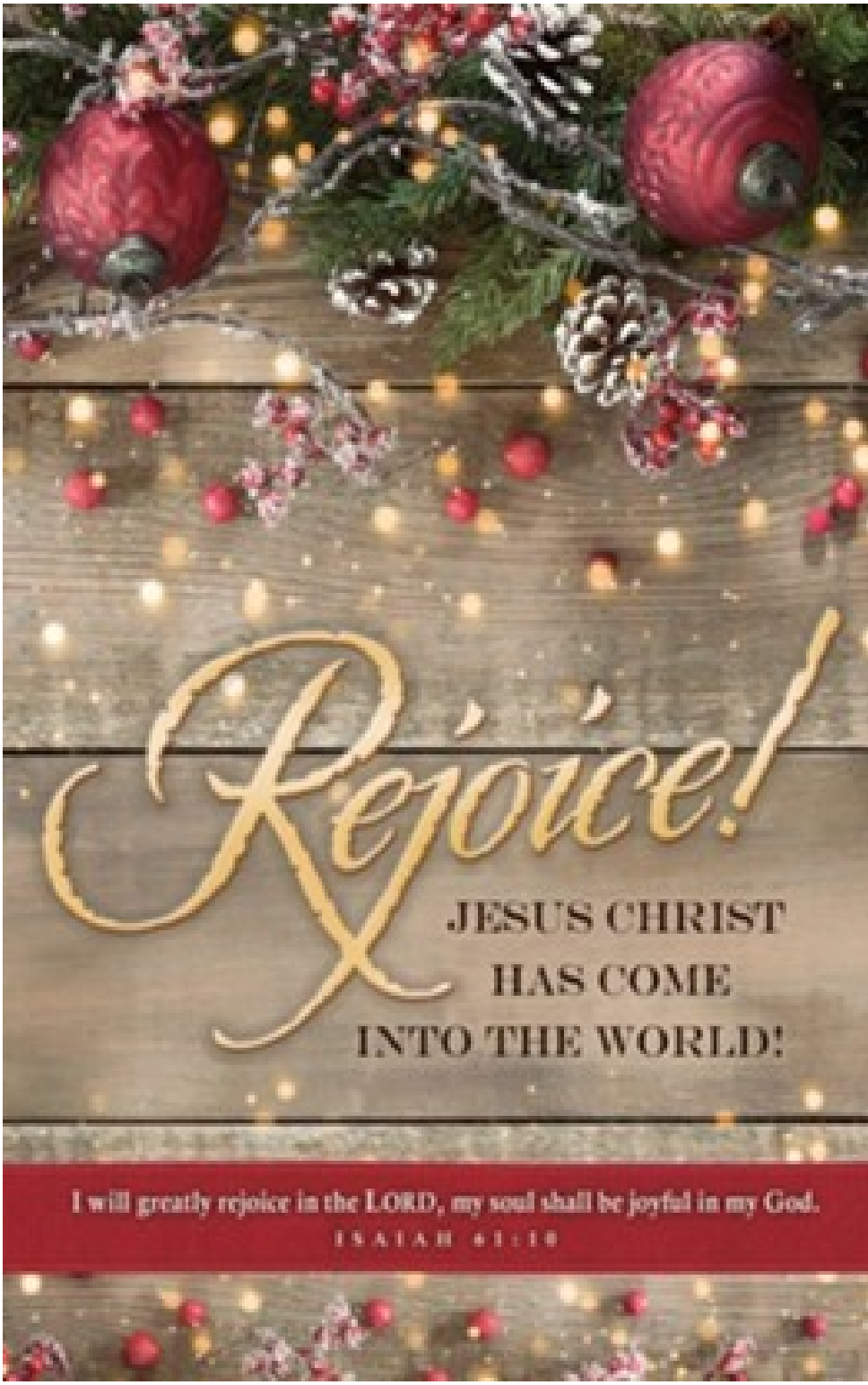
Rejoice!
JESUS CHRIST
HAS COME
INTO THE WORLD!
I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God.
ISAIAH 61:10

HOUGHTON WESLEYAN CHURCH

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

4:00 P.M. DECEMBER 24, 2024

Prelude: *Gather Round, Ye Children Come* (Andrew Peterson)

Welcome & Call to Worship: Pastor Cindy Oden
The virgin will be with child, and will give birth to a son.
And they will call him Immanuel, God with us.
The Word became flesh and lived for a while among us
And we have seen his glory.
The child in Bethlehem is the Savior, Christ the Lord
And we sing: glory to God and peace on earth.

Lighting of the Christ Candle: The Mucher Family

Opening Carol 121: ***O Come, All Ye Faithful!***

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7 (Doug Gaerte)
Christ's Birth and Kingdom are Foretold by Isaiah

Ministry in Music:
Light of the World (Lauren Daigle, Paul Duncan, Paul Mabury)

Scripture Reading: Luke 1:26-38 (Hannah Ogden)
The Angel Gabriel Comes to the Virgin Mary

Ministry in Music: *Be Born in Me* (Herms, Nordeman)

Scripture Reading: Matthew 1:18-25 (Violet Bates)
The Angel Appears to Joseph

Carol 136 : ***O Little Town of Bethlehem***

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:1-20 (Andrew Oden)
St. Luke Tells of the Birth of Jesus

Carol 117: ***Hark! The Herald Angels Sing***

Christmas Eve Offering & Prayer: Pastor David Huizenga
For this year's Christmas Eve offering we are partnering with three of our overseas ministries to children and youth in Australia, Sri Lanka and Liberia for Global Youth Outreach in 2025.

Offertory: *God With All of Us* (JJ Heller)

Children's Sermon: **The Unexpected Gift**

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:8-20 (Judy Hopkins)
The Shepherds Go to the Manger

Choir Carol: *Babe Jesus Lay* (Hunter Gregory)

Scripture Reading: Matthew 2:1-11 (Jessica Adenuga)
The Wise Men are Led by the Star to Jesus

Song: ***O Holy Night***

Scripture Reading: John 1:1-14 (Bruce Campbell)
The Word Becomes Flesh and Dwells Among Us

Ministry in Music: *Mary, Did You Know?* (Mark Lowry)

Meditation: Pastor Wesley Oden

Candle Lighting 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: *In Dulci Jubilo* BWV 729 (J.S. Bach)

Organist: Judy Congdon Acolytes: Jack Boon, Jared Boon

Music Ministry Team:
Luke Ogden, Evelyn Cox, vocals; Alison Young Reusser, guitar & vocals; Amanda Cox, piano & vocals; Steve Olsen, bass; Dan Zambrano, cajón

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.

Our Worship Service
on December 29 will begin at 10am.
There will be no Sunday School
on December 29.

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.