

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT
MARCH 7, 2021
10:00 STREAMING SERVICE

Prelude: *Prelude in Classic Style* (Gordon Young)

Welcome

Opening Prayer

Hymn of Praise 1: *O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

Words of Greeting and Peace

Children's Sermon: Jackie Algier

Songs of Adoration: *Song of My Heart; Goodness of God*

Prayer of Confession

Merciful Savior, at Your cross, we find the beginning of each of our stories: sinners in need of God's grace. We confess that in our pride—we neglect your grace, and in our judgment—we withhold your grace. Forgive us, Lord, for our tendency to focus on past sins instead of present redemption; on seeking revenge instead of seeking forgiveness; for worrying about gaining power rather than embracing humble vulnerability. Merciful Lord, enable us to live as ambassadors of light in the darkness of this world. And may we embrace the words that empower our lives: *In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.* Amen.

Time of Prayer

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

Scripture Reading: John 18:1-11

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

Hymn 463: *Jesus Christ, My Sure Defense*

Sermon: **When It's Time to Defend**

Pastor Wes Oden

Song: *Living Hope*

Benediction

Organist: Judy Congdon

Scripture Reader: Grace Deitrick

Music Ministry Team:

Amanda Cox, piano & vocals; Ethan Bast, guitar & vocals; Dan Zambrano, cajón

WELCOME TO THE HOUGHTON WESLEYAN CHURCH. The season of Lent is an historic time for reflection, repentance and surrender in the shadow of the cross as we prepare ourselves, individually and corporately, for the death and resurrection of Christ. As we reflect on our sin and on God's grace through Jesus Christ, let us contemplate our response to Jesus our Redeemer.

NEXT SUNDAY MORNING is the Fourth Sunday in Lent. Pastor Wes continues to lead us into thoughts about the words of Jesus as he makes his way to the cross. Next week we will ponder Jesus' interaction with Annas (John 18:19-24), *The Un-Hiddenness of Jesus*. We will stream worship at 10:00 a.m. and gather in the church parking lot for outdoor worship at 11:15 a.m.

SMZ (SUNDAY MORNING ZOOM), 9:00-9:50 A.M. Next Sunday morning will be open screen for brief testimonies, maybe yours included, of God's faithfulness during the last 12 months. If you would like to join in, please email Pastor Shea (paulshea@hwchurch.org) and he will send a Zoom Link.

TIME CHANGE: Just a reminder that we turn our clocks ahead next Sunday.

YOUTH GROUP NEWS: Please Email Pastor Jon (joncole@hwchurch.org) if you need zoom links for any event.

- Youth group meets this Sunday in the church gym with social distancing protocols in place. Jr high 3-4pm and Sr High 5-6pm.
- Wednesday evening Zoom Check-in, 7pm - No program, just hangout!
- Zoom Sunday School this week, Mar 7 at 9am with Nahum! Feel free to read ahead!

HWC Kids

- The new March Sunday School series, Blueprints, begins this Sunday. Through the life of Jesus, we're going to find out that God's plans are perfect, love is the foundation of God's plans, that Jesus said yes to God's plans, and most of all that we are included in God's plans. This month's memory verse, Jeremiah 29:11, is the foundation on which all of these lessons are built! Join us!
- Kids' Club is celebrating God's goodness during this season of Lent. Contact annmceill@hwchurch.org if your child would like to join us on Wednesday evening or Friday afternoons. Everyone is invited to join the HWC Kids Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/HWChurchkids> to see what our children's ministry is up to, receive weekly lesson information, find encouragement and resources for families, and participate in discussions and polls (coming soon!)

STEWARDSHIP: Budget Needed: \$614,834.22 / **Budget Received:** \$590,533.74

MISSION MOMENT – It's hard to keep up with LTC's (Lilias Trotter Center) team right here from Houghton. Pray for: Don Little and Gail Schlosser actively taping an introductory series on Christianity and Islam for Wesley Biblical Seminary and for Ben Hegeman teaching close to three dozen workers around the world through WBS, and leading a semester course of Houghton College students. Pray for God's rich blessing and Jeanie Little as well as she meets regularly with HC Emmanuel Scholar students.

PERSECUTED CHURCH – India's Modi government has imposed tight restrictions on funding non-profits feeding orphans, educating children, running hospitals and the like with help from many Christian agencies abroad under its Foreign Contributions Regulation Act. Tens of millions of people are left without social help and nets, and other unemployed which the non-prophet sector was providing. (CT Magazine March 2021)

PRAYER CONCERNS: for all who are grieving; for people with health concerns: Cameron Green, Vangie Grant, Karen Gaerte, Lenore Paige, Gary Heil (Janet Stegen's brother), Amy Ortiz (Luke Ogden's sister), Sarah Gurley, Grace Taylor, Wendy Ott, Chelsea Ellis, Keith Rugg (Kathy Moore's father), Cindy Lastoria, 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 Swain United Methodist Church (Pastor Marian Luce).