



Houghton Wesleyan Church
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
December 24, 2023
4:00 p.m.

HOUGHTON WESLEYAN CHURCH

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

4:00 P.M.

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Prelude: *See Amid the Winter Snow*

Lighting of the Christ Candle: The Cox Family

Welcome & Prayer

Carol: *O Come All Ye Faithful (His Name Shall Be)*

Isaiah 9:2-7

Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by the prophet Isaiah.

Flute Solo: *Gesu Bambino* (Yon, arr. DeCesare)

Luke 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel comes to the virgin Mary.

Carol: *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

Matthew 1:18-25

The angel appears to Joseph.

Christmas Eve Offering & Prayer (Paul Shea)

Our offering this year supports Global Partners and our HWC missionaries in the launching of "Media to Movement" (M2M), an innovative new avenue for discipleship and church growth in the Czech Republic and beyond.

Offertory Carol: *O Holy Night*

Luke 2:1-7

St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

Vocal Quartet: *Manger Throne* (Wickham)

Luke 2:8-20

The shepherds go to the manger.

Carol: *Angels We Have Heard on High*

Children's Meditation: Emily Spateholts

Solo: *Mary Did You Know?* (Lowry & Greene, arr. Schrader)

Meditation: Pastor Wes Oden

Candlelighting 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: *Joy to the World (We Will Sing Joy)*

Acolytes:

Julia Beardsley, Nathan Tanner

Readers:

Katie Brubaker, Grace Deitrick, Doug Gaerte, Warren Torraca,
Michael Jordan, Laura Thayer

Musicians:

Evie Cox, Ava Harrison, Levi Webb (vocals),
Alison Young-Reusser (guitar & vocals), Dianna Clem (flute),
David Huizenga (piano)

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.

*Cover: Chester Barker commissioned H. Willard Ortlip to create
"The Heart of Christmas," around 1950.*