

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

10:00 MORNING WORSHIP

DECEMBER 17, 2017

As the prelude begins, let us observe silence as we prayerfully anticipate this hour of corporate worship of Almighty God.

Prelude: *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland*, BWV 659J. S. Bach
“Savior of the Nations, Come” (for hymn text, see #116 in hymnal)

Lighting of the Advent Candle: Calvin & Paulette Schierer

*Hymn 119 *Angels from the Realms of Glory*

*Words of Greeting and Peace

Ministry Spotlight: Christmas Eve Offering

Anthem: *What Sweeter Music*John Rutter

Old Testament Reading: Psalm 98

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: *Thanks be to God!*

*We Sing in Adoration: *Emmanuel (Hallowed Manger Ground)*
What Child is This?

**Doxology*

Worship through the Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory: *Hope is Alive*Ellie Holcomb

Prayer of Confession

Our Gracious God, despite your generous love to us, we have too often turned from your way to our own. We have tarnished the gift you freely gave. We have buried you so deeply in our hearts, the world doesn't see you. We have ignored your teachings. We have lived lives of apathy. We have built fences and fortresses to push people away. We so often ignore those in need. Forgive us, we pray. Free us from our sin, free us from our captivity, free us to live in the joy of your Incarnate Son, in whom forgiveness is real, possible and ours. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer / **The Lord's Prayer**

Please feel free to use the altar as your place of prayer

as we bow in humility before our loving heavenly Father.

If kneeling is difficult for you, please use the red chairs or stand by the altar rail.

Our Response to Prayer: *Emmanuel*

*New Testament Reading: Matthew 1:18-25

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: *Thanks be to God!*

*Song of Preparation: *Welcome to Our World*

Sermon: **Joy to the World!**
Pastor Wes Oden

*Hymn 115 *Joy to the World!*

*Benediction

*Congregational Amen (Hymn 656, Threefold)

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

*Please stand if able

Organist: Judy Congdon

Worship Leader: Andrew Oden

Acolyte: Lexi Pool

Music Ministry Team:

Jessica Romance, Robin Pawling, vocals; Jeff Boon, guitar & vocals;

Amanda Cox, piano & vocals; Betsy Webb, keyboard;

Dan Zambrano, cello; Barb Raymond, bass; Rob Pool, drums

The rose on the pulpit is in honor of the birth of Daria Louise Newbrough on September 21, 2017 to Julia and Bill-John and sister, Julianna.

Children's Worship bulletins are available in the church foyer for ages 3-12.

Nursery: We provide a fully staffed nursery for infants up to two years of age. The Nursery is located on the first floor of the Christian Education Building.

Children's Church: Children ages 2-5 are dismissed during the song before the sermon for Children's Church in room 116 in the Christian Education Building.

WELCOME TO THE HOUGHTON WESLEYAN CHURCH. On this third Sunday of Advent we find ourselves in the middle of 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 open hearts and minds to Christ who is the Living Word.

TONIGHT AT 5:00 PM CAROL SING AND COOKIE RECEPTION—Bring your instruments and bring a plate of cookies to share before joining voices in celebrating our annual Carol Sing. If you are able to bring an extra plate of cookies, we have a small group that is willing to package them to be given away through the food pantry for the Christmas season.

MEETINGS THIS WEEK: Elders, Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.

KID'S CLUB starts again on Wednesday Jan 17th at 6 pm. You can find the Kid's Club schedule for the spring on the church website and our HW Kid's Facebook page. We can still use one or two more assistants for the spring.

NEXT SUNDAY MORNING we gather on Christmas Eve at 10:00 to celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Advent. Pastor Wes' sermon will focus on the words of the carol *I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day*.

NEXT SUNDAY AT 5:00 PM AND 7:00 PM you are invited to our Christmas Eve Services. In both services, we will read the Scriptures that record our Savior's birth, we will sing carols that proclaim His birth, and we will light candles as a symbol of His birth. The 5:00 service will include a time for children. The offering at the Christmas Eve services will go to aid Puerto Rico relief following Hurricane Maria.

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED for the holidays on Monday, December 25, Tuesday, December 26, Friday December 29, and Monday, January 1.

