

HOUGHTON WESLEYAN CHURCH

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

7:00 P.M.

DECEMBER 24, 2018

Prelude: *O Come, All Ye Faithful (ADESTE FIDELES)* ...arr. Noel Rawsthorne
Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabellaarr. Keith Chapman
Once in Royal David's City (IRBY) ...arr. Wilbur Held; arr. Robin Dinda
Away in a Manger (CRADLE SONG)2 settings by Wilbur Held
Still, Still, Stillarr. Robin Dinda

WelcomePastor Wesley Oden

Lighting of the Christ Candle.....The Bates Family

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

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7 (page 683)Jeff Babbitt
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 (page 922)Jane Buteyn
The Prophet Micah Foretells the Glory of Little Bethlehem

Choir Carol: *Gesu Bambino*arr. Linda Spevacek

Scripture Reading: Luke 1:26-38 (page 1012)Don Little
The Angel Gabriel Comes to the Virgin Mary

Ministry in Music: *Who Would Have Dreamed?* ..Jason Hansen & Bob Kauflin

Scripture Reading: Matthew 1:18-25 (page 955)Margarita Cooley
The Angel Appears to Joseph

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

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:1-7 (page 1014)Jim Zoller
St. Luke Tells of the Birth of Jesus

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

Christmas Eve Offering / PrayerPastor Paul Shea

Offertory: *I Wonder as I Wander* Laurie Smalley, harp
*This year's Christmas Eve offering will join matching Egyptian donors
and help bring a vision for a church and National Training Center
on choice urban land near Cairo granted by the Egyptian government.*

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:8-20 (page 1014).....Eli Knapp
The Shepherds Go to the Manger

Choir Carol: *Angels We Have Heard on High*arr. Alice Parker & Robert Shaw

Scripture Reading: Matthew 2:1-11 (page 956).....Mike Jordan
The Wise Men are Led by the Star to Jesus

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

Scripture Reading: John 1:1-14 (page 683).....Andrew Oden
The Word Becomes Flesh and Dwells Among Us

Meditation: Pastor Wesley Oden

Ministry in Music: *Mary, Did You Know?*Buddy Greene & Mark Lowry

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

Ringling of the Bells

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

Organist: Judy Congdon Violin: Debbie Shea Guitar: Alison Young Reusser
Acolytes: Maya Cooley and Anna Huizenga

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.

***May God bless you with
a very merry Christmas.
Our Worship Service
on December 30 will begin at 10am.
There will be no Sunday School
or evening service on December 30.***

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.

