

ADVENT

A TIME OF WAITING



St. Matthews Church

WHERE COMMUNITY
GATHERS AND GROWS

Sunday, November 28, 2021

Forth Reading

Mark 1:1-8

L: A voices cries out in the wilderness:

A: Prepare the way of the Lord.

L: Renew our hearts with your love;

A: Give us strength to live as your holy people.

Choir

"This is the Record of John"

O. Gibbons

Sermon

Choir

"Qui creavit celum"

arr. M. Tomsinka

The one who created the sky is born in a stable; the king who reigns from age to age.

Joseph buys a swaddling-cloth; mother wraps the child and lays him in a manger

Between the animals lies the world's joy, sweet above all things.

Throughout all ages, to eternity and beyond, may he grant us his hope and joy.

*Prayers

L: Gather us all under the promise of your Son, who taught us to pray:

**A: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth, as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

**Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

*Blessing

L: Thus says the Lord: Maintain justice and do what is right,
for soon my salvation will come,
and my deliverance will be revealed.

A: Saviour of the nations, come!

L: Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

bless you now and forever.

A: Amen.

*Hymn 242**

“Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn”

*Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Christ is coming soon.

A: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

“Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme”

J.S. Bach

Prepare the Way of the Lord is the overarching theme for the Season of Advent and also for this special Advent Carol Service. What are things other people are doing to prepare the coming of the Lord? What are you doing? What does preparing for Christmas and the Nativity of our Lord mean for you, esp. in 2021?

Welcome to worship this morning, whether you are joining us in person or via the Golden Hour. In these pandemic times, worship will feel a lot different from normal, but it is still worship, and God is with us no matter what.

St. Matthews’ new harpsichord. You may have noticed a new keyboard instrument at the front of the Sanctuary that will be played today. It is a harpsichord built in 1970 by Sabathil & Son Ltd., of Vancouver/Bowen Island, British Columbia. It was recently donated to the music program at St. Matthews to encourage early music in worship as well as performances by chamber groups from the wider community.

Church Fire Plan For everyone’s awareness, a copy of the Church Fire Plan for safe exit from the Sanctuary appears in the back of the worship books. Please take a moment to review for your own safety.

Leading Worship Today

Minister: Rev. Sebastian Meadows-Helmer

Assisting Minister: Lana Moses

Diaconal Minister of Music : Deacon Scott Knarr

Lute, theorbo, baroque guitar: Magdalena Tomsinka

Vocal Soloists: Tim Mussar, Laura Moolenbeek

Choral Scholars: Hannah Swiderski, Nicole Hamilton, Laura Moolenbeek, Dylan Siebert, Jacob Steinmann

Vocal Ensemble: Julia Crnko, Lana Moses, Pauline Finch, Bev Roeder, Jim & Erika Sattler

Celebration Bells: Julia Crnko, Anneke Klaver, Laura McClellan, Linda McClellan, Christine Klaver-Schmidt, Chloe Schmidt, Sam Schmidt, Mary-Ellen Winkler

Radio Operator: Gary Pootz

Building Monitor: Dennis Diebolt (519-571-4525)

Worship Notes

In our prayers Susan, Marie, Walter, Grace, Maureen, Ruth-Marie, Frank and Bernice.

Important Information for today's worship

- **Masks:** According to the Waterloo Region Bylaw, wearing a mask indoors is mandatory.
- **Personal belongings:** You may use the basement coat racks, but please use the Church Street side staircase to descend back down (follow the arrows). Please still exit via the left (Charles St.) staircase and doors.

