

**Faith and Rock Creek Lutheran Churches  
Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship  
December 24, 2024  
Rock Creek / Facebook 4PM  
Faith / WRDN 7PM  
Pastor Bethany Walker**



**Today's radio broadcast is sponsored by  
Don and Jane Rahman in thanksgiving for many blessings**

**Prelude**

**Mini Maestro Piano Students**

**Cecelia Bauer – Joy to the World Harp Solo**

**Lighting the Advent Wreath**

**Written by Rev Julia Seymour for LiturgyLink**

We light one candle for hope. We light one candle for peace. We light one candle for joy. We light one candle for love. Now, at last, on Christmas Eve, we light our Christ Candle. **This candle is the center of our celebration, just as Christ has a place at the very center of our lives.** Jesus Christ is the anchor of our hope, the bringer of true peace, the source of all joy, and the witness of love between family members, neighbors, friends, and former enemies. On this day, and all days, we celebrate the gift of God

coming into the world, as one of us, to learn and grow and suffer as one of us. In the same way, even as he lived as a full human being, Jesus was the Christ, God's anointed, who had the fullness of God within himself- the power to bring life out of death. **We celebrate Christ's birth. We give thanks for Christ's life and resurrection. We rejoice in Christ's presence in the world today. We anticipate the promise of Christ's future, when all will be made new.**

Let us pray. God of all glory, **this day and all days belong to you. You alone are worthy of our full praise, devotion, and thanksgiving. We, who have so much, dare to ask for one more thing. We humbly ask that you fill our hearts with Christmas grace- the power to restore, to welcome, to celebrate, and to see Christ's power brought forth in this world. Pour this Christmas grace into our hearts and give it substance in our thoughts, our words, and our deeds. In Christ's own name, we pray. Amen.**

## **Call to Worship**

### **Entrance Hymn**

### **O Come All Ye Faithful**

**LBW 45**

Oh, come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!  
Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold him born the king of angels:

Refrain:

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

The highest, most holy, light of light eternal,  
Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;  
Son of the Father now in flesh appearing! Refrain

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God in the highest: Refrain

## **Greeting**

### **Prayer of the Day**

Gracious God, on this holy night in which the good tidings of angels, shepherds and magi fill our hearts, we give you thanks for the Christ child, who was born to save us and through whom peace, hope, love and joy are born in us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

**Special Music**  
Ebsen

**Do You Hear What I Hear - Mia**

### **Children's Message**

**Centering Song**  
Family

**Sweet Silent Night - Poeschel**

### **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 Prince of Peace from heaven  
Oh, see and hear and sing the Word of God is given

**Scripture Reading**  
20

**Luke 2:1-**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region

there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors. When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God!**

## **Sermon**

### **Hymn of the Day**

### **Angels We Have Heard on High**

#### **LBW 71**

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.  
Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song?  
Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.  
Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn king.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.

## **Prayers**

Watch O Lord with all those awake this night, watch O Lord, with all those who weep; give your angels and saints charge over all who sleep. (response) in your love, Lord. In your love, O Lord of all.

## **Peace**

**Offering / Offering Song    What Made the Baby Cry – Caitlyn Ebsen**

## **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**

Gracious God, your Word-made-flesh brings peace to the earth.  
As we offer ourselves and these gifts, prepare us to receive the  
grace and truth you offer at this table. Renew in our hearts the  
song of your salvation,  
in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

## **Words of Consecration**

Communion Liturgy by Carol Holbrook Prickett

Truly Jesus showed God's love to all, for while there was no room at the inn when he was born, he made sure that there is room for all at his table, even for the one who would betray him. For on the night before Jesus was handed over to die, he gathered around a table with his friends, he took bread...Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break and the wine we drink may become the very body and blood of Christ who taught us to pray...

## **Lord's Prayer**

## **Communion Distribution**

It does not matter the church you attend or the denomination to which you belong. The grace & forgiveness offered in the body & blood of Christ is for YOU! Come! All are welcome!

## **Post Communion Blessing**

### **Prayer after Communion**

We thank you, wondrous God, for Jesus, Emmanuel, God with us, in these gifts of bread and wine. As we have shared this feast of love, strengthen us to share your love with all the world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

**Special Music – Away in a Manger  
Renz**

**Cole and Liv**

**The Gospel of the Incarnation  
1:1-14**

**John**

*Individual candles are lit as the scripture is read*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived

among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

### **Hymn of Light**

### **Silent Night, Holy Night!**

**LBW 65**

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon virgin mother and child. Holy Infant, so tender and  
mild, Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.  
Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;  
Glories stream from heaven afar, heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia!  
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!  
Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from your holy face, with the dawn of redeeming  
grace, Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

### **Blessing**

**By Meta Herrick Carlson**

Remember, beloved, the call is not to save the world but to love it well and behave generously like all of it is worth saving in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

*The candles are extinguished.*

### **Sending Hymn**

### **Joy to the World**

**LBW 39**

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive its King;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room and heav'n and nature sing.  
and heav'n and nature sing. And heav'n, and heav'n, and nature  
sing. Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs  
employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the  
sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy. Repeat, repeat, the  
sounding joy.  
No more let sin and sorrow grow nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found.  
far as the curse is found. Far as, far as, the curse is found.  
He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations  
prove the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love.

and wonders of his love. And wonders, wonders of his love.

**Dismissal**

Go in peace. Share the joy of the Christ Child!

**Thanks be to God!**