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Outdoor Worship Service
The Third Sunday of Advent
December 12, 2021 at 8:45am

Welcome

Lighting of the Advent Candle: The Sullivan Family

Songs of Adoration:
Sing We the Song of Emmanuel; Emmanuel; Who Would Have Dreamed?

Time of Prayer & The Lord's Prayer
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Scripture Reading: Micah 5:1-6

[1]Marshal your troops now, city of troops;
for a siege is laid against us.
They will strike Israel's ruler on the cheek with a rod.
[2]"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
though you are small among the clans of Judah,
out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel,
whose origins are from of old, from ancient times."
[3]Therefore Israel will be abandoned
until the time when she who is in labor bears a son,
and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites.
[4]He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth.
[5]And he will be our peace when the Assyrians invade our land
and march through our fortresses.
We will raise against them seven shepherds, even eight commanders,
[6]who will rule the land of Assyria with the sword,
the land of Nimrod with drawn sword.
He will deliver us from the Assyrians
when they invade our land and march across our borders.

Matthew 2:1-12

[1]After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Mag from the east came to Jerusalem [2] and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." [3]When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. [4] When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. [5] "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written: [6] "But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel. [7]Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. [8] He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him." [9] After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. [10] When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. [11] On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. [12] And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

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

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

Communion

Song: ***O Little Town of Bethlehem***

Benediction

Scripture Reader: Katrina Koehler

Music Ministry Team:
Amanda Cox, Emily Quick, Rachael McVeigh, vocals;
Matt Cox, guitar & vocals; Dan Zambrano, cajón

The Children's Sermon is on JOY: https://youtu.be/oDuAvhqrE6g

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 12

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:

- We WILL have Children's Church today!! In order to give our amazing team a break and time with their families during the holidays, there will be no SS December 19th through January 9th. We will start back up on January 16th. There will no Children's Church on December 26th or January 2nd.
- 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*

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).

The Little Chapel donation trailer is parked at the Church during 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. These materials equip pastors and missionaries in places that have few resources. The Little Chapel started its ministry in 2021 and is shipping materials via Love Packages in Butler, Illinois who has a network of distributors throughout the world. Drop off your materials at any time! There are primarily two criteria in deciding what material we accept: Some thing that will lead someone to faith in Christ and/or something that will disciple a believer (please ensure that materials are in good condition).

Winter Clothing Collection

An emergency request: From now to mid-December drop off donations of sweatshirts, sweatpants, warm coats and boots for men, woman and children at the church office for the Vive Shelter in Buffalo. (Request comes from The Strands and Urban Advocacy/ Jericho Road.)

Children Participate in the Christmas Eve Services

The children of the church are invited to participate in living nativities during the Christmas Eve services. The outdoor service takes place at 4 p.m. on December 24th and the indoor service at 6 p.m. The church will supply the participants with animal ears or an angel halo, but children who prefer not to dress up may also participate by holding flowers. There is no need for a rehearsal as the children will simply line up at the front and take their cues from Miss Ann and Miss Emily, the narrators.

CHURCH STAFF

Wes Oden, Senior Pastor
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Jon Cole, Youth Pastor
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Ann McNeill, Children's Ministry
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Church Office, M-F, 8 AM-Noon & 1-4 PM,
567-2264 office@hwchurch.org

Sing We the Song of Emmanuel

Sing we the song of Emmanuel
This the Christ
who was long foretold
Lo in the shadows of Bethlehem
Promise of dawn
now our eyes behold

God Most High in a manger laid
Lift your voices and now proclaim
Great and glorious
Love has come to us
Join now with the hosts of heaven

Come we to welcome Emmanuel
King who came
with no crown or throne
Helpless He lay the Invincible
Maker of Mary now Mary's son

O what wisdom to save us all
Shepherds, sages before Him fall
Grace and majesty what humility
Come on bended knee adore Him

Go spread the news of Emmanuel
Joy and peace for the weary heart
Lift up your heads
for your King has come
Sing for the Light
overwhelms the dark

Glory shining for all to see
Hope alive let the gospel ring
God has made a way
He will have the praise
Tell the world His name is Jesus
(repeat)

Bridge
Gloria! Gloria!

Verse 1

Emmanuel

Once in royal David's city
Stood a lowly cattle shed
Where a mother laid her Baby
In a manger bed
Mary was that mother mild
Jesus Christ her little Child

Emmanuel
The promise kept
It's the longing of my heart
for God in flesh
Through this Child
all earth is blessed
Emmanuel

He came down to earth
from heaven
Who is God and Lord of all
And His shelter was a stable
His cradle was a stall
With the poor
the scorned the lowly
Lived on earth our Savior holy

Chorus

Bridge
Our answered prayer
Our faith's reward
Redemption's near
Redemption's here

Chorus 2
Emmanuel
We will rejoice
We will worship You
our Savior and our Lord
We will join creation's voice
Emmanuel
The promise kept
It's the longing of my heart
for God in flesh
Through this Child
all earth is blessed
Emmanuel

Ending
It's the longing of my heart
The longing of my heart
Through this Child
all earth is blessed
Through this Child
all earth is blessed
Through this Child
all earth is blessed
Emmanuel, Emmanuel

Who Would Have Dreamed

On a starlit hillside
shepherds watched their sheep
Slowly David's city
drifted off to sleep
But to this little town
of no great renown
The Lord had a promise to keep

Prophets had foretold it
a mighty King would come
Long awaited Ruler
God's Anointed One
But the Sovereign of all
looked helpless and small
As God gave the world
His own Son

And who would have dreamed
or ever foreseen
That we could hold
God in our hands
The Giver of Life
is born in the night
Revealing God's glorious plan
To save the world

Wondrous gift of heaven
the Father sends the Son
Planned from time eternal
moved by holy love
He will carry our curse
and death He'll reverse
So we can be daughters and sons

Chorus

O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary,
and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King
and peace to men on earth!

How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of the heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming,
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him still
the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray,
cast out our sin, and enter in,
be born in us today!
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell.
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel.