



*Houghton Wesleyan Church*  
*Christmas Eve Candlelight Service*  
*December 24, 2021*  
*6:00 p.m.*

# HOUGHTON WESLEYAN CHURCH

## CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

6:00 P.M.

DECEMBER 24, 2021

Prelude: Carol Preludes by Robin Dinda

*Sussex Carol; Angels We Have Heard on High; O Little Town of Bethlehem  
Infant Holy, Infant Lowly (Polish Carol) arr. Wilbur Held*

Welcome: Pastor Wesley Oden

Lighting of the Christ Candle: The Knapp Family

Carol 121: ***O Come, All Ye Faithful!***

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7 (Angela Babbitt)

*Christ's Birth and Kingdom are Foretold by Isaiah*

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

Ministry in Music: *Gather Round, Ye Children, Come* (Andrew Peterson)

Scripture Reading: Micah 5:1-5a (Pastor Cindy Oden)

*The Prophet Micah Foretells the Glory of Little Bethlehem*

Carol 109: ***Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus***

Scripture Reading: Luke 1:26-38 (Ken Bates)

*The Angel Gabriel Comes to the Virgin Mary*

Carol 136 ***O Little Town of Bethlehem***

Scripture Reading: Matthew 1:18-25 (James Mullen)

*The Angel Appears to Joseph*

Choir Carol: *Silent Night* (arr. Mark Hayes)

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:1-7 (Jessica Romance)

*St. Luke Tells of the Birth of Jesus*

Christmas Eve Offering / Prayer: Pastor Paul Shea

For this year's Christmas Eve offering we join World Hope International in providing self-sustaining assistance to the vital LaGonave Wesleyan Hospital in Haiti.

Offering boxes are available in the foyer for your gift. You may also give online (hwchurch.org) or bring a gift to the church office throughout December.

Ministry in Music: *Before the King* (Ferreira, Miller)

Children's Nativity: *Song of the Stars*

The children are invited to be part of our nativity reading during the service.

They may join everyone up front when invited by Miss Ann and Miss Emily!

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:8-20 (Christy Shea)  
*The Shepherds Go to the Manger*

Choir Carol: *Gesu Bambino* (arr. Spevacek)  
Debbie Shea, violin

Scripture Reading: Matthew 2:1-11 (Josie Adenuga)  
*The Wise Men are Led by the Star to Jesus*

Song: ***O Holy Night***

Scripture Reading: John 1:1-14 (Emily Spateholts)  
*The Word Becomes Flesh and Dwells Among Us*

Ministry in Music: *Mary, Did You Know?* (Mark Lowry)

Meditation: Pastor Wesley Oden

### ***Candle Lighting Ceremony***

The central candle of the Advent wreath represents Christ, the light of the world. During the service, the light from the Christ Candle has been carried to candles along the center aisle. During the singing of ***Silent Night***, those who are nearest the center aisle are asked to light their candle from the aisle candles. Then all those who worship will pass the light, holding the lit candles upright and tilting the unlit candle to receive the flame. Ushers will bring the light from the Christ Candle to the balcony. When all the candles are lit, we will stand for prayer and ask God to help us be Christ's light in the world. Then we will join together in singing ***Joy to the World***. The texts of ***Silent Night*** and ***Joy to the World*** can be found on the back page of the bulletin.

Benediction

Ringling of the Bells

Postlude: *Organ Flourish on "Joy to the World"* (Michael Dell)

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Organist: Judy Congdon

Acolytes: Anna Huizenga and Zach Tucker

Music Ministry Team:

Jeff Babbitt, Jady Mucher, Kristen Sanasith, vocals;  
Amanda Cox, piano & vocals; Caleb Hilsher, guitar

As you leave, please extinguish your candle  
and place it in the proper receptacle in the foyer,  
but let the light of Christ's love burn on in your heart.

***May God bless you with a very merry Christmas.  
Our Worship Services on December 26  
will be outdoors at 8:45am and indoors at 11am.  
There will be no Sunday School on December 26.***

## ***Silent Night***

Silent night! Holy night!  
All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon virgin mother and child,  
Holy infant so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace,  
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night! Holy night!  
Son of God, love's pure light,  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,  
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth.

## ***Joy to the World!***

Joy to the world! The Lord is come;  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare Him room,  
And heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

He rules the world with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders, wonders of His love.