

Faith and Rock Creek Lutheran Churches

January 4, 2026

Pastor Bethany Walker

Epiphany - Star Words

WRDN 1430AM / 107.3FM | Facebook @faithandrockcreek

Star Word Sunday

Radio Broadcast Sponsor Erin Richardson, In support of radio ministry

Call to Worship

Responsorial Psalm

146 Praise the Lord, my soul! God Who Lifts the Lowly

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 ~ I Want to Walk As a Child of the Light WOV 649

I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus
God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is
Jesus

(Refrain)

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

The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus
Clear sun of righteousness, shine on my path
And show me the way to the Father (refrain)

I'm looking for the coming of Christ. I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race, we shall know the joy of
Jesus. (refrain)

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
[Video | Sarah Kroger](#)

[Creator of the Stars of Night | Lyric](#)

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

Luke 2:25-40

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to

him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word,
for my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
a light for revelation to the gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel.”

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul, too.” There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom, and the favor of God was upon him

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

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

We Three Kings 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)

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 ~ 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)

(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: Hold on to hope, find joy, live in love and go in peace.

Thanks be to God!