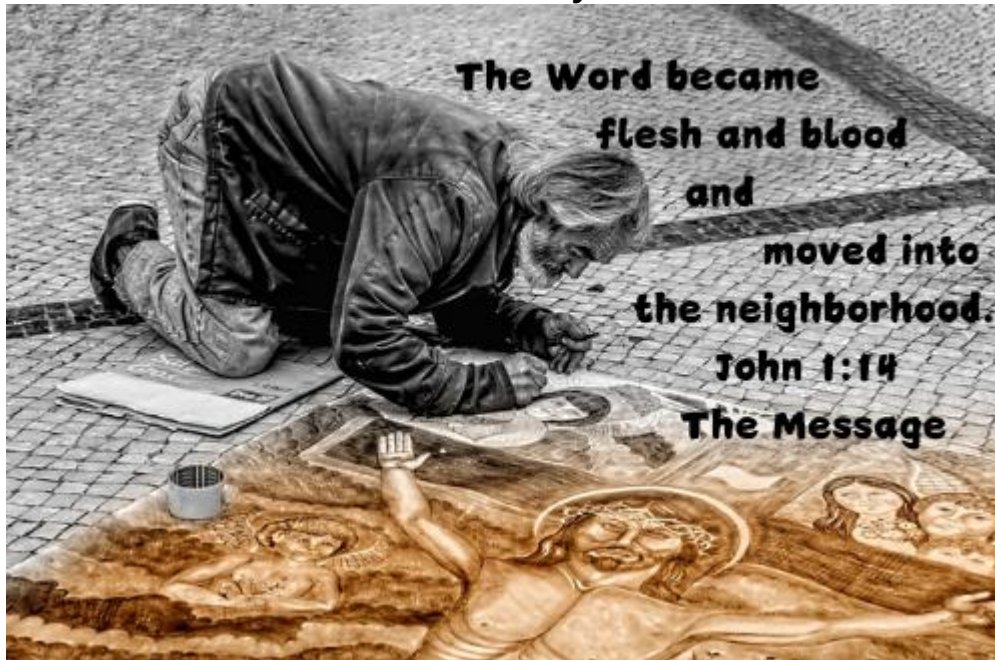


**Faith and Rock Creek Lutheran Churches  
Sunday, January 19, 2024  
WRDN 1430AM / 107.3FM  
Facebook Live @faithandrockcreek  
Pastor Bethany Walker**



**Today's radio broadcast is sponsored by Jenny Hayden and family In celebration of Ruth Hayden's 94th birthday**

**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      What Child is This LBW 40**

What Child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch  
are keeping?  
(Refrain)  
(Refrain) This, this is Christ, the King, whom shepherds guard  
and angels sing:  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary!  
Why lies He in such mean estate, where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here, the silent Word is pleading.  
(Refrain)  
So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh, come, peasant, king to  
own Him.

The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone Him.  
(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**

#### **John 1:1-18**

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 overtake 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. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' ") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

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

## **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.

## **Apostles' Creed**

### **Prayers of Intercession**

God of grace, **Receive our prayer**

## **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**

### **Blessed Assurance WOV 699**

Blessed Assurance, Jesus is mine, Oh what a  
foretaste of glory  
divine. Heir of salvation, purchase of God,  
born of his Spirit,  
washed in his blood.

(refrain)

This is my story, this is my song, praising my  
Savior all the day  
long; This is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Savior all the  
day long.

Perfect submission, perfect delight, visions of rapture now burst  
on my sight; angels descending bring from above, echoes of  
mercy, whispers of love. (refrain)

Perfect submission, all is at rest, I in my Savior, am happy and  
blest, watching and waiting, looking above, filled with his  
goodness, lost in his love. (refrain)

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