



# JOY

BURST INTO  
SONGS OF **JOY** TOGETHER...  
HE HAS REDEEMED JERUSALEM.  
ISAIAH 52:9

# THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 17, 2023

10:00 A.M.

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Prelude: *I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day* arr. Wilbur Held

Lighting of the Advent Candle: Joy  
Dean Liddick, Bill Doezema, Bill Swanson

***Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming*** (#118)

Welcome & Prayer

Valley Preschool Choir Video

Christmas Eve Offering Update

Choral Anthem: *Babe Jesus Lay* Hunter Gregory

Children's Sermon: *The Best*

***Sing We the Song of Emmanuel; Breath of Heaven***  
Offering will be received during the second song.

Greeting One Another

Christmas Carols by Request

Benediction

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**Acolyte:** Emalyn Mucher

## **Musicians:**

Alison Young-Ruesser (guitar & vocals), Sarah Sardina (vocals),  
Luke Ogden (vocals), Dan Zambrano (cello), Tim & Sharon McGarvey (horns),  
Gabe Huizenga (cajòn), David Huizenga (piano)

**WELCOME TO THE HOUGHTON WESLEYAN CHURCH.** On this third Sunday of Advent, we find ourselves in the middle of December — looking back and looking forward, pondering what has taken place and wondering what is yet to come. As we prepare for the celebration of Christ’s coming, let’s ask for open hearts and minds to Christ who is the Living Word.

**ADVENT CANDLE:** Each Sunday during Advent this year, our readers belong to a shared group or role in church or community life. This morning each of the readers is a member of the Monday morning men’s fellowship group. Thank you Dean, Bill D. and Bill S.!

**NEXT SUNDAY MORNING** is the Fourth Sunday of Advent. Please join us for worship at 10:00 a.m.

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES:** We will host two Christmas Eve Services: 4:00 and 6:00. Both services will include the Lighting of the Christ Candle, a Children’s Time, Congregational Candle lighting, the reading of the Christmas story and music. The 6:00 service will be streamed.

**CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING:** God so loved the world...” The heart of missions is sharing God’s love in a variety of ways. In Czech Republic many have been reached through sports outreach, English camps, home Bible studies, and now growing church fellowships. A new approach is *M2M* – social media with one-on-one follow-up. Nearby, for 20 years special educational outreach connected with people, now adding new innovative approaches. Our support will spread the love of Jesus in Eastern Europe through His followers there.

## **HOLIDAY SERVICES**

Sunday, December 24 10:00 a.m. – Worship Service  
4:00 p.m. – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service  
6:00 p.m. – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Sunday, December 31 10:00 a.m. – Worship Service

Sunday, January 7 10:00 a.m. – Worship Service

Sunday, January 14 8:30 a.m. – Worship Service  
9:45 a.m. – Kids Connect, Youth Sunday School,  
Adult Discipleship  
11:00 a.m. – Worship Service

## STEWARDSHIP

**Budget Needed:** \$468,084.68 / **Budget Received:** \$437,822.92

*Reminder: gifts for calendar year 2023 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.*

## HWC KIDS:

**Kids Connect:** This week, kids hear how the birth of Jesus was foretold to Mary. **BIG IDEA:** God gives us what's best. **BIBLE:** Luke 1:26–55; Isaiah 61:1–4

**December Memory Verse:** “The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.” — John 1:9 (NIV)

**Schedule:** No Kids Connect or children's Church this week but there is Nursery.

**MISSION MOMENT**—What does the Lilias Trotter Center (Houghton NY) accomplish from here? Don Little, Ben Hegemen and Gail S. just completed a Fall course on Zoom with 17 students (majority non-westerners) from Singapore, India, Uganda, Chad, Nigeria, Togo, Benin, Liberia, UK, UAE, Morocco, France and USA on “*Bridging Divides: Critical Issues in Islam and in Ministry Among Muslims.*” This is in addition to seminars on location globally and courses offered in the new year! Pray..

**PERSECUTED CHURCH** – A new report from international religious freedom advocates finds that 46 nations (1 out of 4) restrict the right of its people to either adopt or propagate a religion. For example, last week in India, 9 Christians were arrested for allegedly evangelizing the poor. We pray for protection for those sharing Christ, and praise God for the freedoms we have where we are.

**PRAYER CONCERNS:** for all who are grieving; for people with health concerns: Kyle Boon, Linda Roth, Paul Roth, Matthew Pierson (Kim Prins-Moeller's brother-in-law), James Bates, Vesta Mullen, Terry Ayers, Scarlett Gildemeister, Kim Pegula, Grace Taylor, Karen Gaerte, Andy Mikolajczyk (Mary Lingenfelter's brother), Denise Zambrano, Cameron Green, Vangie Grant, Lenore Paige, Dan and Sarah Gurley, Chelsea Ellis, 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 and in Israel, Gaza and the entire Middle East; for a Chinese pastor who has been detained by the police for more than a year; for St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church, Fillmore (Rev. John Cullen).