

Faith and Rock Creek Lutheran Churches
3rd Sunday of Advent
Sunday December 12th 10:30AM
WRDN 1430AM/107.3FM
Facebook Live @faithandrockcreek
Pastor Bethany Walker



Today's Radio Broadcast is sponsored by the Rosemeyer family
in memory of their friend in faith, Sadie Hagness

Welcome

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who alone does wonders,
who lifts up the lowly, who fills the hungry with good things. Amen.
Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

God for whom we wait,
in the presence of one another, we confess our sin before you.
We fail in believing that your good news is for us.
We falter in our call to tend your creation.
We find our sense of self in material wealth.
We fear those different from ourselves.
We forget that we are your children and we turn away from your love.
Forgive us, Blessed One, and assure us again of your saving grace. Amen.

God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you!
Through the power of the Holy Spirit, ✝ your sins are forgiven.
You are children of the Most High, inheritors of the eternal promise,
and recipients of divine mercy. God strengthens you anew to follow the way of
peace. Amen.

Opening Hymn

Oh, Come, Oh, 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)

Lighting the Advent Wreath

On this third Sunday of Advent, we light a candle to help us repent.

To repent of how we have not born the fruit of our faith.

Though we think our good works can't really matter,
this candle illuminates the truth –

that even the dimmest light glows with possibility and promise.

Though we wonder how our witness makes a difference,
the Holy Spirit's light radiates from our acts of love and mercy.

And so we respond, what then should we do?

Blessed are those who believe that the fruits of the Spirit are ours to bear.

Advent Hymn

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.

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Children's Message

Old Testament Reading

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.
The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

New Testament Reading

Isaiah 12:2-6

Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might, and has become my salvation. **With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.** And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call on God's name; make known the deeds of the LORD among the nations; proclaim that this name is exalted. **Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth.** Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.
The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Mary's Song Luke 1: 46-55

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

Gospel Acclamation

(Tune: We Three Kings of Orient Are refrain)

O Word of God speak to us now. Stir within us, show us how,
to wait with patient eager longing, til we at the manger bow.

Gospel

Luke 3:7-18

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages." As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

What Feast of Love WOV 701

What feast of love is offered here what banquet come from heaven
What food of everlasting life what gracious gift is given
This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heaven
Oh, taste and see and sing. How sweet the manna given

What light of truth is offered here what covenant from heaven
What hope of everlasting life what wondrous word is given
This, this is Christ the king the sun come down from heaven
Oh, see and hear and sing the Word of God is given

What wine of love is offered here what holy drink from heaven
What stream of everlasting life what precious blood is given
This, this is Christ the king, the sweetest wine of heaven
Oh, taste and see and sing the Son of God is given

Reception of New Member

Carol Joles – Rock Creek

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the
power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under
Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On
the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the
right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I
believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen**

Prayers of Intercession

Hear us O God. Your mercy is great.

Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always. And also with you.

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

Let us pray with confidence the prayer that Jesus taught us...

Our Father, 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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Communion Distribution

Post Communion Blessing

Prayer after Communion

Most High God, you have come among us at this table.

By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word, sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all, through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest.

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

I Love to Tell the Story LBW 390

I love to tell the story of unseen things above, of Jesus and his glory,
Of Jesus and his love. I love to tell the story, because I know it's true.
It satisfies my longings as nothing else would do.

(refrain)

I love to tell the story; I'll sing this theme in glory and tell the old, old story, of
Jesus and his love.

I love to tell the story, how pleasant to repeat what seems each time I tell it,
more wonderfully sweet! I love to tell the story, for some have never heard the
message of salvation from God's own holy Word. (refrain)

I love to tell the story, for those who know it best seem hungering and thirsting
to hear it like the rest. And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,
I'll sing the old, old story that I have loved so long. (refrain)

Dismissal

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