Arise, shine; for thy light is come,
and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee.

ISAIAH 60:1 (KJV)

HOPE

Prayer Requests May Be Submitted by Prayer Card (pew) or QR Code (back)

First Sunday of Advent

11:00AM November 30, 2025

Prelude: *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland*, BWV 659 ……..J. S. Bach
(Savior of the Nations, Come)

Lighting of the Advent Candle: John and Heléna Oden Family

*Hymn 114: ***Savior of the Nations, Come***

Life of the Church & Greeting One Another
(Children PreK through 1st Grade released for Children's Church)

*Songs of Adoration: ***King of Kings; Even So, Come***
(Offering will be received during the first song)

Prayer of Confession

Father, in this season of Advent, remind us that Christ came in the weakness and humility of a child. So, Lord, when we allow darkness to overcome light, forgive us. When we reduce Christmas to things, have mercy on us. When a hard heart keeps us from seeing and believing, let your grace fill us and transform us. Renew our hope through Christ who is coming, that we may watch and wait and once more rejoice to hear the loving story of our Savior. Amen.

Time of Prayer

Prayer Response: ***We Wait in Hope***

*Scripture Reading: Luke 1:5-25
Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God!

Anthem: *Advent Canticle* ……Mark Sheppard

Sermon: **Silenced by an Angel**
Pastor Randy Craker

*Song ***Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus***

*Benediction

*Postlude: *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence* …….arr. Noel Rawsthorne

*Please stand if able **Acolyte**: Emma Oden **Scripture Reader**: Doug Mayhle

Musicians:
Indigo Knapp, Kristen Sanasith, Grayson Cox, vocals;
Jeff Boon, guitar; Amanda Cox, piano & vocals; Dianna Clem, flute;
David Clem, viola; Steve Olsen, bass; Simon Sardina, cajón

WELCOME TO THE HOUGHTON WESLEYAN CHURCH. The season of Advent is a time of expectancy and preparation. Advent is a time for Christians to prepare—body, mind and spirit—to celebrate the coming of the Christ Child and to anticipate the coming of Christ the King of kings and Lord of lords. As we prepare, let us open ourselves to the truths of God's word and to the leading of the Holy Spirit to make Christ the center of all that we are and do.

NEXT SUNDAY MORNING is the Second Sunday of Advent. Next Sunday We will continue our Advent Journey by looking at the relationship between Mary and Elizabeth in Luke 1:26-45. Peace is the theme of the second week. One of the gifts of peace is friendship and encouragement. We invite you to join us for worship at 8:30 and 11:00. The 11:00 service will be streamed.

POINSETTIAS: The church welcomes your Christmas poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary. We have ordered several which you may purchase in memory or honor of a loved one. Please email the church office pattystalker@hwchurch.org call the church office (567-2264) before December 11.

CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING: will support local community outreaches, sharing the love of Christ with our local mission field.

HWC KIDS

- **This week in Kids Connect,** kids uncover the story of how Esther saved her people. BIG IDEA: God can send me to make peace. BIBLE: Esther 5 :1–8, 7 :1–6, 8 :1–8; Psalm 122:6–9
- **November Memory Verse:** "The eyes of the Lord are everywhere, keeping watch on the wicked and the good." — Proverbs 15:3 (NIV)
- **RFKC Christmas Giving Tree:** You have the opportunity to support our chapter of Royal Family Kids Camp through our giving tree initiative. Two Christmas trees are set up, one in the CE building foyer and one in the sanctuary foyer. These trees have tags on them with supplies needed by RFKC, ranging from toiletries for campers to birthday gifts for the "all-kids birthday" celebration at camp. Grab a tag (or two or three), shop for the new, quality item, and return it to the box near the tree or next to the church office by December 14th. Your gifts last year were an incredible blessing to RFKC, saving hundreds of dollars and making the campers feel very loved.

STEWARDSHIP

Budget Needed: $441,842.58 / **Monies Received:** $405,978.20

MISSION MOMENT: Jonathan Ortlip (International Ambassadors Football) Praise – As tropical hurricanes hit Haiti where Jonathan grew up, the storms caused destruction but the churches still stood. In Matthew 16:18 Jesus says: "I will build my church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it." Please pray for Ambassadors' continued use of football to work with churches as they share the good news of the Gospel. Pray that the 2026 World Cup can be an opportunity to partner with churches to reach others for Christ.

December Schedule

* December 7 and 14, Early Service 8:30 a.m. Later Service 11:00 a.m. (Discipleship Hour 9:45 a.m.)
* December 14, 5:00 p.m. Carol Sing and Cookie Reception
* December 21 and 28, One Morning Service at 10:00 a.m.
* December 21 Blue Christmas Service at 5:00 p.m.
* December 24 Christmas Eve Services at 4:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m.

(January 4 and 11 continue with one Morning Service at 10:00 a..m. Our full service schedule resumes January 18.)

PRAYER CONCERNS: for the Schierer family at the death of Paulette's brother Rev. Larry Burke on Tuesday; for the Grant and Sanasith families, and all others who are grieving; for all with health concerns: Karen and Ken Gaerte and daughter Lori, Peter Luckey, Harold Blew, Paul Roth, Kristen Massey, Nathan Danner, Mike Mathiason, David Pullen, Jane Allen, Terry Ayers, James Bates, Scarlett Gildemeister, Bruce Hess, Linda Leax, Gary Wickard, Beth Pocock, Kim Pegula, Cameron Green, Dan and Sarah Gurley, Chelsea Ellis, Mark Mayhle, Jeshu, Kurtis, and Eliyah Perry, Reuben Samuels, and Emily Crikelair; for anguished refugees and displaced persons in the U.S. and across the world; for cessation of hostilities, wisdom, and peace in Ukraine, the Middle East, and other places of unrest and war; and for the Caneadea United Methodist Church in Caneadea.

Sunday Morning Prayer & Praise Requests