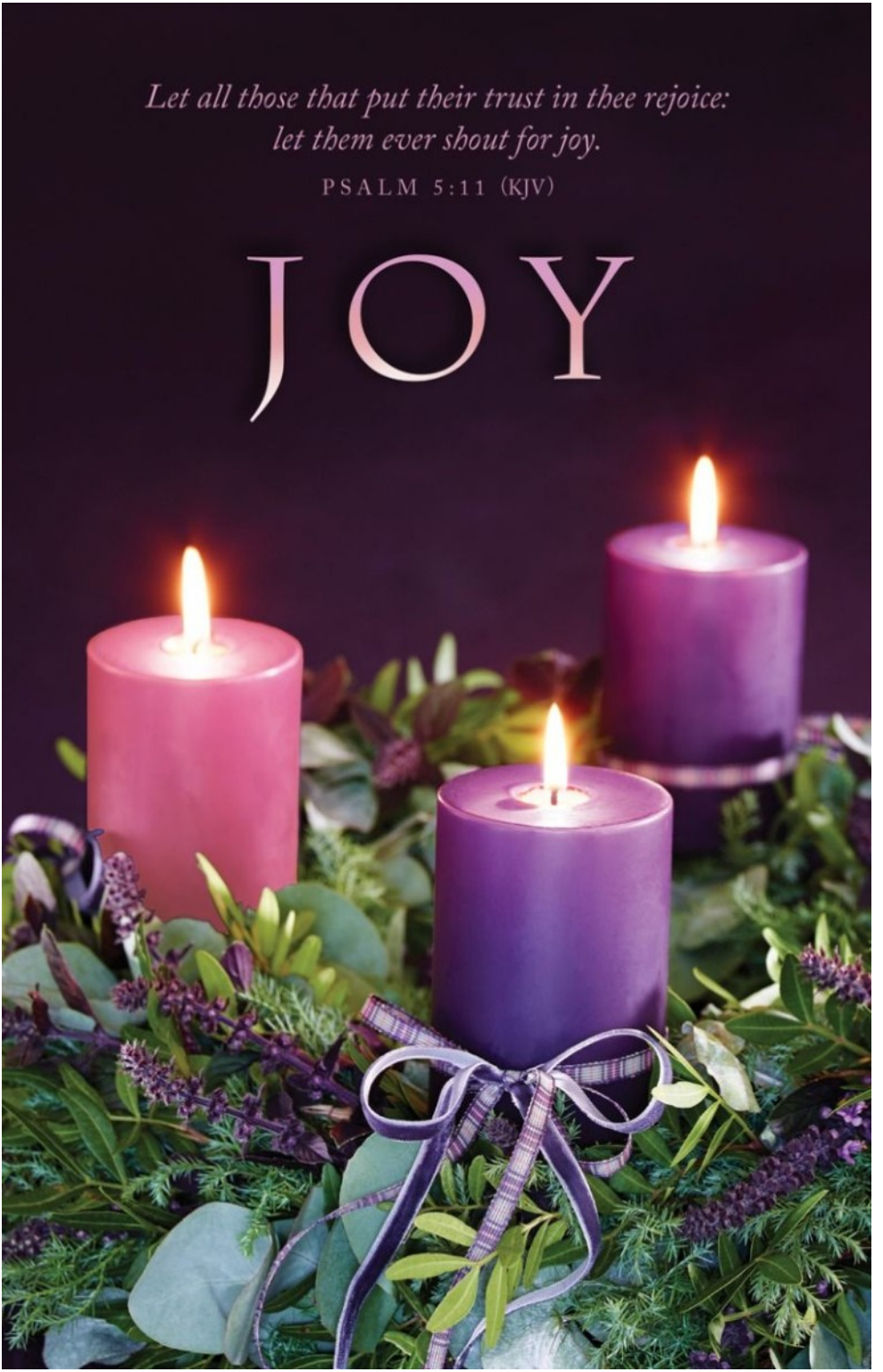
Let all those that put their trust in thee rejoice:
let them ever shout for joy.

PSALM 5:11 (KJV)

JOY



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

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

11:00AM DECEMBER 14, 2025

Prelude: *Chorale Prelude on "In dulci jubilo"* .....Marcel Dupré
Benjamin Van Tine, organ
God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen .....arr. Wilbur Held

Choral Introit: *Mary's Song* .....Ruth Elaine Schram

Lighting of the Advent Candle: Linda & Eli Knapp Family

*Hymn ***Tell Out, My Soul*** (see insert)

Life of the Church

Celebration of Ministry: Christmas Eve Offering

*Song of Preparation: ***Come, All You Unfaithful***
(Offering will be received)

Prayer of Confession

Heavenly Father, having lit the Candle of Joy on this Advent Sunday, we confess our failures to live in your gladness, allowing worries, selfish pursuits, and darkness to dim our light. Forgive our anxious hearts and bring us back to the deep, lasting joy found only in your promised presence, fill us with the hope and peace that our Savior is near, so we may rejoice and share His light with a world in need. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Time of Prayer

*Scripture Reading: Luke 1:46-56
Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God!