- **Offering:** Please place your offering in one of the offering plates upon leaving.
- **The Peace** will be shared without physical contact
- **Guides to Worship:** Please place these in the recycling bins in the Narthex upon leaving, or take them home.
- **Exiting:** At the end of the service, all will remain in place until the end of the postlude. Then, following the ushers' guidance, those in the back pews will exit first, going directly out the only official exit: the Benton parking lot doors. Please do not mingle inside, and maintain distancing until you are in the parking lot. We encourage you to mingle outside while maintaining physical distancing.
- **Washrooms:** Are not sanitized after each usage. Please only use the ones in the Sanctuary basement, follow all signage and maintain physical distancing.
- **Coffee Hour** is cancelled until further notice.
- **Mingling:** Please do not mingle while indoors and respect 2 metre physical distancing at all times. Please refrain from shaking hands or other physical contact with people outside your social bubble.
- **Pastors** will not be greeting at the door or mingling indoors, but will make an effort to come outside asap after the service. If you wish to talk to them, best to call or email at another time. An in-person meeting may be scheduled.
- **Water Coolers** are not to be used.
- **Access** to the rest of the building (e.g. Office, Fellowship Hall, Scout Hall) is not permitted.
- **Property Cleaning and Sanitizing:** Will be increased throughout this time
- **Thank you for helping to keep all of us as safe as possible during this pandemic, by following these directions!**

General Announcements

Annual Budget Meeting will be held in-person (only) after worship on Sunday, December 5th. All members should attend if possible.

The church office is open! Leanne is back on-site full-time and the office is open weekdays by appointment only. Call the church office (519-742-0462 x 10) or email lvanderhout@stmattskw.com to make arrangements for your visit. Please be advised that there are room capacities in place for meetings, and distancing and masks are required. Please note, the office will be closed Mondays for the remainder of 2021, and December 24-31. For full office re-opening policies and procedures please call or email Leanne.

2022 Boxed Offering Envelopes will be available for pickup from December 5, 2021 until January 9, 2022 in the Sanctuary basement by the contact tracing area. Any offerings received in a 2022 envelope during 2021 will be held until 2022 for processing. After January 9, please go to the church office during office hours, Mon.-Fri., 10 am-noon & 1-3 pm for your box. We appreciate your cooperation in taking your box as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please contact the office.

Simplified Guides to Worship. You may have noticed our Guides to Worship look a little different! Starting the new Church Year (Nov. 28th), the guide covers we have been using for many years are no longer able to be purchased. The Worship and the Arts Committee decided to opt for a simpler and slimmer design. As we have excellent lectors, it was found that we do not need the readings printed in the Guides. The readings of Scripture in worship are meant to be heard communally, and not read individually. Furthermore, the costs of purchasing the covers will be saved.

If you would still like to follow along with the readings, there are Bibles available to borrow at the back of the Sanctuary (pulpit side), or you may consider one of many smartphone apps that contain the NRSV translation which we use in worship (such as “Olive Tree”). Any Congregational Psalms will be printed within the Guides.

Need to use the lift? The lift is usable at this time for those who need it to better access the Sanctuary main level. I personally contacted all lift users I was aware of, but just to clarify: the Church Street door is locked on Sunday mornings. If you know you are coming ahead of time, you can send the office (emails not checked on weekends) or pastors an email heads-up, or call the pastors to let them know to expect you.

If you decide Sunday morning to come to church, you can pull up to the basement tower door and alert the usher to the fact that you will need the lift. They will then let the building monitor know to greet you and help you enter. You can do your screening and contact tracing directly yourself by signing yourself in at the "Lift Contact Screening Binder" (you do not need to go to the coat rack area), and then use the lift.

You can see a visual of the binder’s location at the 4:50 minute mark of the Re-opening video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VgYNZeeWymw&t=118s> (via our website). If you have any questions, please let me know! Pastor Sebastian.



JOIN OUR MAILING LIST

Get the newsletter and email updates on upcoming church events, announcements, reminders and service changes.

Contact info@stmattskw.com today!

Contact Information

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Space for your notes on today's service, for your personal reflection.



Christmas at St. Matthews

Worship Services

Christmas Eve German
Friday, December 24th
5 pm
Pre-registration required.

Christmas Eve English
Friday, December 24th
7:30 pm
Pre-registration required.

Christmas Day Communion
Saturday, December 25th
9:30 am
Pre-registration required.

First Sunday of Christmas
Sunday, December 26th
9:30 am

New Year's Eve Communion
Friday, December 31st
4:30 pm



St. Matthews Church
Where Community Gathers and Grows
54 Benton Street, Kitchener
519.742.0462

Christmas 2021
Unto us a child is born!

Register @
stmattskw.com
or by phoning the office
by December 23rd.



St. Matthews Lutheran Church

**54 BENTON STREET
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