

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

10:00 MORNING WORSHIP

DECEMBER 30, 2018

Prelude: *Introduction and Variations on Polish Carol*Alexandre Guilmant

*Call to Worship (Hebrews 2:9-10; Col. 2:6)

But we do see Jesus, who was made lower than the angels for a little while, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

In bringing many sons and daughters to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through what he suffered.

Just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

Glory be to the newborn King!

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

*Welcome

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 40: 1-6, 25-31

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

*We Sing in Adoration: ***There is a Higher Throne Knowing You***

*Doxology

Worship through the Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory: *We are Marching in the Light of God (Siya Hamba)*

Prayer of Confession

Lord, we confess before You that: We have had longings and nudges from You which we did not translate into action. We have made decisions without consulting You, then have blamed You when things went wrong. We have said that we trusted You, yet have not turned our affairs over to You. We have been greedy for present delights and pleasures, unwilling to wait for those joys which time and discipline alone can give. We have often sought the easy way, have consistently drawn back from the road that is hard. We have been fond of giving ourselves to dreams which we are going to do some time, yet have been so slow in getting started. Forgive us for all the intentions that were born and somehow never lived. Now we claim Your promise to change us. Do for us what we cannot do for ourselves. Lead us into a new tomorrow with a new spirit. Cleanse our hearts, create within us new attitudes and new ideas as only You can create them. Amen.

—adapted from Peter Marshall

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.

New Testament Reading: Hebrews 12:1-12

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

Following the scripture reading, children will be dismissed for Children's Church.

*Song of Preparation ***We Exalt Thee***

Sermon: **All Eyes on Jesus**
Pastor Paul Shea

Communion

*Hymn 423 ***May the Mind of Christ My Savior***

*Benediction

*Congregational Amen (Hymn 656, Threefold)

*Postlude: *Rigaudon* Andre Campra

*Please stand if able

Organist: Judy Congdon

Worship Leader: James Mullen

Acolyte: Sophia Templeton

Music Ministry Team:

Luke, Gabe and Anna Huizenga, vocals; David Huizenga, piano

The rose on the pulpit celebrates the adoption of Zeke Sardina into the family of Sarah and Chris Sardina and siblings: Emily, Jacob Lily, Heidi, Simon, Henry, Jonah, and Eden on December 18, 2018.

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: During the 10:00 services, we will staff 2 children's church rooms. Room 116 will have the 2-3 year olds and room 115 will have the 4-5 year olds.

JUNIOR CHURCH AND SUNDAY SCHOOL will begin again on January 13th.

WELCOME TO THE HOUGHTON WESLEYAN CHURCH. This morning we continue to celebrate the coming of Christ in human flesh even as we stand on the precipice of a new year. It is because Christ is born that we approach the new year in a spirit of hope and anticipation for what God is going to do in all of the circumstances of life. In this hour of worship, may God fill us with the hope of Christ.

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED for the holidays on January 1.

NEXT SUNDAY MORNING we gather for one worship service at 10:00. The Rev. David Huizenga will be preaching.

CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING: We give thanks to God and to all who gave generously to our Christmas Eve offering. At this time, we have received \$20,406.05 to help the Wesleyan Church in Egypt with a new building. If you have not given and would like to, please mark a check "Christmas Eve Offering" or make this designation for your online gift.

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY – This Friday Jan. 4, 7:00 p.m. in the Community Room (with dessert snacks!), all are welcome to meet Stacia Niver of Hamburg, NY, currently serving in the Balkins. HWC continues to support and pray for her ministry.

STEWARDSHIP

Received (June 1—Present): \$461,993.63 / Budgeted (June 1—Present): \$458,502.00

MISSION MOMENT – During the next weeks we hold up in prayer the Bob and Laurie Smalley & Miranda Hayes team with children and church outreach in Eleuthera; and the Jon Cole, Josh Derck, Mike Spateholz group with a major church roof project in Macieux, Haiti.

