

WELCOME

Rev. John Allen

SUNG PRAYER RESPONSE (Whelpton)

**Hear our prayer, O God, hear our prayer, O God;
Incline your ear to us, and grant us your peace.**

PRELUDE

The Advent Star
Dr. Jane Hagness, organ

Gilbert Martin

OUTREACH TESTIMONY

Rev. Dr. Judith Blanchard,
Pension Board Annuitant Visitor

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Ted Wickwire

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Rev. John Allen

LIGHTING the ADVENT WREATH

Martha Cushing and Peg Fishang

As winter's nights deepen,

the light on our wreath grows.

Today, the second small flame flickers to life.

A silent, bright witness of our hope.

May this light—Christ's light—light our path.

May this light make a way for us through the darkness.

(The advent wreath is lit)

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Prepare Ye the Way
Adult Choir

Penny Rodriguez

Prepare ye the way of the Lord.

Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Prepare ye the way of the Lord.

The mountains made low, the rugged places plain.

Prepare ye the way of the Lord, prepare the way.

PRAYER

**Dawning Light, illumine our shadowed hearts with hope. Make a way
through our crowded spirits for your love to be born anew. Amen.**

****OFFERTORY RESPONSE (Old Hundredth)**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God all creatures here below;

Praise God for all that love has done;

Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.

****HYMN**

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

NCH #107
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****PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Today we celebrate the baptism of Rory Messier, son of Allison and Ian Messier.

****HYMN**

Comfort, Comfort O My People

NCH #101

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 3:1-6

Wanda Webber Snyder

****BENEDICTION**

SERMON

"Make Way"

Rev. John Allen

POSTLUDE

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry
Dr. Jane Hagness, organ

setting, Hal Hopson

****HYMN**

Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates

NCH #117
Printed first

PRAYERS AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our God, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come,
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into
temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power
and the glory forever. Amen.**

Please join us for coffee hour following today's service!

Bold text = Please join us in voice!

****** = Please rise as you are able



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