

# LISTEN AT 106.9 FM

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## Outdoor Worship Service The Fourth Sunday of Advent December 19, 2021 at 8:45am

Welcome

Lighting of the Advent Candle: The Torraca Family

Songs of Adoration: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel; Hark! The Herald Angels Sing; Hope is Alive*

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.**

Celebration of Ministry: Christmas Eve Offering

Scripture Readings

**Isaiah 7:10-17**

10 Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, 11 "Ask the LORD your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights." 12 But Ahaz said, "I will not ask; I will not put the LORD to the test." 13 Then Isaiah said, "Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also? 14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. 15 He will be eating curds and honey when he knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, 16 for before the boy knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, the land of the two kings you dread will be laid waste. 17 The LORD will bring on you and on your people and on the house of your father a time unlike any since Ephraim broke away from Judah—he will bring the king of Assyria."

**Matthew 1:18-25**

Matthew 1:18–25 (NIV): 18 This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. 19 Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. 20 But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." 22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 23 "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us"). 24 When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. 25 But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

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

**Sermon: Advent in a Nursery  
Pastor Wes Oden**

**Song: *Welcome to Our World***

**Benediction**

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**Scripture Reader: Ann McNeill**

**Music Ministry Team:  
Amanda Cox, Joanna Bates, Betsy Webb, vocals;  
Dan Wartinger, guitar & vocals; AC Taylor, cajón**

The Children's Sermon is on *The Light of the World*: <https://youtu.be/mOrw3g8AjYw>

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 19

**WELCOME TO THE HOUGHTON WESLEYAN CHURCH.** We have now arrived at the Fourth Sunday of Advent and the anticipation of Christ's birth is mounting. As Mary and Joseph make final preparations for their child, so we are called to make final preparations, too. In worship today, release your heart and mind to the movement of God's Spirit—to the whisper of His voice, to the miracles of His presence, to the love of His Son.

**BAPTISM SERVICE:** Today, immediately following the outdoor service, we will be in the sanctuary for a baptism service. Come celebrate with those who are being baptized.

**CAROL SING:** Today at 4:00pm, join us in the church parking lot for a time of singing your favorite Christmas Carols. We will have hot drinks and after the singing, we will have everything for making 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 in-person Sunday School 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.

**CHRISTMAS OFFERING** – We join World Hope International in providing self-sustaining assistance to the vital LaGonave Wesleyan Hospital in Haiti. Offerings will be collected Christmas Eve in both indoor and outdoor services, and may be received via all HWC donation options throughout December.

**STEWARDSHIP** Budget Needed: \$449,429.12 / Budget Received: \$403,968.49

**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 continue to focus on Haiti as we pray with Kris and Cory Thede that God grant wisdom to Global Partners as they consider the possible return of GP workers to Haiti. And we ask God to guide us as we join in significant giving for LaGonave Wesleyan Hospital this Christmas.

**PERSECUTED CHURCH** – Many who are facing long-term displacement by floods, and even starvation in South Sudan are Christian brothers and sisters. May God give provision and protection and guide the global response. May their witness in the midst of suffering lift up the Name of Jesus.

**PRAYER CONCERNS:** for all who are grieving; for people with health concerns: Wendy Ott, Karen Gaerte, Bill Getty, Don Yeddo (Paul Rowley's step-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 Elijah 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 effected by the coronavirus, for a safe end for the missionaries kidnapped in Haiti, for refugees, for peace amid threats of war; for all area churches as they proclaim the birth of Jesus.

### STEWARDSHIP *A Life of Generosity*

Recently Pastor Jon attended a youth ministry convention at which, the 9 Square-in-the-air company, held a competitive 9 square tournament. On the line for the winner was a complete 9 square game system. That's about a \$1000 worth of youth ministry fun! Without going into too much detail about gameplay mechanics, you should understand that being tall is a significant advantage in 9 Square. Since Pastor Jon is taller than most people, he entered the competition with high hopes of bringing home a brand new 9 square game for our youth ministry, and he was on the way to doing just that.

Then he began to listen to the stories of some of the other youth pastors and their hope of winning a youth ministry tool that for many of them was financially out of reach. He was struck with the knowledge that all of the youth ministry needs in our church are generously met. And so, knowing that many youth leaders have minimal financial resources and with a sense of gratitude for what our church provides, he decided to withdraw from the event.

It's only because of your generosity that we are able to invest as much as we do in the young people in our community!

In addition to one-time requests (technology, missions, big events), the youth budget is routinely used for things like:

Youth group supplies

Refreshments

Investments in the youth room

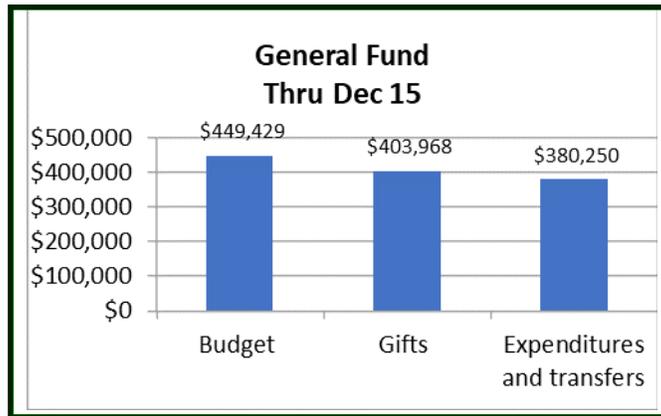
Curriculum

Volunteer staff training and "thank-you's"

Bibles and other books that we can give out to parents and students

Defraying the cost of trips and events to keep the price low enough that all students can attend.

