



HOPE ☆ PEACE ☆ JOY

LOVE

O how lovely, O how pure,
gracious gift to human kind!

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

NOVEMBER 28, 2021

11:00 STREAMING SERVICE

Prelude: *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland*, BWV 659 (J. S. Bach)

Lighting of the Advent Candle: Gudy and Daryl Stevenson

Hymn of Praise 108: *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

Words of Greeting and Peace

Children's Sermon

Songs of Adoration: *Do it Again; Even So, Come*

Meditation: *Sing, O My Soul* (Jessie Harris)

Prayer of Confession

Father, in this season of Advent, when we grasp for power and things, remind us that Christ came in weakness, in humility as a child. When we allow darkness to overcome the light, forgive us Lord. When we reduce Christmas to things, have mercy on us, Father. When hardness of heart keeps us from seeing and believing in Your Son, let your grace fill us. Forgive our doubt and renew our hope in Christ alone, that we may watch and wait and once more rejoice to hear the glad story of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Time of Prayer

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

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5; Matthew 3:1-6

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

Hymn 114: *Savior of the Nations, Come*

Sermon: **Prepare the Way of the Lord**

Pastor Wes Oden

Closing Song: *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus* (alternate tune)

Benediction

Organist: Judy Congdon Acolyte: Junie Babbitt Scripture Reader: Pastor Cindy Oden

Music Ministry Team:

Jeff Babbitt and Kristen Sanasith, vocals; Dan Wartinger, guitar & vocals;
Amanda Cox, piano & vocals

WELCOME TO THE HOUGHTON WESLEYAN CHURCH. The season of Advent is a time of expectancy and preparation. Advent is a time for Christians to prepare—body, mind and spirit—to celebrate the birth of the Savior. As we prepare, let us open ourselves to the truths of God’s word and to the leading of the Holy Spirit to make Christ the center of our Christmas.

WE ARE PRAYING TODAY FOR JIM AND DONNA ZOLLER, who leave this week for ten days in Egypt representing Houghton Wesleyan Church at the 100th Anniversary Celebration of the Wesleyan Standard Church of Egypt. They are taking a drawing of our church and a monetary gift as part of our ongoing support of the Church in Egypt.

NEXT SUNDAY MORNING is the Second Sunday of Advent. We invite you to join us for outdoor worship at 8:45 and indoor/streaming worship at 11:00. Pastor Wes will preach about the holy family’s round trip journey to Egypt (Matthew 2): *Advent as a Return Trip*.

CHILDREN’S MINISTRIES:

- Kids activity bags, worship bulletins, and Bibles are available at the back of the sanctuary!
- There will be no nursery and no 11:00 children's church due to low staffing and lack of demand.
- **KIDS' CLUB** meets this coming Wednesday 6:15 to 7:30.
- **HWC KIDS SUNDAY SCHOOL:** Join us today for the last course of our "Plate It" series to learn from the prophet Jeremiah that we can *leave the results to God*. As he reminds the people of his time to anticipate the Savior's arrival, we also begin the season of Advent today, anticipating the celebration of Christ's birth. Enjoy using the family Advent materials to countdown to the celebration!

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

CELEBRATE RECOVERY MEETS THURSDAYS AT 7 P.M. (Good Shepherd Room)

NOTE: The Outdoor Service (8:45 a.m.) is broadcast for listening on 106.9 FM in your vehicle in the church parking lot or for local radio reception.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: The Bible Exposition class at 9:45 a.m. is live-streamed each week. Dr. Paul Young and class are studying the letter of 1st John. New viewers are welcome.

STEWARDSHIP

Budget Needed: \$401,276.00 / Budget Received: \$358,813.36

MISSION MOMENT – The Liliias Trotter Center (LTC) trains indigenous pastors, teachers, and ordinary Christians on deeply informed witness, discipleship and church planting amongst Muslim. We pray for strength and safety for our own Dr. Don Little teaching faithful workers in person in Kenya and Burundi this week.

PERSECUTED CHURCH – There are many places where political and economic anarchy and instability threaten the ability of Christian work of all kinds. Ministries for orphans, the sick, children's education, other services, and even regular worship gatherings are under siege in Haiti and elsewhere. We pray God's wisdom, protection and boldness for local leaders and workers.

"NATIVITIES FROM AROUND THE WORLD" DECEMBER 12TH, 1:00-3:00PM, A COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS EVENT, AT Houghton Wesleyan Church. Enjoy the beauty and diversity of nativities from all over the states and the world, set up in our front atrium. Everyone is welcome! If you are willing to loan a nativity for the event, please contact Emily Spateholts (emilyspateholts@hwchurch.org) for more details or to set up a drop-off time.

PRAYER CONCERNS: for all who are grieving; for people with health concerns: Ted Norton, Don Yeddo (Paul Rowley's step-father), John Knapp (Eli's father), Howard Berry (Donnie Stockin's brother), Andy Mikolajczyk (Mary Lingenfelter's brother), Sith Sanasith (Souly's brother), 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), 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, 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, for a safe end for the missionaries kidnapped in Haiti, for the injured and grieving from tragedies and disasters; for refugees, for peace amid threats of war; for the Revive Church, East Aurora (Pastor Kevin Beers).