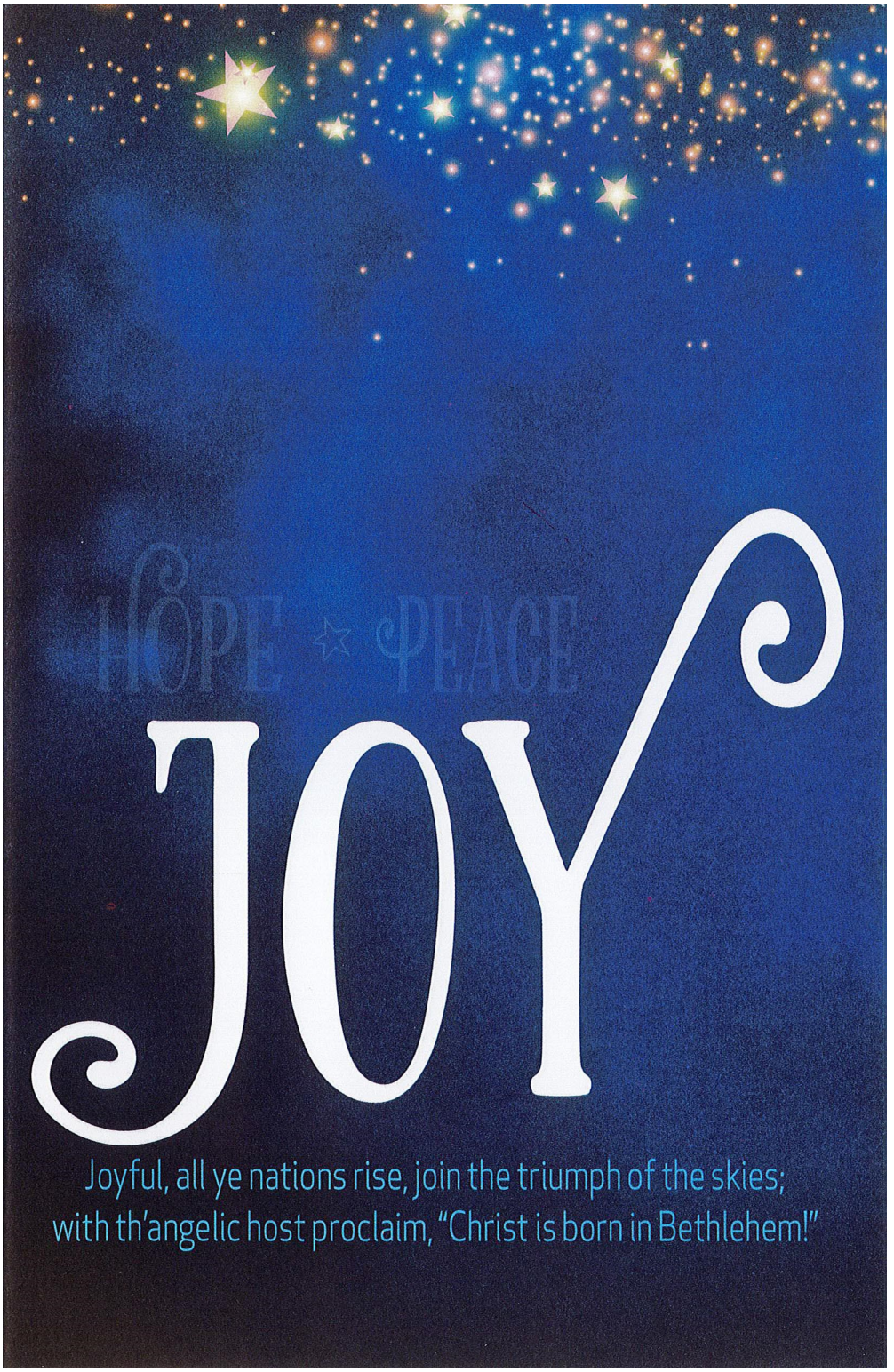
HOPE ☆ PEACE
JOY
Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;
with th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Third Sunday of Advent

December 12, 2021
11:00 Streaming Service

Prelude: *Joy to the World* (Michael Dell)

Lighting of the Advent Candle: Dianna, David & Zoey Clem

Hymn of Praise 115: ***Joy to the World***

Words of Greeting and Peace

Anthem: *In the Bleak Midwinter* (arr. Whitworth)
Carolyn Kindley, piano

Children's Sermon

Songs of Adoration:
Sing We the Song of Emmanuel; Emmanuel (Royal David's City)

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, how many prophets of your light have we ignored because they were not what we were looking for? How many times have we ignored voices crying in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord?"
How many times have we breathed a sigh of relief, and turned our backs on your messengers, because they did not speak the message we expected to hear? Help us hear anew, the cry of those who would lead us to Christ. Tune our ears to your heralds that we might also testify to your light. And through the coming of Christ, may we hear your words of pardon and assurance: "If we confess our sins, he will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness." Amen.
—adapted from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2008* by B.J. Beu.

