Ring of the Bells

Postlude: *God Rest You Merry Gentlemen*.....arr. W. Held

Christmas Greetings

Organist: Judy Congdon

Acolytes: Levi and Tobias Webb

***May God bless you with
a very merry Christmas.
Our streaming Worship Service
on December 27 will begin at 10am.***