

**Faith and Rock Creek Lutheran Churches**  
**December 21, 2025**  
**Pastor Bethany Walker**  
WRDN 1430AM / 107.3FM | Facebook @faithandrockcreek



**Radio Broadcast Sponsor Pete and Becky Richardson In memory of  
Doris Broberg**

**Call to Worship  
Music**

**Special**

### **Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

With each passing day of this Advent season, more and more light  
breaks into our hearts and our lives. Let us sing together as we light  
a

candle now for: hope, peace and joy

I want to walk as a child of the Light. I want to follow Jesus.

God set the stars to be light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus.

In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both

A like. The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine, hope, peace,  
joy in my heart Lord Jesus.

**Confession and Forgiveness**

Surrounded by the inbreaking of Advent light, called to worship as we watch and wait to receive the Christ child, let us confess our sin and seek forgiveness from our God of grace.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God our Creator, you took on flesh and came to live among your people as Immanuel, God with us. Through Jesus, you taught us how to love and live in peace with our neighbors, yet sometimes we cause more sorrow than joy. When we choose to passively dismiss the needs of those crying out for mercy, have mercy on us and teach us your ways. When we choose to actively ignore the vulnerable who long for release from injustice let your justice shine a light on our selfish ways so we might see more clearly to stand with the oppressed. Forgive us, renew us and do not give up on us, O God of our salvation.

In this long night of our souls, the Advent of the Christ Child is drawing ever closer. God who made you and claimed you now frees you from shame and guilt. You are forgiven in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Let us worship now with hope-filled hearts.

**Opening Hymn ~ Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah 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**

O God of hope and love, as Advent peace becomes Christmas joy and Christmas joy leads us to Epiphany light keep us watching for you. God be with us in our waiting just as you were with Mary, Joseph, the Shepherds and the Wisemen. Awaken our hearts to receive the gift of Jesus Christ who is and was and ever will be Immanuel, God with us. Amen.

### **Children's Message**

### **Centering Song**

[The Longest Night by DistroKid](#)

### **Welcome the Word**

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 Son come down from heaven.  
Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is given.

### **Scripture Reading**

**Romans 8:28-39**

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes

for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;  
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God!**

## **Sermon**

**Hymn of the Day      Love Divine, All Love Excelling LBW 315**  
Love divine, all love excelling, joy of heaven to earth come down,  
Fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus thou art all compassion pure, unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation, enter every trembling heart.

Come, Almighty, to deliver, let us all thy life receive.  
Suddenly return, and never, nevermore thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,  
pray, and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation, pure and spotless let us be;  
Let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee.  
Changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place.  
Till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love and praise.

## **Apostles' Creed**

**Prayers of Intercession**

**God of grace, receive our prayer**

## **Offering**

### **Peace**

### **Offertory Response**

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!

### **Offering Prayer**

God of our days and nights, **receive these gifts we return to your loving care. They are a sign of our trust in you and your great faithfulness to us. Use them for the needs of the world. You set a sacred table before us and we receive your goodness. We give you thanks that in this meal you once again become Immanuel, God with us. Amen.**

### **Words of Consecration**

Jesus Christ, the name above all names, was first called Immanuel as he laid in the manger. In his life he became known to the world as the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. Jesus is called Prince of Peace and Prince of Life, the Author and Finisher of our faith. He is Savior, Messiah, Redeemer and Friend to all who believe in him. On the night before Jesus became the Lamb of God, he gathered for a meal with his disciples. He took bread...Jesus, the True Vine, the Resurrection and the Life, the Bright Morning Star comes to us in this meal. Lord, send your Holy Spirit upon this sacred food. Make Jesus' presence known to us in the breaking of the bread and the drinking of the cup. Jesus, Light of the World, as we await your return teach us to pray...

### **The Lord's Prayer**

### **Communion Distribution**

## **Post Communion Blessing**

### **Post Communion Prayer (sung)**

**What hope and love was offered here, what holy gifts from heaven?**

**What stream of everlasting life, what precious joy was given?**

**This, this was bread and cup, a sacred peace from heaven!**

**Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God was given!**

## **Announcements**

### **Blessing**

May you be blessed with hope in your heart, joy in your smile, peace in your spirit and love in your life in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit

### **Sending 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.

**Dismissal:** Hold on to hope, find joy, live in love and go in peace.  
**Thanks be to God!**