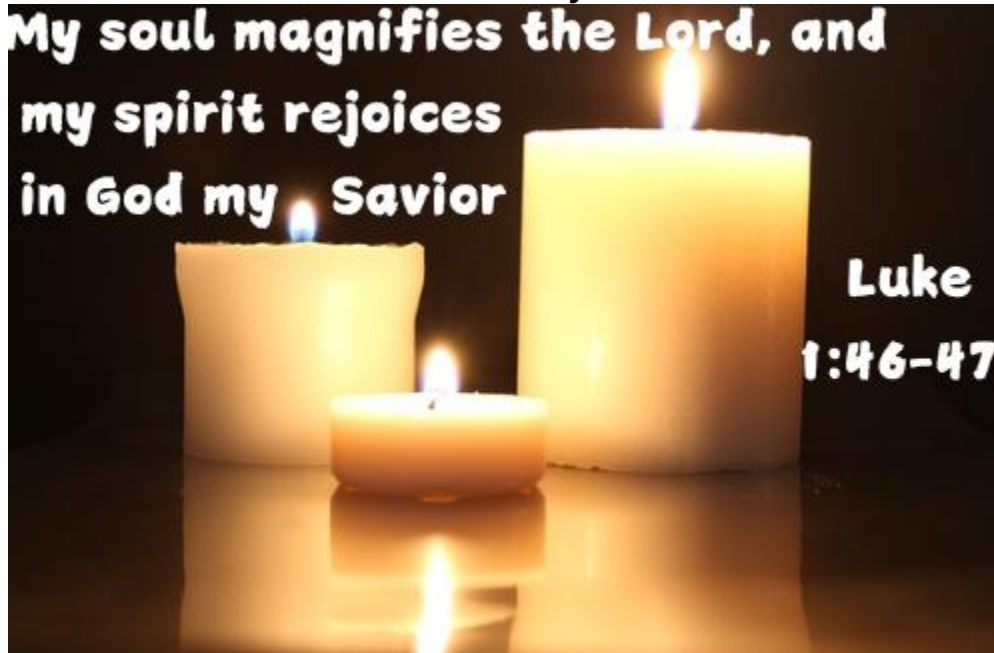


Faith and Rock Creek Lutheran Churches
Advent 3 Sunday, December 15, 2024
WRDN 1430AM / 107.3FM
Facebook Live @faithandrockcreek
Pastor Bethany Walker



Today's radio broadcast is sponsored by Don/Jane Rahman Prayer for peace and those in need

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 1-3)

*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.*

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

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.

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: [Be Born in Me | Fountainview Academy | Official Cover](#)

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

Luke 1:39-56

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among

women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be[a] a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.”

Mary’s Song of Praise And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant. Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name; indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty. He has come to the aid of his child Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.” And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

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

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

O Little Town of Bethlehem LBW 41

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by; yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light. The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond’ring love. O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth, and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!

How silently how silently the wondrous gift is given so God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven. No ear may hear his

coming; but in this world of sin, where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell; oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

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

It Came upon the Midnight Clear LBW 54

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all-gracious
king."

The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.
Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings
unfurled,
and still their heav'nly music floats o'er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hov'ring wing,
and ever o'er its babel sounds the blessed angels sing.
And you, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending
low,
who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow:
look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing;
oh, rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing!

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