

WELCOME Rev. John Allen

PRELUDE *A Story for All People* Dr. Jane Hagness, soprano
Dori Erwin Collins

*As people wait in darkness, in fear of endless night,
send forth your word of comfort, a message of great light.
The world stands proud before you, conflicted, hungry, poor.
Come, scatter pride and foolishness, and mend all souls with Savior love once more.*
*A story for all people, old story new today.
A song of love and healing, a light to show the way.
We come into your presence, in hope and joy restored.
With eager hearts we listen, and gather 'round your word.
We watch and wait your coming and pray for greater trust,
to know that while we wait for you, Emmanuel, you watch and wait with us.*
*A story for all people, old story new today.
A song of love and healing, a light to show the way.
A time of preparation: the guest is drawing near,
as mountain places crumble and straightened paths appear.
Prepare a humble welcome in every heart and home,
and celebrate the promise of our God who is, and was, and is to come.*
*A story for all people, old story new today.
A song of love and healing, a light to show the way.
Renewed by this encounter, we'll go out and proclaim.
We'll tell of your salvation, and magnify your name.
The servant words of Mary will swell the faithful soul,
and you will bring your children home that day when all creation will be whole.*
*A story for all people, old story new today.
A song of love and healing, a light to show the way.*

LIFE OF THE CHURCH Martha Kittle

LIGHTING the ADVENT WREATH Anneliese, Mateo, and Carina Guzman-Bass,
Jean and Brendon Bass

Today we light the fourth candle of advent.

Ringed with light, our wreath declares: God is with us!

Even in the shadows of our sorrow and fear,
God lights our way with hope.

Even in the deepest night,
God warms our hearts with love.

(The advent wreath is lit)

PRAYER
**Awaited One, we look to the horizon of our lives and see your light
breaking forth. Shine on us. Shine in us. Shine through us, so that all the
world may know peace, live with hope, and rejoice in your love. Amen.**

****HYMN** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (vs. 1, 2, 4, 6)* NCH #116
accompanied by the World Percussion Ensemble

CHILDREN'S MOMENT Bridgette Hodgkins

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 1:46-55 Andrew Rudalevige

SERMON "What the Empty Know" Rev. John Allen

****HYMN** *With Joy Draw Water* NCH #109

PRAYERS AND THE LORD'S PRAYER Rev. Francesco Marshall

**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.**

SUNG PRAYER RESPONSE (Whelpton)
**Hear our prayer, O God, hear our prayer, O God;
Incline your ear to us, and grant us your peace.**

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Advent Calls* Stan Pethel
Adult Choir
Anna Leslie, flute

*Advent calls for waiting and watching in the night,
for shadows to be lifted revealing wondrous light.
Advent calls the promise that prophets did foretell,
to send to us a Savior, our Lord Emmanuel.
Stem of Jesse, budding rose, come to us and nevermore depart.
Plant your seed of love and hope, and blossom in our hearts.
Advent calls to ready our hearts for Him to dwell,
to waken and prepare for our God, Emmanuel.
Evil will be conquered and banished all our fear.
Prepare the Royal highway, the King of kings is near.
Stem of Jesse, budding rose, come to us and nevermore depart.
Plant your seed of love and hope, and blossom in our hearts.*

****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.**

****PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

****HYMN** *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* NCH #127

****BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE *Rejoice and Be Merry* Todd Kendall
Dr. Jane Hagness, organ

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



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Bold text = Please join us in voice! ****** = Please rise as you are able