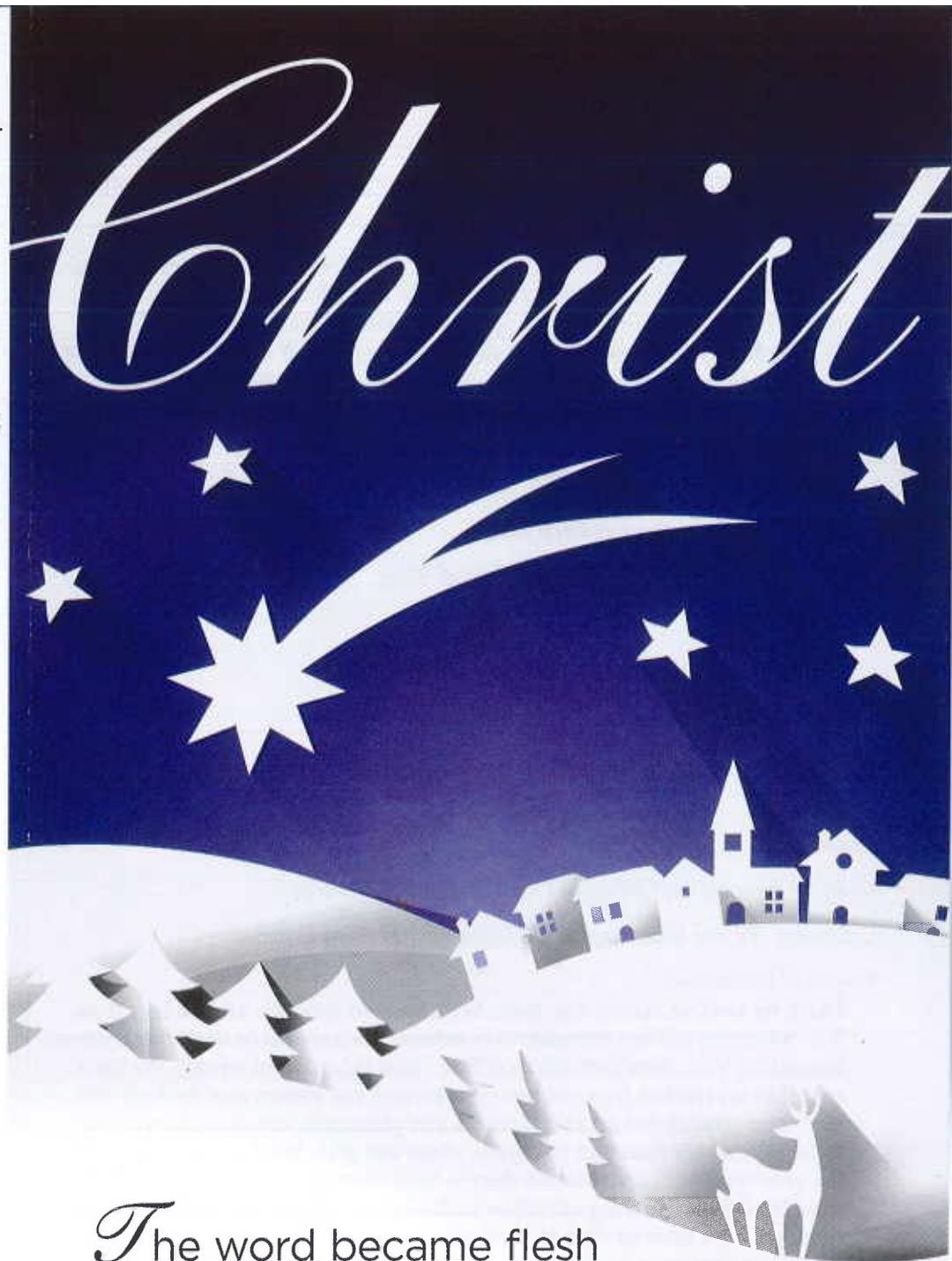
PERSECUTED CHURCH – We pray for a positive impact from the newly established British independent commission to find practical steps to support Christians under persecution worldwide. So far it reports in 2018: 215 million Christians faced persecution with an average of 250 deaths per month for their faith.

HOLIDAY SERVICES

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 the families of Monica Bramer and Lillian Fuller and for all who are grieving; for people with health concerns: Eileen Spear, Sheryl O'Brien, Bill Breuer, 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 Crosstown Alliance Church, Wellsville (Pastor Jeremy Gorham).



The word became flesh
and made his home among us.

—JOHN 1:14