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

*Hymn 118 ***Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming***

Sermon: **Let Mary Sing**
Pastor Randy Craker

*Songs ***Canticle of the Turning***
Joy to the World (Unspeakable Joy)
Angels from the Realms of Glory (Hymn 119)

*Benediction

*Postlude: *Organ Flourish on "Joy to the World"* .....Michael Dell

*Please stand if able **Acolyte**: Anna Harrison **Scripture Reader**: Audrey Pocock

The rose on the pulpit is in honor of the adoption of Opal Cedar Gildemeister on December 8th to parents, Carlos and TJ, and big siblings, Zach (Amanda), Emilia, Carlos (Lindsey), Sofia (Dawit), Scarlett, Ruby and Hazel. Congratulations!

Musicians:
Benjamin Van Tine, organ & piano; Dianna Clem and Avery Chapman, flute;
Emalyn Mucher, Jon Hutmire, vocals;
Matt Cox, guitar & vocals; Amanda Cox, piano & vocals; Jill Jordan, violin;
Steve Olsen, bass; Dan Zambrano, cajón

WELCOME TO THE HOUGHTON WESLEYAN CHURCH. On this third Sunday of Advent, we are in mid-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 joyous hearts and open minds to Christ who is the Living Word.

CAROL SING: Today at 5:00 p.m., we are gathering in the church sanctuary to sing your favorite Christmas Carols. Following the carols, we will host a cookie reception in the Community Room. If you are able, please bring a dozen (or more) cookies or bars to share.

NEXT SUNDAY MORNING is the Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 21. Join us for worship at 10:00 a.m.

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

CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING will support local community outreaches, sharing the love of Christ with our local mission field. We will have an update on this in both services this morning.

PASTORS' CHRISTMAS GIFT: To participate as described by the Elders in the recent Highlights, submit any contribution via offering plate, the web site online giving link, to Dick Harter, or to the church office by December 21. Be sure to designate specifically for Pastors' Gift.

HOLIDAY SERVICES
Sunday, December 21 10:00 a.m. – Worship Service (streamed)
Blue Christmas December 21, 5:00 p.m. (no streaming)
Wednesday, December 24
4:00 p.m. – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
6:00 p.m. – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service (streamed)
Sunday, December 28 10:00 a.m. – Worship Service (streamed)
Sunday, January 4 10:00 a.m. – Worship Service (streamed)
Sunday, January 11 10:00 a.m. – Worship Service (streamed)
Sunday, January 18 8:30 a.m. – Early Worship Service
9:45 a.m. – Kids Connect, Youth Sunday School, Adult Discipleship
11:00 a.m. – Later Worship Service (streamed)

HWC KIDS

- This week in Kids Connect/Children's Church, kids follow the story of how an angel visited Mary to deliver a special message from God.
  BIG IDEA: God gives hope to guide us.
  BIBLE: Luke 1:26–38; James 5:7–11
- December Memory Verse: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." — John 8:12b (NIV)
- Reminder: This is the last week of Kids Connect before the holidays. We'll see you again on January 18th.
- Join us for a special Christmas Kids Club on Saturday, Dec. 20th from 9:30-11:00am for grades PreK-6th. (No Preteen Hangout this month)

MISSION MOMENT: Stacia (I Thessalonians 5:18) "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" Amidst the joy and blessings of life, there is a great deal of mess and pain. Thankfulness in those times does take more intention. Pray that in the busyness of the season we will be intentional in turning our hearts toward the true meaning of Christmas and take time to reflect God's truth in our community.

STEWARDSHIP

Budget Needed: $476,496.90 / Monies Received: $439,846.34

PRAYER CONCERNS: for all who are grieving; for all with health concerns: Karen and Ken Gaerte and daughter Lori, Harold Blew, Bruce Hess, Paul Roth, Kristen Massey, Nathan Danner, Mike Mathiason, David Pullen, Jane Allen, Terry Ayers, James Bates, Scarlett Gildemeister, 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 First Baptist Church in Hume, NY

Sunday Morning Prayer & Praise Requests