



Christmas
DAY

HOUGHTON WESLEYAN CHURCH
CHRISTMAS DAY

10:00 A.M.

DECEMBER 25, 2022

Prelude: *Carol Preludes* (Wilbur Held)
“He Whom Shepherds Once Came Praising”
“I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day”

Lighting of the Christ Candle: The Bates Family

Hymn of Praise 121: *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

Words of Greeting and Peace

Children’s Song: *O What a Glorious Night*

Time of Prayer

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

Scripture Reading: Luke 2: 1-20

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

Songs of Adoration: *Hope is Alive; Welcome to Our World*

Sermon: *The Essence of Christmas*
Pastor Wes Oden

Hymn 115: *Joy to the World!*

Benediction

Postlude: *God Rest You Merry* (arr. Wilbur Held)

Organist: Judy Congdon

Acolyte: Miriam Derck

Scripture Reader: Pastor Cindy Oden

Music Ministry Team:

Evie Cox, Mike Cox, vocals; Alison Young Reusser, guitar & vocals;
Amanda Cox, piano & vocals; Dan Zambrano, cajón

WELCOME TO THE HOUGHTON WESLEYAN CHURCH. *Christ is born* changes everything! On this day when we celebrate his coming in human flesh, may our hearts and minds be filled with the wonder of his birth and joy of his salvation—this day and forever.

NEXT SUNDAY MORNING we will gather for worship (indoor/streaming) at 10:00 a.m. Pastor David Huizenga will preach.

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED for the holidays on December 26 and January 2.

CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING: We give thanks to God and to all who gave generously to our Christmas Eve offering. If you have not given and would like to, please mark a check “Christmas Eve Offering” or make this designation for your online gift.

MISSION MOMENT – Our church’s final current Wycliffe worker is Leah in Southeast Asia where she continues to learn the ‘Obi’ language, commit it to writing and build the foundation for Bible translation. We praise God for her work visa, her team of supporters and local relationships. May God grant her a blessed Christmas and New Year. We pray that our Christmas Offering will indeed impact those working with her in that region.

PERSECUTED CHURCH – Christmas season offers special opportunities and in some cases dangers for believers in countries opposed to Christian witness. Often believers are able to share privately about the Good News in the Christmas story. But in many places greater surveillance and scrutiny accompanies this time of year. We pray for God to protect and surround His people with his comfort and courage even as we have opportunity to openly worship Christ on this day.

NO IN-PERSON KIDS CONNECT OR NURSERY TODAY. This week materials were sent out on Friday; kids heard about how angels appeared to the shepherds and told them the good news about Jesus’ birth! **BIG IDEA:** Jesus is God’s love for everyone. **BIBLE:** Luke 2:1-20

Kids ministry options over the holidays:

- 1st - Nursery and children's church (no Kids Connect)
- 8th - Nursery and children's church (no Kids Connect)
- 15th - All programs resume as normal

STEWARDSHIP

Budget Needed: \$465,480.16 / **Budget Received:** \$429,753.93

PRAYER CONCERNS: for all who are grieving; for people with health concerns: Jeff LaLonde (Andrea Tanner's father), David Ortlip, Vesta Mullen, Terry Ayers, Scarlett Gildemeister, Kim Pegula, Mim Case, Grace Taylor, Karen Gaerte, Bill Getty, Don Yeddo (Paul Rowley's step-father), 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), Dan and Sarah Gurley, Chelsea Ellis, Keith Rugg (Kathy Moore's father), Mark Mayhle (Doug's brother), Jeshu, Kurtis and Eliyah Perry, Reuben Samuels, Emily Crikelair; for all dealing with tragedies and disasters including the recent storms; for refugees throughout the world; for protection, wisdom and peace in Ukraine; for a Chinese pastor who has been detained by the police since last December; for all churches in WNY.