

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS  
JANUARY 10, 2021  
10:00 STREAMING SERVICE

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Prelude: *Nun bitten wir den heiligen Geist*, BuxWV 208 (Dieterich Buxtehude)

Welcome

Opening Prayer

Hymn of Praise 26: *All Creatures of Our God and King*

Words of Greeting and Peace

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 42:1-7

Children's Sermon – Ann McNeill

Songs of Adoration: *I'd Rather Have Jesus; Build My Life; Goodness of God*

Prayer of Confession

God of Mercy, we begin this New Year with a passion to know you. Forgive us that in the past year the noise of our world so often made us deaf to your words of love. Forgive us when in the past year we allowed the busyness of our lives to minimize our thoughts of your life-giving grace. Forgive us that in the past year the attraction of what we might possess too often turned our attention away from the gift of joy you offer us. Today, help us to hear your words of pardon that if we confess our sins, you are faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and will fill us with an ever-growing joy in surrendering all that we are to you. Amen.

Time of Prayer

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

New Testament Reading: Mark 1:1-11

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

Hymn: *How Great Thou Art*

Sermon: **Epiphany**

Dr. Terence Paige

Song of Response: *Knowing You*

Benediction

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Organist: Judy Congdon

Scripture Readers: Ken Bates & Angela Babbitt

Music Ministry Team:

Alison Young Reusser, guitar & vocals; Amanda Cox, piano & vocals

**WELCOME TO THE HOUGHTON WESLEYAN CHURCH.** The season of Epiphany celebrates the revelation of God in Christ to the whole world. This season of the Church year is also a time to remember God's calling on the Church to bear witness to Christ. As we worship this morning, may God open our eyes to His call on us and His plan for the world.

**GUEST PREACHER:** We are pleased to welcome Dr. Terry Paige to preach this morning. Dr. Paige is Professor of New Testament; Program Coordinator, Biblical Studies at Houghton College.

**NEXT SUNDAY MORNING** we gather for online worship at 10:00. Pastor Wes will preach from Mark 1:9-15 pondering the idea of *Sharing the Good News of the Kingdom*.

**CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING:** We give thanks to God and to all who gave generously to our Christmas Eve offering. At this time, we have received over \$16,000! If you have not given and would like to, please mark a check "Christmas Eve Offering" or make this designation for your online gift.

**STEWARDSHIP: Budget Needed:** \$488,714.38 / **Budget Received:** \$468,137.60

**KIDS' CLUB STARTS THIS WEEK.** Parents may contact [annmcneill@hwchurch.org](mailto:annmcneill@hwchurch.org) to put their 5 to 12-year-olds on the roster. Everyone from Kids' Club past will receive a printed packet of Sunday school materials. With Miss Ann and the team, kids will review that Sunday's lesson, practice the verse using American Sign Language, and praise the Lord. Zoom invitations have been emailed, so if you haven't received one, let Ann know quickly. We start Wednesday, January 13th & Friday the 15th. Join us!

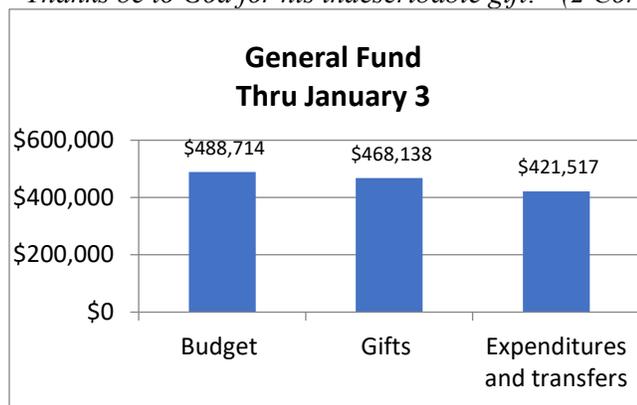
**MISSION MOMENT** – In her January letter, our missionary to Eastern Europe, Stacia, writes that in her region people put on the appearance of being good neighbors but there are unhealed wounds, unforgiveness, and pain carried over from nationalism and war. She and her team want to share the healing power of Christ. As we pray for her and her region, we also plead for God to heal our scars closer to home.

**PERSECUTED CHURCH** -- Many refugees from Africa and the Middle East are Christian believers crowded into desperate camps where oppression for their faith continues. We pray for strength to overcome daily challenges with the grace and joy of Christ. We also pray for an outpouring of peace and solutions for all refugees around the world.

**PRAYER CONCERNS:** for the Ott family at the death of Ray's twin sister, Barbara Johnston, and for all who are grieving; for people with health concerns: Kathy Moore, Gary Heil (Janet Stegen's brother), Amy Ortiz (Luke Ogden's sister), 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 Brookside Wesleyan Church, Wellsville (Pastor Bill Lawson).

### STEWARDSHIP—A Life of Generosity

*"Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!" (2 Corinthians 9:15)*



God's radical generosity to us comes in the form of Grace – freely given to all. We respond to this grace with thankfulness and gratitude. Because God's grace is an "indescribable gift," one would expect our expressions of gratitude would be radical in return – coming from the very core of who we are. Simply put, stewardship is a spiritual discipline rooted in our relationship with God.

At the dawn of the New Year we can be filled with hope for what is to come as we are mindful of His many blessings in the year just past. A new year is also an opportunity to look for ways to do things better in the coming year. How can we be better stewards of what God has entrusted to our care – resources like time, energy, and money?

May you find freedom and joy in the discipline and obedience of radical generosity.

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