

**EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**JULY 23, 2023**

**8:30 OUTDOOR SERVICE**

**LISTEN AT 106.9 FM**

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*Open Up the Heavens, Holy Spirit You are Welcome Here*

Welcome & Announcements

Time of Prayer

Scripture Reading: Genesis 18:16-33

16 When the men got up to leave, they looked down toward Sodom, and Abraham walked along with them to see them on their way. 17 Then the LORD said, “Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do? 18 Abraham will surely become a great and powerful nation, and all nations on earth will be blessed through him. 19 For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing what is right and just, so that the LORD will bring about for Abraham what he has promised him.” 20 Then the LORD said, “The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is so great and their sin so grievous 21 that I will go down and see if what they have done is as bad as the outcry that has reached me. If not, I will know.” 22 The men turned away and went toward Sodom, but Abraham remained standing before the LORD. 23 Then Abraham approached him and said: “Will you sweep away the righteous with the wicked? 24 What if there are fifty righteous people in the city? Will you really sweep it away and not spare the place for the sake of the fifty righteous people in it? 25 Far be it from you to do such a thing—to kill the righteous with the wicked, treating the righteous and the wicked alike. Far be it from you! Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?” 26 The LORD said, “If I find fifty righteous people in the city of Sodom, I will spare the whole place for their sake.” 27 Then Abraham spoke up again: “Now that I have been so bold as to speak to the Lord, though I am nothing but dust and ashes, 28 what if the number of the righteous is five less than fifty? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five people?” “If I find forty-five there,” he said, “I will not destroy it.” 29 Once again he spoke to him, “What if only forty are found there?” He said, “For the sake of forty, I will not do it.” 30 Then he said, “May the Lord not be angry, but let me speak. What if only thirty can be found there?” He answered, “I will not do it if I find thirty there.” 31 Abraham said, “Now that I have been so bold as to speak to the Lord, what if only twenty can be found there?” He said, “For the sake of twenty, I will not destroy it.” 32 Then he said, “May the Lord not be angry, but let me speak just once more. What if only ten can be found there?” He answered, “For the sake of ten, I will not destroy it.” 33 When the LORD had finished speaking with Abraham, he left, and Abraham returned home.

Time of Prayer

Response: Chorus of *It is Well*

Greeting One Another

*Children are dismissed for Children’s Church during the greeting time before the sermon.*

Sermon: *Called to Be Partners with God*

Dr. Andrew Walton

*Sons & Daughters of God*

Benediction

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Reader: Wes Davidson

Musicians: Alison Young Reusser (guitar and vocals), Kristen Sanasith (vocals), Hilary Gunning (vocals), Nico Seddio (cajòn), Jan Schilke (keyboard)

**WELCOME TO THE HOUGHTON WESLEYAN CHURCH.** The Psalmist encourages us to enter God's gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise (100:4). This morning we worship to rejoice in God's blessings and to ask for His help in our struggles. Wherever we are, God is with us! Let us open our lives to Him.

**NEXT SUNDAY MORNING** Pastor Wes will preach from 1 Thessalonians 2, *Subversive Living in Enemy-Occupied Territory*.

### **SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

#### **July 23 – September 3**

8:30 a.m. Outdoor Worship

10:00 a.m. Indoor/Streaming Worship

#### **September 10 – October 29**

8:30 a.m. Outdoor Worship

9:45 a.m. Discipleship Hour

11:00 a.m. Indoor/Streaming Worship

### **HWC KIDS**

- HWC Kids: This week, kids hear about the dream Jacob had and the message he received. **BIG IDEA:** We always belong in God's family. **BIBLE:** Genesis 28:10-19a
- Valley Preschool: Turn in your applications today for a fun and faith-filled opportunity for 2 - 5 year olds in the fall! Applications available at the Church Office or online at [hwchurch.org/valley-preschool/](http://hwchurch.org/valley-preschool/).
- Bikes on the Quad: Wednesday, 6:30pm, HU quad
- Family Friday: Friday, July 28, 6:30-8pm, Tanners' house (6096 Mechanic St., Wiscoy)

**REFRESH RETREAT & FAMILY CAMP** July 30-August 4 on the Houghton University Campus. Go to [refreshthoughton.com](http://refreshthoughton.com) for resources and registration.

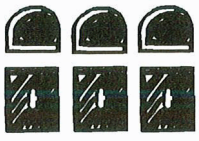
**“RISE UP AND PRAY” with MOMS IN PRAYER**, an international ministry with focus on women desiring to pray for their children and schools. They will meet on Saturday, August 12 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Community Room. RSVP to Barbara Rubino by August 5 at [connectmomsinprayer62@gmail.com](mailto:connectmomsinprayer62@gmail.com). Light refreshments will be served. Invite a friend.