This ministry that focuses on the well-being and spiritual development of our young people would not be possible without your generous giving! Thank you for your faithfulness and generosity.



*Poinsettias for Christmas are Given By*

- \* **Ken and Barb Bates in loving memory of David and Vivian Robbins and Jim and Doris Bates**
- \* **Mom, Dad, Ava and Alexa Breuer in loving memory of Erica**
- \* **Jerry Brown and the Oden Family in loving memory of Alyce**
- \* **Bill and Antje Calkins in loving memory of Heinz and Hildegard Janssen and William and Marjorie Calkins**
- \* **Bill and Judy Congdon Doezema in loving honor of our parents William Sr. and Jeanette Doezema and Edwin and Mildred Congdon**
- \* **Judy Hopkins and Family in loving memory of Ted**
- \* **Dean and Carmen Liddick in loving memory of Alton and Ruth Liddick and Gerald and Mildred VanderVeen**
- \* **Paul & Shirley (Mullen) Mills in loving memory of James and Lillian Mae Mills; in loving memory of Bonnie Boggs Mills; in loving memory of Stephen Mills, and in honor of Laurence and Vesta Mullen**
- \* **Robin Pawling in loving memory of my mother Jean Alderman Pawling; in loving memory of my aunt Gerry Alderman; and in loving memory of my aunt Debbie Alderman Wilson**
- \* **The Pocock Family in loving memory of Al and Esther Smith**
- \* **Daryl and Gudy Stevenson in memory of our parents, Milly and Magnus Mindrebo and Margaret and Herbert Stevenson**
- \* **Bill and Jayne Swanson in memory of our parents**
- \* **Grace Taylor in memory of my loving husband Edward and son Robert**
- \* **Tracy Taylor in memory of my loving father Jess and brother Brett**
- \* **Matt and Barb Woolsey in memory of Mary Alice Bowman and Ella and Warren Woolsey.**

### **O Come O Come Emmanuel**

O come O come Emmanuel  
And ransom captive Israel  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear

**Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel**

O come Thou Dayspring  
come and cheer  
Our spirits by Thine advent here  
Disperse the gloomy  
clouds of night  
And death's dark shadows  
put to flight

**Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel**

O come Thou Wisdom  
from on high  
And order all things  
far and nigh  
To us the path of knowledge show  
And cause us in her ways to go

**Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel**

O come Desire of nations bind  
All peoples in one heart and mind  
Bid envy strife and quarrels cease  
Fill the whole world  
with heaven's peace

**Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel**

### **Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**

Hark the herald angels sing  
Glory to the newborn King  
Peace on earth and mercy mild  
God and sinners reconciled  
Joyful all ye nations rise  
Join the triumph of the skies  
With th'angelic hosts proclaim  
Christ is born in Bethlehem  
Hark the herald angels sing  
Glory to the newborn King

Christ by highest heav'n adored  
Christ the everlasting Lord  
Late in time behold Him come  
Offspring of the Virgin's womb  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see  
Hail th'incarnate Deity

Pleased as man with men to dwell  
Jesus our Emmanuel  
Hark the herald angels sing  
Glory to the newborn King

Hail the heav'n-born  
Prince of Peace  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness  
Light and life to all He brings  
Ris'n with healing in His wings  
Mild He lays His glory by  
Born that man no more may die  
Born to raise the sons of earth  
Born to give them second birth  
Hark the herald angels sing  
Glory to the newborn King

### **Hope Is Alive**

After the silence of waiting so long  
We hear a baby's first cry  
And into our midnight  
A heavenly song whispers  
that hope is alive  
Oh joy to the world  
on this holy night

**So sing with the angels  
that fill up the sky  
Heaven broke through  
and now hope is alive  
He is right here among us  
our God is with us tonight  
And hope is alive**

In an old stable beneath the bright stars  
A young mother is holding her son  
Oh the beauty of feeling  
the beat of God's heart  
That tells us that we're not alone  
Oh our Emmanuel has come

**So sing with the angels  
that fill up the sky  
Heaven broke through  
and now hope is alive  
He is right here among us  
our God is with us tonight**

Into our aching into our breaking  
Into our longing to be made whole  
Your arms are reaching  
Your love is holding us close  
And into our suffering  
into our weeping  
Into this need  
we have to be known  
Your arms are reaching  
Your love is holding us close

**So sing with the angels  
that fill up the sky  
Those in the shadows  
have seen a great light  
He is right here among us  
our God is with us tonight  
So sing with the angels  
that fill up the sky  
Heaven broke through  
and now hope is alive  
He is right here among us  
our God is with us tonight  
And hope is alive**

### **Welcome to Our World**

Tears are falling  
Hearts are breaking  
How we need to hear from God  
You've been promised  
We've been waiting  
Welcome holy Child  
Welcome holy Child

Hope that You  
don't mind our manger  
How I wish we would have known  
But long-awaited holy Stranger  
Make Yourself at home  
Please make Yourself at home

Bring Your peace  
Into our violence  
Bid our hungry souls be filled  
Word now breaking  
heaven's silence  
Welcome to our world  
Welcome to our world

Fragile finger sent to heal us  
Tender brow prepared for thorn  
Tiny heart whose blood  
will save us  
Unto us is born  
Unto us is born

So wrap our injured flesh  
around You  
Breathe our air and walk our sod  
Rob our sin and make us holy  
Perfect Son of God  
Perfect Son of God  
Welcome to our world