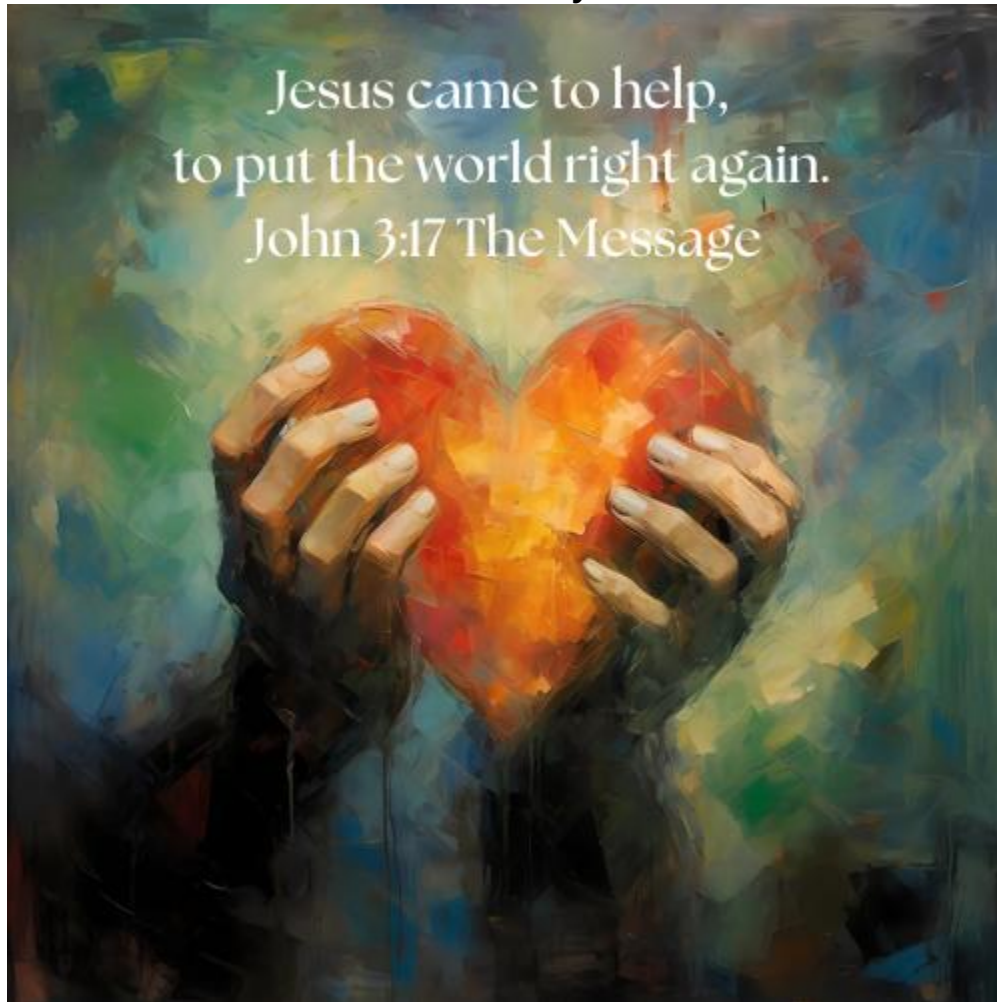


**Faith and Rock Creek Lutheran Churches**  
**Sunday, January 12, 2024**  
**WRDN 1430AM / 107.3FM**  
**Facebook Live @faithandrockcreek**  
**Pastor Bethany Walker**



**Today's radio broadcast is sponsored by Bekah McHugh In celebration of her mom Sharyn's birthday**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Children's Message**

**Home By Another Way**

**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      Come to the Water of Life ACS 955**

All who are thirsty for mercy, all who are thirsty for love, all who are thirsty for love, for mercy come, come to the Water of life.  
All who are thirsty for healing all who are thirsty for touch; all who are thirsty for touch, for healing come, come to the Water of life.  
All who are thirsty for beauty; all who are thirsty for truth; all who are thirsty for truth, for beauty come, come to the Water of life

All who are thirsty for justice; all who are thirsty for peace, all who are thirsty for peace, for justice come, come to the Water of life.

## 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 [Enya - 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 3:1-17

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus[a] by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person.” Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?”

“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.  
Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God!**

## **Sermon**

### **Hymn of the Day**

### **Baptized in Water WOV 693**

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit cleansed by the blood of Christ our king;

heirs of salvation, trusting his promise, faithfully now God's praise we sing.

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, dead in the tomb with Christ our king;

one with his rising, freed and forgiven thankfully now God's praise we sing.

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, marked with the sign of Christ our king;

born of one Father, we are his children, joyfully now God's praise we sing.

## **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

### 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!

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