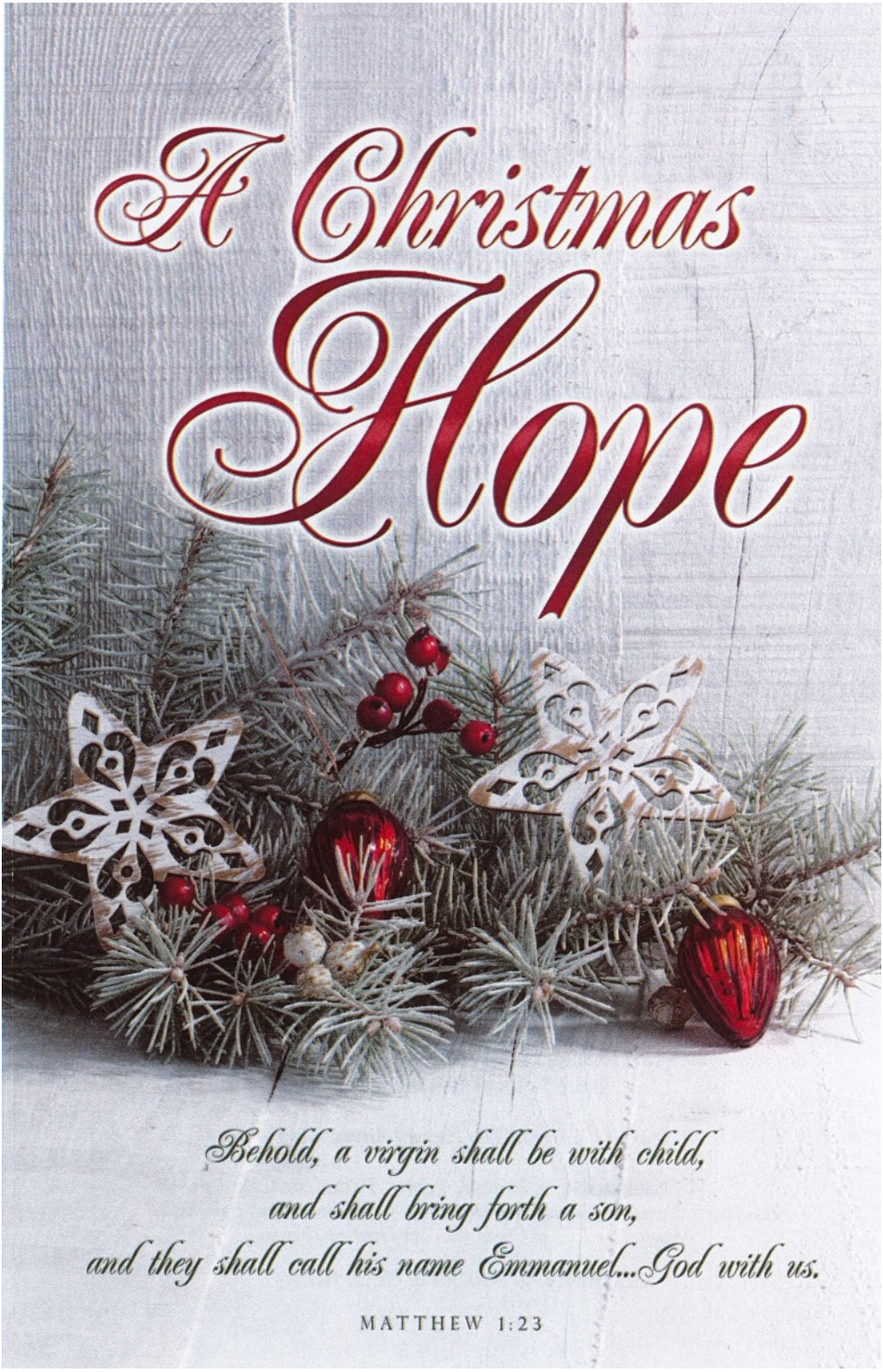
A Christmas Hope
Behold, a virgin shall be with child,
and shall bring forth a son,
and they shall call his name Emmanuel...God with us.
MATTHEW 1:23

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

# HOUGHTON WESLEYAN CHURCH

## CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

6:00 P.M. DECEMBER 24, 2024

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Prelude:
"Hark, the Herald Angels Sing" arr. Noel Rawsthorne
In dulci jubilo, BWV 729 J. S. Bach

Welcome & Call to Worship: Pastor David Huizenga
The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son.
***And they will call him Emmanuel, 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 Fink Family

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

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7 (Doug Mayhle)
**Christ's Birth and Kingdom are Foretold by Isaiah**
Leader: This is the Word of the Lord. ***People: Thanks be to God!***

Carol 109: ***Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus***

Scripture Reading: Micah 5:1-5a (Robin Pawling)
**The Prophet Micah Foretells the Glory of Little Bethlehem**

Choir Carol: *See Amid the Winter's Snow* (J. Goss, arr. Willcocks)

Scripture Reading: Luke 1:26-38 (Josie Adenuga)
**The Angel Gabriel Comes to the Virgin Mary**

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

Scripture Reading: Matthew 1:18-25 (Jeff Boon)
**The Angel Appears to Joseph**

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

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:1-7 (Grayson Cox)
**St. Luke Tells of the Birth of Jesus**

Christmas Eve Offering / Prayer: Pastor Jon Cole
*This year's Christmas Eve offering will support local community outreaches, sharing the love of Christ with our local mission field.*

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

Children's Sermon: Emily Spateholts

Choir Carol: *The Hands that First Held Mary's Child* (Dan Forrest)

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:8-20 (Linda Knapp)
**The Shepherds Go to the Manger**

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

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

Songs: ***Who Would Have Dreamed; O Holy Night***

Scripture Reading: John 1:1-14 (Jill Jordan)
**The Word Becomes Flesh and Dwells Among Us**

Meditation: Pastor Randy Craker

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

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Organist: Judy Congdon Acolytes: Nate and Amelia Esh

Music Ministry Team:
Kristen Sanasith, Evelyn Cox, vocals; Alison Young Reusser, guitar & vocals;
Amanda Cox, piano & vocals; Dianna Clem, flute;
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 28 will begin at 10am.***
***There will be no Sunday School on December 28.***

## *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.

**Sunday Morning Prayer & Praise Requests**