

**Faith and Rock Creek Lutheran Churches  
Epiphany Sunday, January 5, 2024  
WRDN 1430AM / 107.3FM  
Facebook Live @faithandrockcreek  
Pastor Bethany Walker**



**Today's radio broadcast is sponsored by Tracy Rosemeyer In celebration of the New Year!**

## **Welcome and Announcements**

**Children's Message  
Way**

**Home By Another**

## **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      We Three Kings of Orient Are WOV 646**

We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar, field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star (refrain)  
(refrain)

Oh star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright;  
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!

Born a king on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him  
again; king forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign. (refrain)

Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a diety nigh; prayer  
and praising, gladly raising, worshiping God Most High. (refrain)

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering  
gloom; sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone  
cold tomb. (refrain)

Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice;  
heaven sings alleluia; alleluia: alleluia the earth replies. (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 [Chris Tomlin - O Come, O Come Emmanuel \(Lyric Video\)](#)**

### **Welcome the Word**

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

### **Scripture Reading**

#### **Matthew 2:1-12**

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east<sup>[b]</sup> and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah<sup>[c]</sup> was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah, for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’ ”

Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go

and pay him homage.” When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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

## **Sermon**

### **Hymn of the Day**

### **The First Noel LBW**

**56**

The first Noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay; in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep. (refrain)

(refrain) Noel, noel, noel, noel! Born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star shining in the east beyond them far; and to the earth it gave great light and so it continued both day and night. (refrain)

And by the light of that same star three wisemen came from country far; to seek for a king was their intent and to follow the star wherever it went. (refrain)

This star drew near to the northwest, over Bethlehem it took its rest; and there it did both stop and stay right over the place where Jesus lay. (refrain)

Then entered in those wise men three, fully reverently upon their knee, and offered there in his presence their gold, and myrrh and frankincense. (refrain)

### **Prayers of Intercession**

God of grace, **Receive our prayer**

### **Welcome New Members**

**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**

#### **Shine Jesus Shine WOV 651**

Lord, the light of your love is shining. In the midst of the darkness,  
shining.

Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us, Set us free by the truth you now bring us. Shine on me, shine on me (refrain)

Shine, Jesus, shine. Fill this land with the Father's glory.

Blaze, Spirit, blaze. Set our hearts on fire.

Flow, river, flow. Flood the nations with grace and mercy.

Send forth your word Lord, and let there be light.

As we gaze on your kingly brightness, so our faces display your likeness Ever changing from glory to glory, mirrored here may our lives tell your story

Shine on me, shine on me (refrain)

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