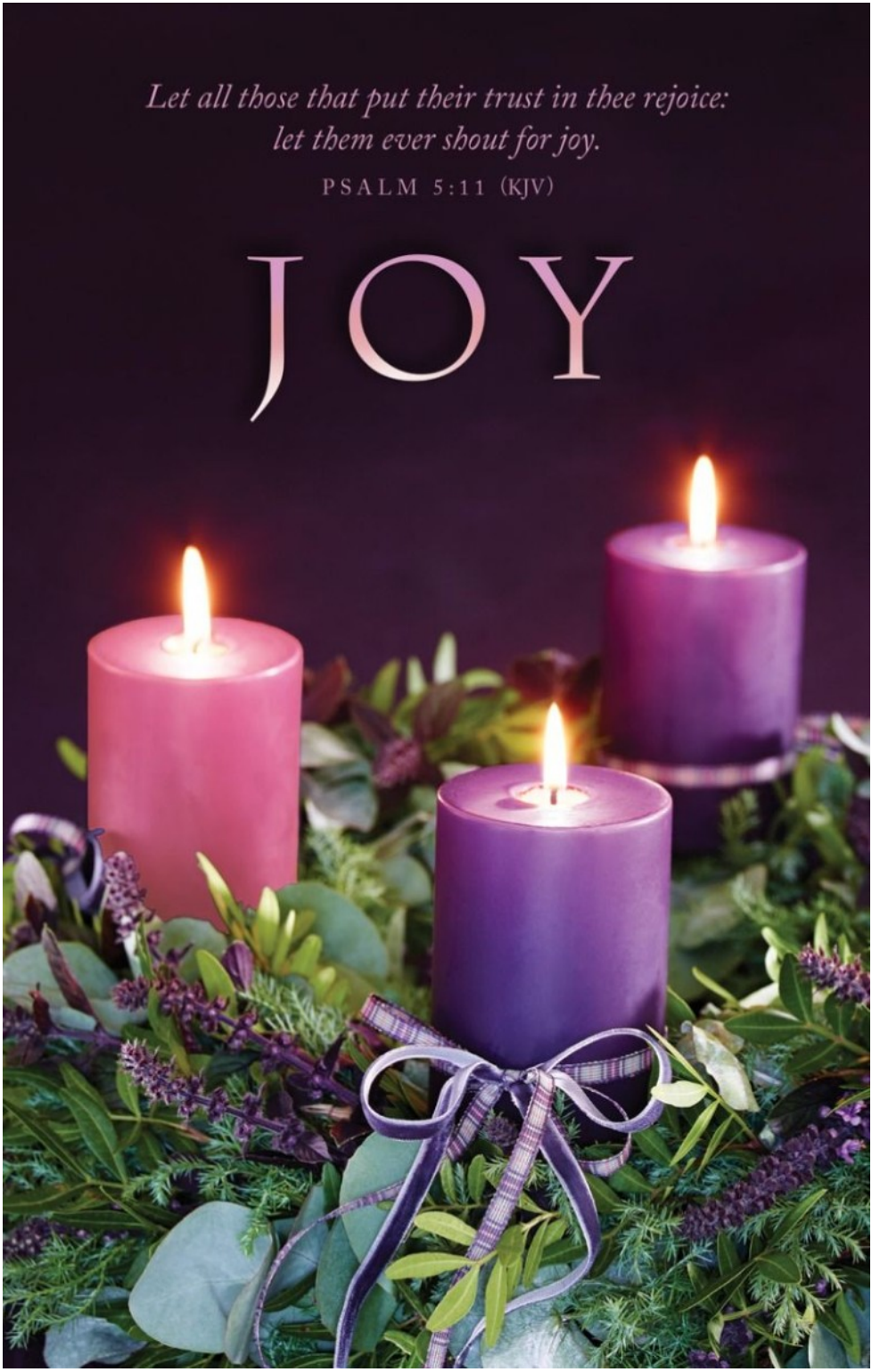
Let all those that put their trust in thee rejoice:
let them ever shout for joy.
PSALM 5:11 (KJV)
JOY

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

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:30AM DECEMBER 14, 2025

Prelude

Lighting of the Advent Candle: Patrick & Sarah Hager Family

Angels from the Realms of Glory

Celebration of Ministry: Christmas Eve Offering

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

Time of Prayer

Scripture Reading: Luke 1:46-56

Life of the Church

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

Song of Gathering: ***The Doxology***

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

Canticle of the Turning
Joy to the World (Unspeakable Joy)

Christ is Come

Benediction

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*Please stand if able **Acolyte**: Lilah Walton **Scripture Reader**: Tracy Taylor

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:
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.

TODAY HWC KALEIDOSCCOPE is a panel discussion with several HWC youth titled "What I Wish the Church Knew About Us." This will be a great window into the experience of high schoolers, and an opportunity for adults to be good listeners and learners from these valuable members of our church community. Join us! (Sunday, 9:45am, Community Room)

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.

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.

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)

STEWARDSHIP

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

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)

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