

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

11:00 MORNING WORSHIP

DECEMBER 9, 2018

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

Prelude: *Carol Prelude on "Greensleeves"* .....Ralph Vaughan Williams

Lighting of the Advent Candle: Gabe Huizenga and friends

\*Hymn 117 **Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**

\*Words of Greeting and Peace

Anthem: *And the Glory of the Lord* .....George Frideric Handel  
Debbie Shea, violin; Dan Zambrano, cello

Old Testament Reading: Malachi 4:1-6  
Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.  
**All: Thanks be to God!**

\*Doxology

Worship through the Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory: *Messiah, Come* .....arr. Christy James  
Makena James, violin

Prayer of Confession

**Merciful God, how many prophets of your light, have we ignored because they were not what we were looking for? How many times have we ignored voices crying in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord?" How many times have we breathed a sigh of relief, and turned our backs on your messengers, because they did not speak the message we expected to hear? Help us hear anew, the cry of those who would lead us to Christ. Tune our ears to your heralds that we might also testify to your light. And through the coming of Christ, may we hear your words of pardon and assurance: "If we confess our sins, he will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness." Amen.**

—adapted from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2008* by B.J. Beu.

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.*

Song of Preparation: **What Child is This?**

\*New Testament Reading: Luke 2:8-20

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.  
**All: Thanks be to God!**

\*Hymn **O Holy Night** (on screen)

Sermon: **Unwrapping the Kingdom in Our Relationships**  
Pastor Wes Oden

\*Hymn 136

**O Little Town of Bethlehem**

\*Benediction

\*Congregational Amen (Hymn 656, Threefold)

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

\*Please stand if able

Worship Leader: Pastor Cindy Oden

Organist: Judy Congdon

Acolyte: Wesley Stevick

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 and is available during services.

There are **KID'S BAGS AND BIBLES** available in the book shelf on the left side of the foyer next to the Men's restroom.

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH:** Following the New Testament scripture reading children ages 2-5 will be dismissed for Children's Church which meets in the Christian Ed building in Room 116.

**WELCOME TO THE HOUGHTON WESLEYAN CHURCH.** Advent is a bittersweet time: it's a time of hopeful anticipation for what God is going to do and a time of painful waiting for God to do what He has promised. Today, we are reminded that the promises of old are still true and that the presence of God with us is still real.

**COMMUNITY CAROLING** - College Ministries invites all ages to join in Soup and Chili Lunch at 12:30 in Community and all who to desire to meet there at 1:30 for caroling at the Nursing Home and other homes in the community.

**TONIGHT AT 5:00** you are invited to join in and sing with the church choir the anthems of the Christmas portion of Handel's *Messiah*. Even if you would rather not sing, come and join us in this wonderful celebration of God's gift to us.

**NEXT SUNDAY MORNING** is the third Sunday of Advent. We will gather for worship for one worship service at 10:00. Pastor Wes will lead us in thinking about *Unwrapping the Kingdom in Government*. There is **no Sunday School** the next four weeks (December 16, 23, 30 and January 7).

**NEXT SUNDAY EVENING AT 5:00:** Carol Sing and Cookies Reception – Bring your instruments for our annual Carol Sing. Please bring a plate of cookies to the Community Room prior to the Carol Sing in the sanctuary for the cookie reception following the carol sing. Thank you.

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES:** we will host Christmas Eve services 5:00 and 7:00. Both services will include carols, candle lighting and the reading of the Christmas story. The 5:00 service will also have a time for children.

**THE FLOWER COMMITTEE WELCOMES YOUR CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS.** You may purchase poinsettias we have already ordered (\$12.00) or you may bring your own on December 14. Please leave \$12 with Patty Stalker in the church office and fill out a reservation form indicating your preferences. If you wish to honor a loved one, please leave this information with Patty by December 13.

**PRAYER ROOM:** the prayer room is available every day, 7:00am – 9:00pm (holidays excluded). You may reserve the prayer room online ([www.hwchurch.org](http://www.hwchurch.org)) or by contacting the church office. Walk-ins are welcome with consideration given to a previous reservation.

#### STEWARDSHIP

Received (June 1—Present): \$403,464.64 / Budgeted (June 1—Present): \$412,651.80

**MISSION MOMENT** – We pray for our whole missionary family in the diverse ways they will celebrate Christmas with or away from family, and with Christians around the world. View the new picture bulletin board in the C.E. building atrium for a glimpse of those we support financially.

**PERSECUTED CHURCH** – Pray for fruit to remain amongst those coming to faith in the Middle East (Luke 8:5-15) and pray for brothers and sisters to wisely disciple new believers. The transition into the community of faith, the Church is not easy.

#### HOLIDAY SERVICES

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|---------------------|---|
| Sunday, December 16 | 10:00 a.m. – Worship Service<br>5:00 p.m. – Carol Sing/Cookie Reception<br>(Bring your instruments) |
| Sunday, December 23 | 10:00 a.m. – Worship Service  |
| Monday, December 24 | 5:00 p.m. – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service<br>7:00 p.m. – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service      |
| Sunday, December 30 | 10:00 a.m. – Worship Service  |
| Sunday, January 6   | 10:00 a.m. – Worship Service  |
| Sunday, January 13  | 8:20 a.m., 9:40 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. – Worship Services  |

**PRAYER CONCERNS:** for Barbara Woolsey and her family at the death of her mother and for all who are grieving; for people with health concerns: Ray Ott, Eileen Spear, Sheryl O'Brien, Roselyn Danner, Gwen Mercer, Bethie Liddick, Bill Getty, Bev Rhett, Nancy Cole, Gus and Louise Prinsell, Florence Teuber, Phil Main, Emily Crikelair, Mike Raybuck, Sheldon Emerson (Darby Luckey's brother), Eila Shea, Peter Lingenfelter, Izabela Daugherty (Dave and Karen's daughter-in-law), Dan Gurley, Paul Johnson; for the injured and grieving from tragedies and disasters; for refugees; for peace amid threats of war; for the North Park Wesleyan Church (Pastor Jon Ward).

# Peace



Prepare  
the way  
for the Lord;  
make his paths  
straight.

— MARK 1:3

## Special Events at Houghton Wesleyan Church

*December 9 - 5 p.m.  
Messiah Sing-along*



Led by the church choir, the entire congregation is invited to join in and sing with us the anthems of the Christmas portion of *Handel's Messiah*. We will also have soloists to sing the solos. We will have scores to hand out among the congregation, but please bring your own if you have one! Even if you would rather not sing, please come and join us in this wonderful celebration of God's gift to us. Please contact Amanda Cox with any questions.

*December 16 - 5 p.m.  
Carol Sing &  
Cookie Reception*

Bring Your Instruments!



Bring a plate of cookies to share (leave them in the church kitchen) before joining voices in celebrating our annual Carol Sing in the sanctuary.

# Christmas Eve we have two services!



- 5:00 p.m. Family Service includes a time for children
- 7:00 p.m. Traditional Christmas Eve Service

Both services will include the lighting of candles, music and the scriptures of Christmas

## Christmas Eve Offering!



### EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT GRANTS LAND FOR WESLEYAN CHURCH & TRAINING CENTER.

The Wesleyan church in Egypt, mostly rural marginalized congregations in this Muslim nation, have been miraculously granted choice land in an urban area near Cairo for a church and national training center. The catch – construction must begin in two years. We join Rev. Atif Sedhom Kilf, National Superintendent (John Khalif's (HC '18) father), in a vision for future nation-wide ministry. **Our 2018 Christmas Eve Offering will join matching Egyptian donors and will help bring this vision to pass.** Please pray.