**STEWARDSHIP**      **Budget Needed:** \$117,021.17 / **Budget Received:** \$102,701.98

**MISSION MOMENT** - Pray for Ben and Christine Hegeman who depart this week for a 1 ½ month teaching ministry on the “Role of the Holy Spirit” for pastors in Benin, W. Africa. Teaching and materials are in French and Baatanu languages. Don Little later joins the first week of September for LTC training in Ministry among Muslims in East Africa. We pray for safety, strength, wisdom and God's fruit.

**THE PERSECUTED CHURCH** - Patience, prayer, and public engagement with God's blessing can bring about change where persecution has prevailed. Recent elections in Karnataka State in SW India have resulted in reversals of oppressive laws against minority religions, including Christians. Improvements in education opportunities, health care, and employment are anticipated. Pray for Christian witness to grow along with this good news.

**PRAYER CONCERNS:** for all who are grieving; for people with health concerns: Darwin and Fauhn Schierer, Vesta Mullen, Terry Ayers, Scarlett Gildemeister, Kim Pegula, Mim Case, Grace Taylor, Karen Gaerte, Bill Getty, Andy Mikolajczyk (Mary Lingenfelter's brother), Denise Zambrano, Cameron Green, Vangie Grant, Lenore Paige, 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 particularly the recent earthquake in Turkey and Syria, the recent acts of violence; for refugees throughout the world; for protection, wisdom and peace in Ukraine; for a Chinese pastor who has been detained for more than a year; for the Levant Wesleyan Church (Pastor Al Meyers).



**Houghton**  
WESLEYAN CHURCH

*Joyfully loving God,  
wholeheartedly  
serving others*

## Church Staff

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Church Office, M-F, 8 AM-Noon & 1-4PM  
567-2264 [office@hwchurch.org](mailto:office@hwchurch.org)

QR code to the Children's Sermon is available after 8:00 a.m. on Sunday morning.



## ***Open Up the Heavens***

We've waited for this day  
We're gathered in your name  
Calling out to you  
Your glory like a fire  
Awakening desire  
Will burn our hearts with truth  
You're the reason we're here  
You're the reason we're singing

### **CHORUS:**

Open up the heavens  
We want to see you  
Open up the floodgates  
A mighty river  
Flowing from your heart  
Filling every part of our praise

Your presence in this place  
Your glory on our face  
We're looking to the sky  
Descending like a cloud  
You're standing with us now  
Lord, unveil our eyes  
You're the reason we're here  
You're the reason we're singing

### CHORUS

### **BRIDGE:**

Show us, show us your glory  
Show us, show us your power  
Show us, show us your glory, Lord

### CHORUS

## ***Holy Spirit You are Welcome Here***

There's nothing worth more,  
that will ever come close  
No thing can compare,  
You're our living hope  
Your Presence, Lord  
I've tasted and seen,  
of the sweetest of Loves  
Where my heart becomes free,  
and my shame is undone  
In Your Presence, Lord

### **CHORUS:**

Holy Spirit  
You are welcome here  
Come flood this place and fill the atmosphere  
Your Glory God is what our hearts long for  
To be overcome by Your Presence Lord  
(Your presence Lord)

### **BRIDGE (3x):**

Let us become more aware of Your Presence  
Let us experience the Glory of Your Goodness  
(Lord)

## ***Chorus of It is Well***

So let go my soul and trust in Him  
The waves and wind still know His name  
(The waves and wind still know His name)

It is well, with my soul  
It is well, with my soul  
It is well, it is well with my soul  
(It is well, it is well with my soul)

## ***Sons and Daughters***

Before He spoke creation  
The God of heaven knew our names  
Formed in His reflection  
We are His glory on display  
And His heart is good,  
He is always kind  
With the cross he proved  
He is on our side

### **CHORUS:**

We are the sons  
We are the daughters of God  
No matter where we go  
we're close to the Father's heart  
And though we stumble  
He will not let us fall  
We are the Lord's and He will  
**Never forsake His own**  
We are the sons  
We are the daughters of God

His love He lavished on us  
And called us children of the King  
And in His loving kindness  
He chose the lowly and the weak

### CHORUS

### **BRIDGE (2x)**

When the lies speak louder than the truth  
Remind me that I belong to You  
When I can't see past the dark of night  
Remind me You're always by my side  
(You're by my side)

### CHORUS