# Faith and Rock Creek Lutheran Churches December 14, 2025 Pastor Bethany Walker

WRDN 1430AM / 107.3FM | Facebook @faithandrockcreek



Today's radio broadcast is sponsored by Diane Knudsen In memory of Doug Knudsen, Stan & Doris Broberg, Bud & Betty Knudsen

Call to Worship **Series** 

<u>Psalm 100 - Call to Worship</u>

# 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 Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee LBW 551
Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee, Op'ning to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; Drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness, Fill us with the light of day!
All Thy works with joy surround Thee, Earth and heav'n reflect Thy rays,

Stars and angels sing around Thee, Center of unbroken praise. Field and forest, vale and mountain, Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea, Singing bird and flowing fountain, Call us to rejoice in Thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving, Ever blessing, ever blest, Wellspring of the joy of living, Ocean depth of happy rest! Thou our Father, Christ our Brother, All who live in love are Thine; Teach us how to love each other, Lift us to the joy divine.

# 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 <u>Little Lord Jesus Song - Christmas song for Kids</u>

### 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**

# Isaiah 11:1-6

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor and decide

with equity for the oppressed of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God!** 

#### Sermon

Hymn of the Day We Were Baptized In Christ Jesus ELW 698 We were baptized in Christ Jesus, we were baptized in his death; that as Christ was raised victorious we might live a brand new life. And if we have been united in a dreadful death like his, we will all be reunited for he lives.

In the water and the witness, in the breaking of the bread, in the waiting arms of Jesus who is risen from the dead, God has made a new beginning, from the ashes of our past; in the losing and the winning we hold fast.

Glory be to God the Father, glory be to Christ the Son, glory to the Holy Spirit, ever three and ever one; as it was in the beginning, glory now resounds again in a song that has no ending. Amen.

Apostles' Creed

**Prayers of Intercession** God of grace, **receive our prayer** 

Offering

### **PeaceOffertory 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 Go My Children With My Blessing WOV 721

Go, my children, with my blessing, Never alone.

Waking, sleeping, I am with you; You are my own.

In my love's baptismal river. I have made you mine forever.

Go, my children, with my blessing - You are my own.

Go, my children, sins forgiven, At peace and pure.

Here you learned how much I love you, What I can cure.

Here you heard my dear Son's story; Here you touched him, saw his glory.

Go, my children, sins forgiven, At peace and pure.

Go, my children, fed and nourished, Closer to me;

Grow in love and love by serving, Joyful and free.

Here my Spirit's power filled you; Here his tender comfort stilled you.

Go, my children, fed and nourished, Joyful and free.

I the Lord will bless and keep you and give you peace;

I the Lord will smile upon you and give you peace;

I the Lord will be your Father, Savior, Comforter, and Brother.

Go, my children; I will keep you and give you peace.

**Dismissal: Hold** on to hope, find joy, live in love and go in peace. **Thanks be to God!**