MISSION MOMENT – We join in celebrating a family wedding with Steve and Margie Doty, SIL missionaries engaged in training and supervising Bible translators in S.E. Asia. We also welcome with them Leah Doty, who comes from a recently assigned S. E. Asian country where she learns the language and culture in preparation for future Bible translation. May God grant them rest, joy and safe return in January to their vital work.

PERSECUTED CHURCH - Believers in Egypt celebrate Christmas with considerable sadness and caution since a year ago attacks in Egyptian churches killed or injured nearly 150 Christians over a three-month period beginning in December. We pray for calm this year and especially for the joy and peace of Christ to prevail.

PRAYER CONCERNS: for all who are grieving; for people with health concerns: Tim Nichols, Bob Brown, Jayne Swanson, Louise Prinsell, Laura Habecker, Hudson Hess, Nancy Cole, Brian Orbaker (Charlie and Connie Smith's son-in-law), Peter Lingenfelter, Ellis Brotzman, Chuck Barrett (Wendy Ott's brother), Sheryl O'Brien, Ben King, Doris Essepien, Eila Shea, Sheldon Emerson (Darby Luckey's brother), Bill Getty, Warren and Ella Woolsey, Mike Raybuck, Bev Rhett, Micah Christensen, Linda Roth, Dick Gould, Emily Crikelair; for the injured and grieving from tragedies and disasters; for refugees; for peace amid threats of war; for healing and unity in our nation; and for New Hope Assembly of God Church (Pastor Erv Russell).

HOLIDAY SERVICES

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| Sunday, December 24 | 10:00 a.m. – Worship Service
5:00 p.m. – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
7:00 p.m. – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service |
| Sunday, December 31 | 10:00 a.m. – Worship Service |
| Sunday, January 7 | 10:00 a.m. – Worship Service |
| Sunday, January 14 | 8:20 a.m., 9:40 a.m., 11:00 a.m. – Worship Services
Small Groups |

For more information about church activities, and to read Pastor Wes's weekly blog, visit our website: www.hwchurch.org.





Poinsettias for Christmas are Given By

- ❖ Willis & Beth Beardsley in loving memory of our parents, Walter, Lois, George, and Josephine
- ❖ Ruth Boon and Family in loving memory of Ken
- ❖ Jerry Brown and the Oden Family in loving memory of Alyce
- ❖ The Buteyn Family in loving memory of Adrian Buteyn, Dave's Father
- ❖ Barbara Elliott in memory of Dan Woolsey & Storer Emmett
- ❖ Ken & Karen Gaerte in loving memory of our family
- ❖ Marilyn Hiler, Bob & Roselyn Danner in loving memory of our parents
- ❖ Judy Hopkins and Family in loving memory of Ted
- ❖ Becky Hutton in loving memory of Lindol & Ruth Hutton
- ❖ Peter & Nancy Luckey in loving memory of Bob, Ruth & Daniel Luckey
- ❖ Lynn & Larry Oyer in moving memory of Uncle Tom Somers and Aunt Rosanna Humphrey
- ❖ Lenore Paige in loving memory of Nancy French August
- ❖ Robin Pawling in loving memory of Jean Alderman Pawling
- ❖ Dick & Betty Jane Pocock in loving memory of Charles & Edith Pocock and Earle & Betty Goodwin
- ❖ Jane Roeske, Martha & Shawn Skeelee & Family and Peter & Faith Roeske & Family in loving memory of William Roeske
- ❖ Phil & Donnie Stockin in loving memory of Howard Berry, Donnie's Father
- ❖ Bill & Jayne Swanson in loving memory of our parents Mr. & Mrs. Clyde Maugans and Mr. & Mrs. Russell Swanson
- ❖ Herb & Karen Williams in loving memory of our parents Clifford & Lucile Williams and Bill & Beatrice Dunning and brother David Dunning



STEWARDSHIP *A Life of Generosity*

Christmas is a time to reflect on God's greatest gift—sending Jesus to earth. As the book of John describes Jesus coming to earth it tells us "In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" (John 1:4-5). We are grateful for this gift of light in our world full of darkness. We give to God's Kingdom as part of showing our gratitude and to spread his light to all the world.

Reminder: All gifts for calendar year 2017 need to be

- given in church on December 31st or be delivered to the church office by the 31st,
- mailed with a postmark date of December 30th or earlier,
- or need to be made online by Thursday, December 28th with a transaction date of Friday, December 29th at the latest.

