

LISTEN AT 106.9 FM

Outdoor Worship Service Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 5, 2021 at 8:45am

Welcome

Songs of Adoration:
Love Come Down; Light of the World

We Dedicate our Children to God: Marian Jean Prins Moeller

Scripture Reading: Nehemiah 8:1-12

All the people came together as one in the square before the Water Gate. They told Ezra the teacher of the Law to bring out the Book of the Law of Moses, which the LORD had commanded for Israel.

² So on the first day of the seventh month Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, which was made up of men and women and all who were able to understand.

³ He read it aloud from daybreak till noon as he faced the square before the Water Gate in the presence of the men, women and others who could understand. And all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law.

⁴ Ezra the teacher of the Law stood on a high wooden platform built for the occasion. Other leaders stood on his right and on his left.

⁵ Ezra opened the book. All the people could see him because he was standing above them; and as he opened it, the people all stood up.

⁶ Ezra praised the LORD, the great God; and all the people lifted their hands and responded, "Amen! Amen!" Then they bowed down and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground.

⁷ The Levites instructed the people in the Law while the people were standing there. ⁸ They read from the Book of the Law of God, making it clear and giving the meaning so that the people understood what was being read. ⁹ Then Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest and teacher of the Law, and the Levites who were instructing the people said to them all, "This day is holy to the LORD your God. Do not mourn or weep." For all the people had been weeping as they listened to the words of the Law.

¹⁰ Nehemiah said, "Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the LORD is your strength." ¹¹ The Levites calmed all the people, saying, "Be still, for this is a holy day. Do not grieve."¹² Then all the people went away to eat and drink, to send portions of food and to celebrate with great joy, because they now understood the words that had been made known to them

Song of Preparation: *Show us Christ*

Time of Prayer

Scripture Reading: 2 Timothy 3:10-17

You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, ¹¹ persecutions, sufferings — what kinds of things happened to me in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, the persecutions I endured. Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them. ¹² In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, ¹³ while evildoers and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. ¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, ¹⁵ and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Sermon: *The Myth That Makes Us Oppressive*
Pastor Wes Oden

Communion

Song: *God Has Spoken by the Prophets*

Benediction

Scripture Reader: David Huizenga

Music Ministry Team:
Amanda Cox, Bekah Scharf, Levi Webb, Betsy Webb, vocals;
Caleb Hilsher, guitar; AC Taylor, cajón

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 5

WELCOME TO THE HOUGHTON WESLEYAN CHURCH. The Psalmist proclaims, “The Lord is great...and he is high above all the people...Exalt the Lord our God, and worship...for the Lord our God is holy” (Psalm 99: 2, 9). We worship today to acknowledge that God is great and holy, that we are his people and that we owe our lives to him. Through music, prayer, the reading of Scripture, and the spoken word we have an opportunity to experience the grace of God in Christ.

NEXT SUNDAY MORNING: Pastor Wes continues this series of sermons that focus on *Myths that Make Us*. Next week’s sermon is from Acts 15 addressing *The Myth that Makes Us Oblivious*. Please join us for outdoor worship 8:45 a.m. and for indoor/streaming blended worship at 11:00 a.m. Sunday School for all ages is at 9:45 a.m.

CONNECTING: We continue to update email addresses and phone numbers for texting so that everyone who desires receives information from the church. If you are not currently receiving either a text or email for Pastor Wes’s weekly letter and weekly video chat and would like to, please contact the church office and we will update your information.

HWC KIDS MIN OPPORTUNITIES:

8:45 - Nursery for ages birth - 2; Children's Church for ages 3 - Kindergarten released before the sermon

9:45 - Nursery for ages birth - 2; Sunday School for ages 3 - 6th grade

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45 TO 10:45: opportunities commenced this week but anticipate a flexible start up period for several weeks.

- Dr. Paul Young returns to Bible Exposition on I John but will meet in the Community Room for now.
- The Book Discussion Group will meet and plan the future in the Good Shepherd Room below the sanctuary.
- A new group, “Chosen” following the film series is open to young adults of all ages in Room 105.
- Mothers that Pray will meet outdoors in good weather or Room #7 below the sanctuary.

MEMORIZE SCRIPTURE WITH HWC KIDS: We invite the entire congregation to memorize the HWC Kids scripture for the month. Ephesians 5:15 - "Be very careful, then, how you live - not as unwise but as wise." Kids, ages 3 - 6th grade, recite your memorized Scripture to any adult in the church, have them let Miss Emily or Miss Ann know that you aced it, and add your sticker to the chart! Memorize them all for a special surprise!

WEDNESDAY PRAYER GROUP – Room 105 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

CELEBRATE RECOVERY MEETS THURSDAY EVENINGS 7 p.m. in the Good Shepherd Room or outside if weather permits.

