



Christmas
EVE

HOUGHTON WESLEYAN CHURCH
CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

4:00 P.M.

DECEMBER 24, 2022

Prelude: *Gather Round, Ye Children Come* (Andrew Peterson)

Welcome: Pastor Wes Oden

Lighting of the Christ Candle: The Brubaker Family

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

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7 (Doug Gaerte)
Christ's Birth and Kingdom are Foretold by Isaiah

Ministry in Music: *Christmas is Here* (JJ Heller)

Scripture Reading: Luke 1:26-38 (Jill Jordan)
The Angel Gabriel Comes to the Virgin Mary

Ministry in Music: *Be Born in Me* (Herms, Nordeman)

Scripture Reading: Matthew 1:18-25 (Ken Bates)
The Angel Appears to Joseph

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

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:1-20 (Mike Jordan)
St. Luke Tells of the Birth of Jesus

Carol 117: ***Hark! The Herald Angels Sing***

Christmas Eve Offering & Prayer: Pastor Paul Shea
For this year's Christmas Eve offering the church Global Missions Committee has chosen to partner with Wycliffe Thailand in construction of a new Headquarters Center for mobilizing Bible translation across S.E. Asia.

Offertory: *Wonderful* (Cain, Johnson, Chapman)

Song of Adoration: ***O Holy Night***

Children's Sermon: ***Give Your Gift***

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

Meditation: Pastor Wes 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

Ringing of the Bells

Postlude

Acolytes: Jadya Mucher and Emma Cole

Music Ministry Team:

Luke Ogden, Evelyn Cox, Kristen Sanasith, vocals;
Alison Young Reusser, guitar & vocals; Amanda Cox, piano & vocals



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.

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.

***Our Christmas Worship Service
tomorrow will begin at 10am.
There will be no Sunday School
on December 25.***