Time of Prayer

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

Scripture Reading: Micah 5:1-6; Matthew 2:1-12
Leader: This is the Word of the Lord. ***All: Thanks be to God!***

Hymn 136: ***O Little Town of Bethlehem***

Sermon: **Advent as a Bakery**
Pastor Wes Oden

Communion

Closing Song: ***Who Would Have Dreamed?***

Benediction

Organist: Judy Congdon Acolyte: Grayson Cox Scripture Reader: Cody Johnson

Music Ministry Team:
Emily Quick & Rachael McVeigh, vocals; Matt Cox, guitar & vocals;
Amanda Cox, piano & vocals; Dan Zambrano, cajón;
Jack Smith and Esther Tse, trumpet; Sharon and Tim McGarvey, horn;
Tony Agueci and Josh Coram, trombone

Welcome to the Houghton Wesleyan Church. On this third Sunday of Advent, we find ourselves in the middle of December—looking back and looking forward, pondering what has taken place and wondering what is yet to come. As we prepare for the celebration of Christ's coming, let's ask for open hearts and minds to Christ who is the Living Word.

Thursday Evening at 6:30 we are streaming a Christmas Carol Event. A year ago, many from the congregation recorded a Christmas carol which we put together and streamed to the congregation. Last year's event will be restreamed this Thursday at 6:30pm.

Next Sunday Morning is the Fourth 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 prophecy of Emmanuel which the angel mentions to Joseph (Matthew 2): *Advent in a Nursery*.

Poinsettias: The church welcomes your Christmas poinsettias to help beautify the sanctuary for Christmas. We have ordered a number of poinsettias for $12.00 each or you may bring your own to drop off at the Church office by December 17th. If you would like to purchase one or more poinsettias, you may use the online giving option, mail a check to the church (indicate poinsettias), or drop off payment at the church office. If you wish to purchase or donate a poinsettia in memory or in honor of a loved one, please call or email Patty (567-2264 or office@hwchurch.org with your information by December 13th.

Baptism Service: Sunday, December 19, 10:00am, we will be in the sanctuary for a baptism service. Come celebrate with those who are being baptized. If you are interested in being baptized, please let Pastor Wes know right away.

Carol Sing: Sunday, December 19, 4:00pm, join us in the church parking lot for a time of singing your favorite Christmas Carols. After the singing, we will roast marshmallows and make S'mores.

Christmas Eve Services: We are offering two Christmas Eve services this year: Outdoors (4:00pm) and Indoors/Streaming (6:00pm). Both services will include reading the scriptures of Christ's birth, singing the carols of Christ's birth and the lighting of candles recognizing Christ's birth. We will have a children's time during both services and live animals at the outdoor service. We will also collect our gifts for the Christmas Eve Offering.

Children's Ministries:

- Kids activity bags, worship bulletins, and Bibles are available at the back of the sanctuary!
- This afternoon, HWC Kids have the opportunity to participate in the tree lighting ceremony as part of the ***12 Days of Christmas Countdown*** event. If your child would like to be a part of a children's choir, please meet at the stage in the church parking lot at 3:30 for practice; we will perform at 5:00.

Christmas Offering – Our offering will help provide the Wesleyan Hospital on the island of LaGonave, Haiti, the equipment and capacity to produce their own supply of oxygen and eliminate dependence on mainland supplies in these turbulent times. You are invited to give in all the normal HWC venues and designate: "Christmas Eve Offering."

Stewardship Budget Needed: $433,378.08 / Budget Received: $386,256.64
REMINDER: *All gifts for calendar year 2021 need to be · delivered to the church office by the 31st · mailed with a postmark date of December 31st or earlier, · or need to be made online by December 31st at 2:00 p.m. with a gift date of December 31 or earlier*

Winter Clothing Collection for Urban Advocacy/Jericho Road: From now to mid-December, drop off donations of sweatshirts, sweatpants, warm coats and boots for men, women, and children at the church office for the Vive Shelter in Buffalo.

The Little Chapel Donation Trailer is parked at the Church during the month of December. "The Tiny House of God" was built on wheels to travel from church to church, community to community. Its mission is to be a collection point for bibles and other Christian literature (Bibles, books, devotionals, children's materials, etc.) that are no longer used and donated for the purpose of being distributed to people who deeply desire the gospel.

Mission Moment – We focus on Haiti leading up to our annual Christmas Offering. We pray for the nurse training program at LaGonave Wesleyan Hospital that is preparing Haitians to offer healing and the hope of the Gospel to the people of Haiti. Our Christmas gift towards oxygen production is part of a World Hope International hospital revitalization project.

Persecuted Church – We pray that the authorities will heed to the good news coming from Iran – that a Supreme Court Justice has ruled that practicing and promoting Christianity in house churches is not a national security threat. May God use this to release many in prison and to encourage believers. (CT Daily Briefing)

Prayer Concerns: for the family of Scott Osgood who died this week (Service today 2:00 p.m. Rinker Funeral Home, Cuba) and for all who are grieving; for people with health concerns: Wendy Ott, Karen Gaerte, Bill Getty, 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, Lenore Paige, Gary Heil (Janet Stegen's brother), Amy Ortiz (Luke Ogden's sister), Sarah Gurley, Grace Taylor, 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), 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 Lynne Perry recovering from a recent house fire and for all dealing with tragedies and disasters; for all affected by the coronavirus, for a safe end for the missionaries kidnapped in Haiti, for refugees, for peace amid threats of war; for the New Hope Assembly of God Church, Fillmore (Pastor Erv Russell).