YOUTH GROUP

- Today Youth 7-12 go to Sunday School with their parents; Youth Staff go to an organizational meeting 9:45-10:45.
- September 12 - Blue Foam Party Kickoff! 3pm at the HA soccer field.
- September 19 - Youth group begins! We are returning to the pre-COVID time and format. YG starts at 6pm and will be finished by about 8pm. Both Junior High and Senior High students will join us for that time. We will often be outdoors if the weather is nice, but will be indoors, wearing masks, when the weather does not co-operate. Please be sure to bring a mask!

STEWARDSHIP Budget Needed: \$208,663.52 / Budget Received: \$185,794.21

MISSION MOMENT - Our Missions Committee is sending \$1000 to World Hope for Haiti recovery efforts. World Hope is well-positioned to make a big impact, coordinating efforts with seventeen partner organizations. They have delivered a quarter million liters of clean water, set up mobile clinics, rented helicopters for emergency medical evacuations and more. We invite and urge you to pray and to donate to WHI directly at <https://www.worldhope.org/emergency-relief/haiti-earthquake/>

PERSECUTED CHURCH –Tangible ways to put our concerns to work include of course prayer, but also engaging with groups like Journeys End and Jericho Road Ministries in Buffalo who will be welcoming hundreds of Afghan refugees to WNY. We pray for many also sharing Christ in Buffalo such as Pastor Joshua Bashizi and Mission of Christ church.

PRAYER CONCERNS: for the family of Phyllis Osgood who died this week and for all who are grieving; for people with concerns: Jessica Bogdan, Denise Zambrano, 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 Elijah 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 Little Valley Wesleyan Church (Pastor Dan Butcher).

For more information about church activities, please visit our website: www.hwchurch.org
or email us at office@hwchurch.org.

Love Come Down

Chorus

I will sing forever
of Your love come down
With my hands to heaven
shout Your praises loud
I was lost in darkness
when You pulled me out
I will sing forever
of Your love come down

Verse 1

I once was blind; I could not see
Chains of sin had shackled me
But God in heaven heard my plea
Jesus, Jesus rescued me
Jesus, Jesus rescued me

Chorus

Verse 2

Now grace so sweet
it floods my soul
And hope eternal won't let go
My debt erased at Calvary
Jesus, Jesus rescued me
Jesus, Jesus rescued me

Chorus

Verse 3

Well there's a home beyond the sky
A song we'll sing for all of time
The grave is empty I am free
Jesus, Jesus rescued me
Jesus, Jesus rescued me

Chorus

Light of The World

Verse 1

The whole world
was lost in the darkness of sin
The Light of the world is Jesus
Like sunshine at noonday
His glory shone in
The Light of the world is Jesus

Verse 2

No darkness for those
who in Jesus abide
The Light of the world is Jesus
We walk in the Light
if we follow our Guide
The Light of the world is Jesus

Chorus

**Come to the Light
It's shining for thee
Sweetly the Light
has dawned upon me
Once I was blind
but now I can see
The Light of the world,
the Light of the world is Jesus**

Verse 3

You dwellers in darkness
with sin-blinded eyes
The Light of the world is Jesus
Come wash in His fountain
and light will arise
The Light of the world is Jesus

Chorus

Bridge

The people walking in darkness
have seen a great light
On those in the land
of deep darkness
a light has dawned
As children of our Holy Father,
may we live each day
As children of the Light,
children of the day!

Verse 4

No need of the sunlight
in heaven, we're told
The Light of the world is Jesus
The Lamb is the light
in the city of gold
The Light of the world is Jesus

Chorus

Show Us Christ

Verse 1

Prepare our hearts O God
Help us to receive
Break the hard and stony ground
Help our unbelief
Plant Your Word down deep in us
'Cause it to bear fruit
Open up our ears to hear
Lead us in Your truth

Chorus

Show us Christ; show us Christ
O God reveal Your glory
Through the preaching
of Your Word

Until every heart confesses
Christ is Lord

Verse 2

Your Word is living light
Upon our darkened eyes
Guards us through temptations
Makes the simple wise
Your Word is food
for famished ones
Freedom for the slave
Riches for the needy soul
Come speak to us today

Chorus

Bridge

Where else can we go, Lord?
Where else can we go?
You have the words of eternal life
(Sing 3x)

Chorus

God Has Spoken by the Prophets

God has spoken by the prophets,
Spoken his unchanging word,
Each from age to age proclaiming
God, the one, the righteous Lord.
In the world's despair and turmoil,
One firm anchor holds us fast:
God eternal reigns forever,
God the first and God the last.

God has spoken by Christ Jesus,
Christ, the everlasting Son,
Brightness of the Father's glory,
With the Father ever one;
Spoken by the Word incarnate,
God from God, before time was;
Light from Light, to earth
descending,
Christ reveals our God to us.

God is speaking by the Spirit,
Speaking to our hearts again,
In the ageless Word declaring
God's own message, now as then.
Through the rise and fall of nations
One sure faith is holding fast:
God abides, his word unchanging,
God the first and God the last.