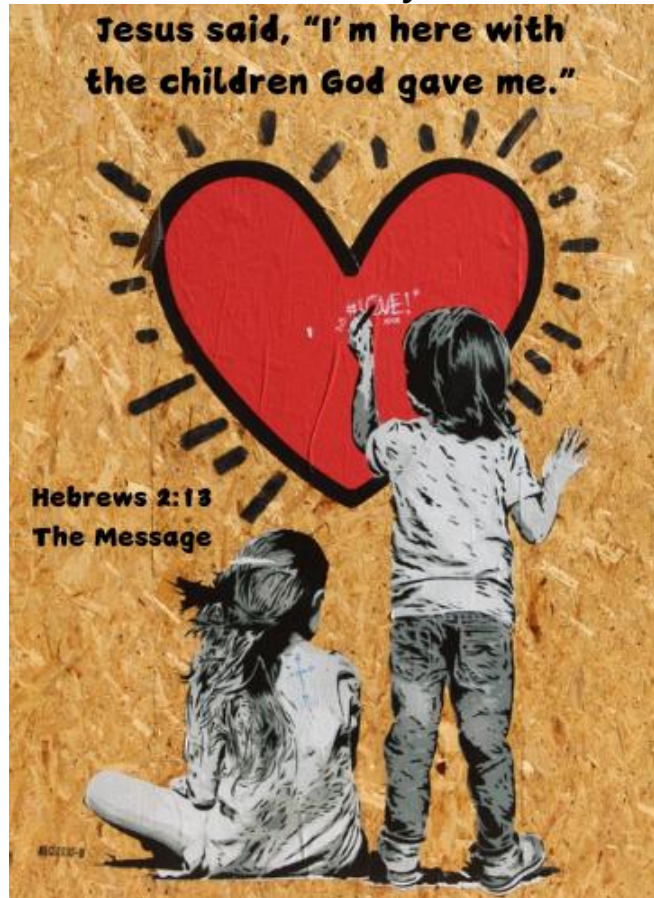


Faith and Rock Creek Lutheran Churches
January 26, 2024
WRDN 1430AM / 107.3FM
Facebook Live @faithandrockcreek
Pastor Bethany Walker



Today's radio broadcast is sponsored by Randy/Annette Huppert
In honor of Annette's birthday 1/19

Welcome and Announcements

Children's Message

Home By Another Way

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting. Amen. Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for reflection.

Emmanuel, God-with-us, we confess that we have turned away those seeking shelter, claiming there is no room when we have plenty. We have made power and wealth our idols, while you show us true glory: a baby in a manger. We have overlooked the shepherds, expecting good news in prettier packaging. Too often, we have chosen violence instead of your peace. Turn us from our ways to your ways. Grant us the grace to begin again. Free us from all that keeps us bound, and forgive our sin, through Jesus Christ, who gives himself for us. Amen. Hear the good news and rejoice! You are God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, † forgiven in Christ, and freed to respond in joy. Amen.

Call to Worship The Work of Christmas by Howard Thurman

When the song of the angels is stilled,
 When the star in the sky is gone,
 When the kings and princes are home,
 When the shepherds are back with their flock,
 The work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost, to heal the broken, to feed the hungry, to release the prisoner, to rebuild the nations, to bring peace among brothers, to make music in the heart.

Let us now worship God with our hearts turned toward this good work to which we are called. **The work of Christmas is ours to do.**

Opening Hymn Christ Be Our Light ELW 715

Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you. Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.

(refrain) Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today. Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair. Your world alone has pow'r to save us. Make us your living voice. (refrain)

Longing, for food, many are hungry. Longing for water, many still thirst. Make us your bread, broken for others, shared until all are fed. (refrain)

Longing for shelter, many are homeless. Longing for warmth, many are cold. Make us your building, sheltering others, walls made of living stone. (refrain)

Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong. Let us be servants to one another, signs of your kingdom come. (refrain)

Greeting

Prayer of the Day

Emmanuel, God with us, you entered the world as an infant, full of life and great potential. As you grew in years, you became for us an example of humble service and selfless love. Be near to us now as we seek you in this place. Open us to your words and wisdom. Come Lord Jesus. Amen.

Centering Song [O Come, O Come Emmanuel \(Instrumental Two Cellos\) - Current Worship Collective](#)

Welcome the Word

Rejoice, Rejoice, Emmanuel, your Word is near, your love will never fail

Scripture Reading

Hebrews 2:1-18

Therefore we must pay greater attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away. For if the message declared through angels proved valid, and every transgression or disobedience received a just penalty, how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? It was declared at first through the Lord, and it was confirmed for us by those who heard him, while God added his testimony by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit, distributed according to his will.

Now God did not subject the coming world, about which we are speaking, to angels. But someone has testified somewhere, "What are humans that you are mindful of them

or mortals that you care for them?[You have made them for a little while lower[d] than the angels; you have crowned them with glory and honor, subjecting all things under their feet.]”

Now in subjecting all things to them, God left nothing outside their control. As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to them, but we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying,

“I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters;
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.”

And again,

“I will put my trust in him.”

And again,

“Here am I and the children whom God has given me.”

Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Word of God. Word of Life. Thanks be to God!

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

O Come O Come Emmanuel LBW 34

Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. (refrain)

(refrain) Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

Oh, come, oh come great Lord of might, who to your tribes on Sinai's height in ancient times once gave the law in cloud, and majesty, and awe. (refrain)

Oh, come, strong Branch of Jesse, free your own from Satan's tyranny; from depths of hell your people save and give them victory over the grave. (refrain)

Oh, come, blest dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by your advent here; disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight. (refrain)

Oh, come, O key of David, come; and open wide our heav'nly home; make safe the way that leads on high and close the path to misery. (refrain)

Welcome New Members

Prayers of Intercession

God of grace, Receive our prayer

Peace

Offering

Offertory Response

Oh, come, let us adore him, oh, come, let us adore him,

Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Offering Prayer

Faithful God, you gave us life and gave us Jesus. We return to you these offerings as a sign of our trust and gratitude. Use them as you will in your world for the sake of Emmanuel, God with us, who now meets us at this table in the sacred feast. Amen.

Words of Consecration

The Lord be with you

And also with you

Lift up your hearts

We lift them to the Lord

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

It is right to give our thanks and praise

It is indeed right, our joy and our delight to give God our thanks and praise. For God gave us Jesus, first as an infant, then as a servant to all. Near the end of his earthly life Jesus gathered with his disciples around a table, he took bread...send your Holy Spirit to this table now O God, make this bread and wine Emmanuel, God with us, the host of the meal and the keeper of our souls who taught us to pray...

The Lord's Prayer

Communion Distribution

Post Communion Blessing

Post Communion Prayer

Merciful God, we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food. Strengthened by this goodness, send us forth to announce your peace, comfort the afflicted, and share the good news of great joy. Amen.

Blessing

Sending Hymn

The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve WOV 723

The Spirit sends us forth to serve; we go in
Jesus' name to bring
glad tidings to the poor, God's favor to
proclaim.

We go to comfort those who mourn and set the burdened free;
where hope is dim, to share a dream and help the blind to see.

We go to be the hands of Christ, to scatter joy like seed and all our days to cherish life, to do the loving deed.
Then let us go to serve in peace, the Gospel to proclaim, God's Spirit has empowered us; we go in Jesus' name.

Dismissal Go in peace. Jesus goes with you.
Thanks be to God!