

Faith and Rock Creek Lutheran Churches  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent  
Sunday December 18<sup>th</sup> 10:30AM  
WRDN / Facebook Live  
Pastor Bethany Walker



Today's Radio Broadcast is sponsored by Ken and Ruth Abramson  
in memory of lost loved ones

## Welcome

### Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.

**Blessed be God's name forever. Amen.**

Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep.

Let us confront our sins and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

God of new beginnings,

**we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign.**

**We have strayed from your paths. We prepare for war instead of peace.**

**We dishonor one another and your creation.**

**Purify us with your refining fire and set us again on your way of love,**

**that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance, and welcome your coming among us. Amen.**

People of God, a new thing is growing in our midst, a tender branch, a living sign. By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder. You have put on ✝ Christ, and your sins have been washed away. Rejoice in the way of the Lord. **Amen.**

### **Opening Hymn**

### **Awake, Awake and Greet the New Morn WOV 633**

Awake! Awake and greet the new morn, for angels herald its dawning.  
sing out your joy, for soon he is born, behold! the Child of our longing.  
Come as a baby weak and poor, to bring all hearts together,  
he opens wide the heavenly door, and lives now inside us forever.

To us, to all in sorrow and fear, Emmanuel comes a-singing,  
his humble song is quiet and near, yet fills the earth with its ringing.  
Music to heal the broken soul and hymns of loving kindness,  
the thunder of his anthems roll to shatter all hatred and blindness.

In darkest night his coming shall be, when all the world is despairing,  
as morning light so quiet and free, so warm and gentle and caring.  
Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in wonder,  
the weak be raised above the strong, and weapons be broken asunder.

Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night, though dark the winter and cheerless, the  
rising sun shall crown you with light, be strong and loving and fearless; Love be  
our song and love our prayer, and love, our endless story, may God fill every day  
we share, and bring us at last into glory.

### **Lighting the Advent Wreath**

Good news, **God is filling the hungry with good things!**

Good news, **God is lifting up the lowly!**

Good news, **God is about to do God's mightiest work!**

God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth from all nations.

### **Watch and wait for Christ's coming!**

We light one candle **in hope.** (candle is lit)

We light one candle **for peace.** (candle is lit)

We light one candle **for joy.** (candle is lit)

We light one candle **for love.** (candle is lit)

We remember that God's Promised One comes to comfort all who are afflicted and to afflict all who are too comfortable.

Let us pray. Revealing God, **visit us and fill us with your Spirit. Bring your good news to life within us. Give us courage to carry your light of love into the injustices and shadows of this world. Shine on us, O God of justice, guide our path, bear within us Wisdom's glory; Come to us, O Christ the Light. Amen**

### **Song**

### **Light One Candle WOV 630**

Light one candle to watch for Messiah; let the light banish darkness.

He shall bring salvation to Israel, God fulfills the promise.

Light two candles to watch for Messiah; let the light banish darkness.

He shall feed the flock like a shepherd, gently lead them homeward.

Light three candles to watch for Messiah; let the light banish darkness.

Lift your heads and lift high the gateway for the King of glory.

Light four candles to watch for Messiah; let the light banish darkness.

He is coming, tell the glad tidings. Let your lights be shining!

### **Greeting**

### **Prayer of the Day**

Lord Jesus, **stir up your power and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

### **First Reading**

**Romans 1:1-7**

<sup>1</sup>Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, <sup>2</sup>which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, <sup>3</sup>the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh <sup>4</sup>and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, <sup>5</sup>through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, <sup>6</sup>including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, <sup>7</sup>to all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**God is Our Strength and Refuge by Tyrpak & Wesley**

**Second Reading**

**Isaiah 7:10-14**

<sup>10</sup>The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, <sup>11</sup>Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. <sup>12</sup>But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. <sup>13</sup>Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup>Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel.

**Children's Christmas Program**

**Prayers of Intercession**

**Peace**

**Offering**

**Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God all creatures here below. Praise God above ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

**Offering Prayer**

God of our waiting and watching, **we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people. Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal, through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace. Amen.**

**Words of Institution**

On the night...remembering, therefore, Christ's life, death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

**The Lord's Prayer**

## **Communion Distribution**

## **Post Communion Blessing**

### **Post Communion Prayer**

Faithful God, in this meal you have remembered your mercy,  
bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ.  
As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled,  
sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery. Guide us toward your  
promised future, coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

### **Benediction**

The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound  
in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus for whom we wait.  
Amen.

### **Closing Song**

### **Holy Child Within the Manger WOV 638**

Holy Child within the manger, long ago yet ever near; come as friend to every  
stranger, come as hope for every fear. As you lived to heal the broken, greet the  
outcast, free the bound, as you taught us love unspoken, teach us now where you  
are found.

Once again we tell the story, how your love for us was shown, when the image of  
your glory wore an image like our own. Come, enlighten with your wisdom, come  
and fill us with your grace, may the fire of your compassion kindle every land and  
race.

Holy Child within the manger lead us ever in your way, so we see in every stranger  
how you come to us today. In our lives and in our living give us strength to live as  
you, that our hearts might be forgiving and our spirits strong and true.

**Dismissal** Go in peace. Christ is near. **Thanks be to God!**

**Christmas Eve Worship 4PM Rock Creek    7PM Faith/WRDN/Facebook**  
**Christmas Day Worship 10:30AM Faith/WRDN/Facebook**