

**Faith and Rock Creek Lutheran Churches
Advent 4 Sunday, December 22, 2024
WRDN 1430AM / 107.3FM
Facebook Live @faithandrockcreek
Pastor Bethany Walker**



Today's radio broadcast is sponsored by Pete and Becky Richardson In memory of Doris Broberg

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of 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. Advent is a season of waiting. Even as we wait for the fulfillment of all God's good plans, we find joy in the work of God all around us. The Spirit calls us to joy in our vocations- paid and unpaid work, relationships, and service. We find joy in sharing the good news of Jesus Christ. We cherish the joy of Mary and Joseph, of Elizabeth and Zechariah, of the shepherds and the angels, and of the whole creation.

Light One Candle WOV 630 (vs 1-4)

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!*

*Holy and compassionate God, your faithfulness in all things produces
the harvest of our joy. We rejoice in You, always. Even in our seasons of
doubt and darkness, we can find joy in the presence of Christ in our
neighbors and the witness of the Holy Spirit in creation. Stir up our holy
joy, that we may share it with all whom we encounter for the sake of
Your gospel. Come, Lord Jesus.*

Confession and Forgiveness

Based on Psalm 85

As we await the birth of the Christ Child let us hear what God
the Lord will speak, for God will speak peace to God's people, to
God's faithful, to those who turn now to God in their hearts.

Silence for repentance

**Restore us again, O God of our salvation. Revive us again,
so that your people may rejoice in you. Show us your steadfast
love, O Lord, and grant us your salvation.**

God's salvation is at hand that God's glory may dwell among us.
In this season of waiting, steadfast love and faithfulness will
meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other. The Lord will
give what is good. Your sins are forgiven in Jesus' name. Let us
now worship God with hearts turned toward peace.

Opening Hymn Comfort, Comfort Now My People LBW 29
Comfort, comfort now my people; tell of peace! So says our God.
Comfort, those who sit in darkness mourning under sorrow's load.

To God's people now proclaim that God's pardon waits for them!
Tell them that their war is over, God will reign in peace forever.

For the herald's voice is crying in the desert far and near, calling
us to true repentance, since the reign of God is here. Oh, that
warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way. Valleys, rise to
greet the Savior; hills, bow down in humble favor.

Straight shall be what long was crooked, and the rougher places
plain. Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits God's holy
reign. For the glory of the Lord now on earth is shed abroad, and
all flesh shall see the token that God's word is never broken.

Greeting

Prayer of the Day

God of our waiting and watching, **soon a child will be born for us,
your Son given to us, Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace. May his
holy peace surround us in these hope-filled days as we anticipate
the Word becoming flesh and living among us once again.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

Children's Message –

Centering Song: [Peace Over You Lyrics](#) | [Here Be Lions](#)

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

Colossians 3:1-17

So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are
above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your
minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on

earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your[a] life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed. On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. But now you must get rid of all such things: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, enslaved and free, but Christ is all and in all!

Therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord[f] has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him

Sermon

Hymn of the Day Holy Child Within the Manger WOV 638

Holy Child within the manger, long ago yet ever near; come as friend to every stranger, come as hope for every fear. As you lived to heal the broken, greet the outcast, free the bound, as you taught us love unspoken, teach us now where you are found.

Once again we tell the story, how your love for us was shown,
when the image of your glory wore an image like our own. Come,
enlighten with your wisdom, come and fill us with your grace,
may the fire of your compassion kindle every land and race.

Holy Child within the manger lead us ever in your way, so we see
in every stranger how you come to us today. In our lives and in
our living give us strength to live as you, that our hearts might be
forgiving and our spirits strong and true.

Prayers of Intercession

Lord, in your mercy, **Receive our prayer**

Peace

Offering

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

Generous God, as we await the gift of your Son we humbly give
back to you what you have entrusted to our care. Do with it what
you will for the sake of a weary, waiting world. In Jesus' name.
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...

The Lord's Prayer

Communion Distribution

Post Communion Blessing

Post Communion Prayer

Holy One, we have met you at this table. **Nourished by your holy food, send us out as your people, filled with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope for all who still hunger.** We pray in the sacred name of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, Amen.

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 Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God!