

Christmas Day
Friday, December 25, 2020

Gathering

Words of Welcome & Announcements

Hymn 267

"Joy to the World"

Greeting & Christmas Dialogue (see page 2)

Hymn 289

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

Prayer of the Day

Anthem

"Child of the Poor"

S. Soper

Word

Reading

Isaiah 62:6-12

Psalm 97

see page 3

Reading

Titus 3:4-7

Gospel Acclamation

p. 124

Gospel

Luke 2:[1-7] 8-20

Sermon

Hymn 277

"Away in a Manger"

Prayers of Intercession

A: your mercy is great.

Peace

Meal

Offering Prayer

Great Thanksgiving

p. 129

Holy, Holy, Holy

p. 130

Thanksgiving at the Table

Lord's Prayer (*"Our Father, who art in heaven...."*)

p. 134

Communion

Communion Hymn 283

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

Table Blessing

Prayer after Communion

Sending

Blessing

Hymn 270

Dismissal

Postlude

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

A: Thanks be to God.

"Noël en Duo"

L.C. D'Aquin

Christmas Dialogue

- L: Sing to God something brand new!
- A: For God has done wonderful things!**
- L: God has not forgotten to love us all!
- A: Even the ends of the earth have heard!**
- L: Make a joyful noise!
- A: Break forth in song!**
- L: With strings and horns,
- A: sing praise to the Holy One!**
- L: With the roaring sea and everything in it!
- A: With all the land and everything in it!**
- L: The floods clap their hands.
- A: The hills sing for joy.**
- L: Thank God! God is coming to set everything right:
- A: Justice for everyone, everything fair.**
- L: Sing to God something brand new!
- A: For God has done wonderful things!**

(Based on Psalm 98)

Refrain:

To - day a Sa-viour has been born to us:
He is Christ the Lord.

¹The LORD reigns; let the | earth rejoice;
let the multitude of the | isles be glad.

²Clouds and darkness sur- | round the LORD,
righteousness and justice are the foundations | of God's throne.

Refrain

³Fire goes be- | fore the LORD,
burning up enemies on | every side.

⁴Lightnings light | up the world;
the earth | sees and trembles.

⁵The mountains | melt like wax
before the Lord of | all the earth.

⁶The heavens declare your righteous- | ness, O LORD,
and all the peoples | see your glory.

Refrain

⁷Confounded be all who worship carved images and delight | in false gods!
Bow down before the LORD, | all you gods.

⁸Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Ju- | dah rejoice,
because of your judg- | ments, O LORD.

⁹For you are the LORD, most high over | all the earth;
you are exalted far a- | bove all gods.

¹⁰You who love the | LORD, hate evil!
God guards the lives of the saints
and rescues them from the hand | of the wicked.

Refrain

¹¹Light dawns | for the righteous,
and joy for the hon- | est of heart.

¹²Rejoice in the | LORD, you righteous,
and give thanks to God's | holy name. **Refrain**

As on the first day of creation, on this Christmas Day the Word illumines the world, shining forth to bring all things into being. Today we celebrate the incarnate Word, God becoming flesh to live among us in the person of Jesus Christ then and now. Emboldened by the good news of Christ's birth, along with the shepherds, Mary and Joseph, and all witnesses to the light of Christ, we declare to the world that we have indeed seen and been transformed by the arrival of "the salvation of our God." O come, let us adore!

Leading Worship Today

Minister: Rev'd Carey Meadows-Helmer **Soloists:** Emma Cooper, Lana Moses

Assisting Minister: Scott Kuschnereit **Radio Operator:** Gary Pootz

Diaconal Minister of Music:

Deacon Scott Knarr

Worship Notes

In our prayers Wes & Maureen, Ruth-Marie, Frank, Susan, Dolly, Judy, Bernice, Trinity Village and all Long Term Care Facilities in this time of pandemic.

The Golden Hour broadcast today is to the Glory of God and in loving memory of devoted members of St. Matthews Martin & Rosina Toper (April 8, 2003 and June 22, 2017), and John & Rosina Schneider (December 24, 1975 and November 17, 1992).

General Announcements

2021 Boxed Offering Envelopes Distribution - Suspended. Regretfully, due to COVID 19 protocols, no in-person worship services until after January and the office remains closed - Boxed Envelope distribution has been suspended. Members who were unable to pickup their box during 3 distribution dates in November, are asked to submit their 2021 offerings in a personal envelope, with their name included. They should NOT use old 2020 envelopes. We regret this situation, but there are no alternatives at this time. When distribution resumes, notice will be published in the Guide to Worship, weekly in This Week at St. Matthews, and verbally as best we can. We appreciate your understanding at this time.

Pastoral Visitation Update: During this time, in-home visits from pastors continue to be discouraged, and even in most seniors' residences and long-term care homes they are not allowed/ very difficult. If your loved one is in hospital, the only way for a pastor to visit is for them to be designated a "Care Partner" by the patient or their family (sometimes, only 2 Care Partners can be named). Thus, in-person visits are best restricted to emergency or end-of-life events, with a preference for telephone or Zoom communication. During worship services, the pastors will not be greeting at the door or mingling, so if you want to talk to them, the best way is still to call or email them. Funeral services according to local health guidelines will continue to be planned.

2020 contributions and expenses must be received by end of day on December 31, for inclusion in your 2020 Income Tax Receipt. **Please note: the church office remains closed due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

Office Hours & Staff Holidays: The office will be closed Mon. Dec. 28 and Fri., Jan. 1. Leanne will be available Tue-Thu., Dec. 29-31, 10 am to Noon; 1-3 pm. Regular office hours (Monday- Friday, 10 am to Noon, 1-3 pm) resume January 4, 2021.

Virtual Coffee Hour is now on Christmas Break. It will resume on January 3rd, 2021 following the Golden Hour Broadcast from noon to 1 pm.

St. Matthews (Kitchener) Lutheran Church

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