

BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

THIS IS MY BELOVED

St. Matthews Church

WHERE COMMUNITY GATHERS AND GROWS

January 12, 2025

Baptism of Our Lord
Sunday, January 12, 2025
(* indicates the assembly stands)

Gathering

Prelude	<i>“Cornet Voluntary”</i>	P. Preleur
Words of Welcome & Service Announcements		
*Thanksgiving for Baptism		
*Hymn 455		<i>“Crashing Waters at Creation”</i>
*Greeting		
*Prayer of the Day		
Solo	<i>“You Raise Me Up”</i>	J. Groban/R. Løvland

Word

First Reading		Acts 8:14-17
*Gospel Acclamation	<i>“Alleluia”</i>	p. 124
*Gospel Reading		Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
Sermon		
*Hymn of the Day 448		<i>“This is the Spirit’s Entry Now”</i>

Healing

Introduction		
Prayers of Intercession		A: hear us, O God.
Laying on of Hands		
Hymns during Laying on of Hands 220, 617		
*Blessing		
*Peace		

Meal

*Offering Hymn 307	<i>“Light Shone in Darkness”</i>	
*Offering Prayer		
*Great Thanksgiving		p. 129
*Holy, Holy, Holy		p. 130
*Thanksgiving at the Table I		p. 132
*Lord’s Prayer (<i>Our Father, who art in heaven...</i>)		p. 134
Lamb of God		p. 135
Communion Hymn 310	<i>“Songs of Thankfulness and Praise”</i>	
Table Blessing		
Prayer after Communion		

Sending

General Announcements		
*Blessing		
*Hymn 304	<i>“Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized”</i>	
*Dismissal		A: Thanks be to God.
Postlude	<i>“Lobt Gott, ihr Christen”</i>	J. Walther

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Today’s festival rejoices in God’s blessings. We recall and celebrate our adoption as God’s children, the gift of the Holy Spirit, and the promised company of almighty God when we “pass through the waters . . . the rivers . . . fire.” On this day the heavens open again for this assembly, and we receive the gift of God’s Beloved, Jesus, in bread and wine.

Leading Worship Today

Minister and violinist: Rev. Sebastian Meadows-Helmer

Assisting Minister: Scott Kuschnerreit

Diaconal Minister of Music: Deacon Scott Knarr

Communion Server: Rev. Dr. Allen Jorgenson

Broadcast: Jason Smolak

Building Monitor: Don Robins (519-502-2099)

Worship Notes

All are welcome at the meal where Jesus is present loving and forgiving us. For the wine, there is a common cup station and a pouring chalice station (please take an empty small glass). There is also a small tray of pre-poured grape juice glasses. Gluten-free wafers are also available; please indicate this request to the Pastor. If you would (also) like to receive a blessing, please approach the Pastor with your arms crossed over your chest. If you'd like to receive Communion in your pew, the pastor will come to you. Please let an usher or the pastor know before worship if possible.

In our prayers George, Anneke, Judy, Clare, Yvonne, Jeanette, Meaghan, Henry, Grace, Maureen and John.

Important Information for today's worship

- **Offering:** Please place your offering in one of the offering plates in the Narthex (entranceway) upon entering. The offering plates will be presented at the High Altar during the service.
- **The Peace:** We support people's choices for passing of the peace.
- **Exiting:** At the end of the service, please remain in place until the end of the postlude.
- **Please join us for Fellowship Time** after the meeting in the Community Hall. Use any of the staircases (Narthex, west stair tower, parking lot tower) to go down.

- **Downstairs Washrooms** can be accessed via any of the staircases. There is one wheelchair accessible washroom, and the rest are all-gender washrooms. A further all-gender washroom is also available via the west stair tower door (front left of the Sanctuary) on the same level. Turn right at the hallway.

General Announcements

Special Congregational Meeting today: All voting members are invited to attend the special meeting following worship this morning to approve the new proposed bylaws. Synod Council had conditionally approved the bylaws we approved in October, but asked for some minor wording changes. Only one congregational meeting will be required this time. At the meeting we will also have a motion to destroy the ballots of the property redevelopment vote.

Pulpit Exchange January 19th: For this year's "Week of Prayer for Christian Unity" we welcome Rev. Hoeun Lee, minister of First United Church (Waterloo), to lead worship at St. Matthews. Pastor Sebastian will be leading at First United. Recent pulpit exchanges include Trinity United (2018) and St. Mary's Catholic (2020).

Help Support Out of the Cold: Out of the Cold has been running at St. Matthews for around three decades to help with food insecurity in the area. The program has made many transformations. At one point it was an overnight program with a Thursday morning breakfast. During Covid, volunteers prepared and handed out take out meals. Sit down meals returned and continue to run out of the fellowship hall on Wednesday evenings from around November to April.

The program has some support from the Food Bank but also relies on donations from the church and community. This Sunday, January 12th, please consider supporting Out of The Cold. For those of you who receive boxed envelopes, there is a special blue envelope to donate. For anyone else, you can use the white envelopes on the back of the pews and mark the donation for Out of The Cold. The program relies on donations

from the congregation and community. If you have a little extra to give, please consider donating. You can designate givings to Out of the Cold by cheque, cash in envelope or e-transfer. Thank you for your generosity.

Church Breakfast Group - We meet next on Tuesday, January 21, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. at Kypreos Restaurant, 305 Lancaster St. W. Kitchener. Attendees will order from the menu and pay for their own meals. Everyone is welcome. We will begin the new year with a topic that sometimes seems uncomfortable but is very important to think about and discuss with family members. Michelle Glendenning and Andrea White from Henry Walser Funeral Home will be our guest speakers and will share information about funeral planning and services. They are also very willing to answer questions about their experiences with changing traditions ie. Waterloo Region is now a multi /no faith community, no formal service but rather a celebration held in a restaurant type venue, having a service or celebration months after the death, no observance of any kind, 'green funerals'...Please RSVP to the January event by clicking the button below or contacting Gary Schlueter, Willi Bauer or Sue Parker. Looking ahead, on Tuesday, February 18 our speaker will be Shawn (we are on a first name basis!) from Hopespring Cancer Support Centre which is now situated in St. Matthews Church. On Tuesday, March 18 Father Toby Collins from St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, our downtown neighbour will speak to us about Tiny Home Takeout, their innovative program that provides high quality meals based on 'Grab a Bite. Give if You Can.'

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



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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. The AED and a first aid kit are in the hallway by the office.



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