

**Rock Creek Lutheran Church  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent  
Sunday December 19<sup>th</sup> 10:30AM  
Facebook Live @faithandrockcreek  
Pastor Bethany Walker**



**Today's Radio Broadcast is sponsored by Diane Knudsen  
in memory of Bud & Betty Knudsen, Doug Knudsen & Doris Broberg**

## **Welcome**

### **Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who alone does wonders,  
who lifts up the lowly, who fills the hungry with good things. **Amen.**  
Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

God for whom we wait,  
**in the presence of one another, we confess our sin before you.**  
**We fail in believing that your good news is for us.**  
**We falter in our call to tend your creation.**  
**We find our sense of self in material wealth.**  
**We fear those different from ourselves.**  
**We forget that we are your children and we turn away from your love.**  
**Forgive us, Blessed One, and assure us again of your saving grace. Amen.**

God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you!  
Through the power of the Holy Spirit, + your sins are forgiven.  
You are children of the Most High, inheritors of the eternal promise,  
and recipients of divine mercy. God strengthens you anew to follow the way of  
peace. **Amen.**

### Opening Hymn

**Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel LBW 34**

Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. (refrain)

(refrain) Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

Oh, come, oh come great Lord of might, who to your tribes on Sinai's height in ancient times once gave the law in cloud, and majesty, and awe. (refrain)

Oh, come, strong Branch of Jesse, free your own from Satan's tyranny; from depths of hell your people save and give them victory over the grave. (refrain)

Oh, come, blest dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by your advent here; disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight. (refrain)

Oh, come, O key of David, come; and open wide our heav'nly home; make safe the way that leads on high and close the path to misery. (refrain)

### Lighting the Advent Wreath

On this fourth Sunday of Advent, we light a candle to help us claim joy.

**To help us find joy in knowing that, like Mary, like Elizabeth, God favors us, too.** Though we question our worth, today we open our ears to hear the blessing of Elizabeth to Mary as a blessing for us. **Though we feel unseeable, Mary's song sings a different truth, that God lifts up the lowly and frees us from our captivities.** And so, we give praise to God, our souls magnifying our Lord. Blessed are those who believe that they are favored by God.

### Advent Hymn

**Light One Candle WOV 630**

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!

## **Greeting**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

## **Prayer of the Day**

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. **With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## **Old Testament Reading**

**Micah 5:2-5a**

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

## **Psalm**

**Psalm 80:1-7**

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim. **In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us.** Restore us, O God; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. **O LORD God of hosts, how long will your anger fume when your people pray?** You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink. **You have made us the derision of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh us to scorn.** Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

## **New Testament Reading**

**Hebrews 10:5-10**

Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God' (in the scroll of the book it is written of me)." When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that

we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

### **Children's Christmas Program**

#### **Hymn of the Day**

**Away in a Manger WOV 644**

Away in a manger; no crib for his bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay; the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes, but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes. I love you Lord Jesus; look down from the sky and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask you to stay close by me forever and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear children in your tender care and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

#### **Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen**

#### **Prayers of Intercession**

Hear us O God. **Your mercy is great.**

#### **Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

#### **Offering**

#### **Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God all creatures here below. Praise God above ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

### **Offering Prayer**

God of our waiting and watching, we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people. Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal, through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace. Amen.

### **Words of Institution**

On the night...remembering, therefore, Christ's life, death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Let us pray with confidence the prayer that Jesus taught us...

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

### **Communion Distribution**

### **Post Communion Blessing**

#### **Prayer after Communion**

Most High God, you have come among us at this table.

By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word,  
sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all,  
through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest. Amen.

### **Benediction**

The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus for whom we wait.

**Amen.**

## Closing Song

## 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

Go in peace. Christ is near. **Thanks be to God.**