



Houghton Wesleyan Church
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
December 24, 2023
6:00 p.m.

HOUGHTON WESLEYAN CHURCH

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

6:00 P.M.

December 24, 2023

Prelude: *Variations on Adeste Fidelis* (R. Taylor)
Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella (arr. K. Chapman)

Lighting of the Christ Candle (Casda & Nathan Danner)

Welcome & Prayer

Carol: *O Come, All Ye Faithful* (#121)

Isaiah 9:2-7

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

Anthem: *Still, Still, Still* (arr. N. Luboff)

Micah 5:1-5a

The prophet Micah foretells the glory of little Bethlehem.

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

Luke 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel comes to the virgin Mary.

Carol: *O Little Town of Bethlehem* (#136)

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.

Luke 2:8-20
The shepherds go to the manger.

Anthem: *See Amid the Winter Snow* (Caswell & Goss, arr. D. Willcocks)

Matthew 2:1-11
The maji are led by the star to Jesus.

Organ Solo: *In the Bleak Midwinter* (arr. W. Held)

John 1:1-14
The Word becomes flesh and dwells among us.

Carol: *Angels from the Realms of Glory* (#119)

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

Ringling of the Bells

Postlude: *Organ Flourish on "Joy to the World"* (M. Dell)

Acolytes: Sam Cool, Jack Cool

Readers: Jessica Adenuga, Jeff Babbitt, Rhoda Burgett, Kerrie Davidson, Indigo Knapp, Karl Schmidt

Musicians: Dianna Clem (flute), David Clem (viola), David Huizenga (piano), Judy Congdon (organist & choir director), Carolyn Kindley (choir accompanist)

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.*