

ADVENT



St. Matthews Church

WHERE COMMUNITY
GATHERS AND GROWS

Sunday, December 5, 2021

Second Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 5, 2021

(* indicates the assembly stands

** indicates singing is encouraged)

Gathering

Prelude *"Prelude in Eb"* C. H. H. Parry

Words of Welcome & Service Announcements

Confession & Forgiveness see page 4

*Lighting of the Advent Wreath

*Hymn 264** *"Prepare the Royal Highway"*

*Greeting

*Kyrie p. 165

*Prayer of the Day

Anthem *"Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord" from Godspell* S. Schwartz

Word

First Reading Malachi 3:1-4

Psalm : Luke 1:68-79

Second Reading: Philippians 1:3-11

*Gospel Acclamation *"Alleluia. Lord, to Whom Shall We Go?"* p. 171

*Gospel Reading: Luke 3:1-6

Sermon

*Hymn of the Day 249** *"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"*

*Nicene Creed pg. 104

*Prayers of Intercession **A: Your mercy is great.**

*Peace

Meal

Offering Hymn 1023 (see page 5)	<i>“God Alone Be Praised”</i>
*Great Thanksgiving	p. 172
*Holy, Holy, Holy	p. 173
*Thanksgiving at the Table	
*Lord’s Prayer	p. 173
Lamb of God	p. 174
Communion Hymn 247	
*Table Blessing	
*Prayer after Communion	

Sending

General Announcements	
*Blessing	
*Hymn 254 **	<i>“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”</i>
Dismissal	A: Thanks be to God.
Postlude	<i>“Winchester New”</i> M. Archer

Forerunners and messengers advance the advent of our God. While John the baptizer’s voice in the wilderness may be the principal focus of the day, Malachi’s prophecy could as easily herald the coming Christ as forerunner of the Lord of hosts. Finally all the baptized are called to participate in the sharing of the gospel. In so doing we prepare the way for the coming of Jesus and assist all people in capturing a vision of the “salvation of God.”

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.

Confession and Forgiveness

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who alone does wonders,
who lifts up the lowly,
who fills the hungry with good things.

A: Amen.

L: Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.
Silence is kept for reflection.

**A: 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 turn away from your love.
Forgive us, Blessed One,
and assure us again of your saving grace.
Amen.**

L: 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.

Source: Sundays and Seasons

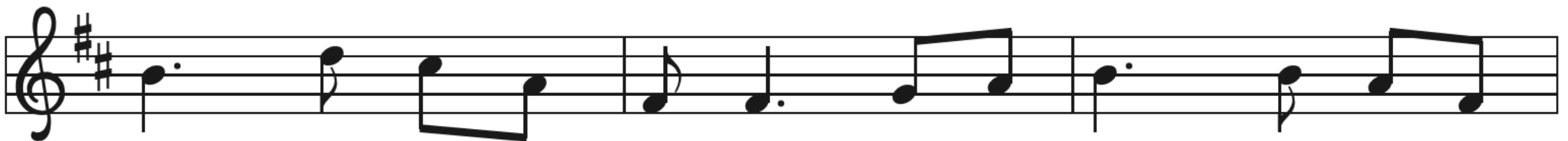
God Alone Be Praised



1 O - ceans rise, the coast-land trem-bles; moun-tains melt and dry earth
2 Na - tions rage, the em - pire fal - ters; seek - ing ref - uge, ex - iles
3 Come and see; God's mer - cy gath - ers all that sin and grief have



crum-bles. All the world with long - ing groans. Love a -
wan - der. Walls and weap - ons rise from fear. Through this
shat - tered. Life from fields of death is raised. Peace, be



bides, this gra - cious prom - ise is our help, our hope and
wil - der - ness a riv - er flows to heal and bless us
still; let pride - ful thun - der yield to songs of joy and



so - lace. God's strong word is sol - id ground.
ev - er. God the cru - ci - fied dwells here.
won - der. God and God a - lone be praised.

Text: Susan R. Briehl, b. 1952, based on Psalm 46
Music: AD LUCEM, Zebulon M. Highben, b. 1979
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Music © 2016 Zebulon M. Highben, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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Leading Worship Today

Minister: Rev. Carey Meadows-Helmer

Assisting Minister: Scott Kuschnereit

Diaconal Minister of Music : Deacon Scott Knarr

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

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

Tenor Saxophone: John Heil

Bongo Drums: Peter Winkler

Radio Operator: Erwin Neuhof

Building Monitor: Ron Roeder (519-895-6833)

Worship Notes

Communion: For those wanting to receive, you will be given Communion in one kind (host only). You will be ushered to the front starting with the side aisles. Leave 2 meters distance between you and the person ahead of you. Stop 2 meters from the pastor, at which point the pastor will say, "The body of Christ given for you." Step closer to the pastor and a wafer will be dropped into your outstretched hands with tongs, taking care not to touch you. Take the wafer back to your seat to commune there. Remove your mask briefly and then put it back on.

Those seated on the side aisles will come up first, followed by those on the centre aisles. Those in the balconies can come whenever they want (although not using the radio tower staircase). The directional flow will stay the same (up the front aisle, and back down the side aisles). Those on the piano side aisle must circle around the pulpit side to return to their pew as the choir area is off-limits.

Alternately, you may choose to bring your own bread and wine and consume these in your seat (at the same time as those at home are invited to).

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

The Golden Hour broadcast today is sponsored in loving memory of Ethel & Jacob Schnarr and Ancha & Stefan Nichoff by Rose & Clare Schnarr and family.

And

In memory of Kenneth and Grace Ernst by Glenn & Debbie Brosowski and family.

And,

In loving memory of Lena and Lenice Gies and their children Pat, Len, Bill, Ron, Gary and Sandra. This loving gesture has been made by Gloria, Virginia, Judy and Cheryl.

And,

Thanking God for the milestone celebration of Judy Schaefer's 65 years young birthday on December 11.

Today's Guide to Worship is sponsored in loving memory of parents Myrtle and Albert Flowers who entered Life Eternal December 18, 1989 and August 27, 1973, son-in-law Trent Karges, December 23, 2008 and sister Carol Meyer, October 2, 2017 by Donna Yendt and family.

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 this morning. 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 are available for pickup 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. Please note that the designation "Benevolence" has been replaced with the wording "Eastern Synod and wider church". While the wording has been updated, there is no change to where this money will go. It is still a "Benevolence" offering, forwarded to the Eastern Synod office for ministry and mission work in the Synod, across the ELCIC and throughout the world via the Lutheran World Federation and CLWR. 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. Pastor Carey has prepared seasonal cover pages based on art contained in the "Evangelical Lutheran Worship" books. Also, 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.

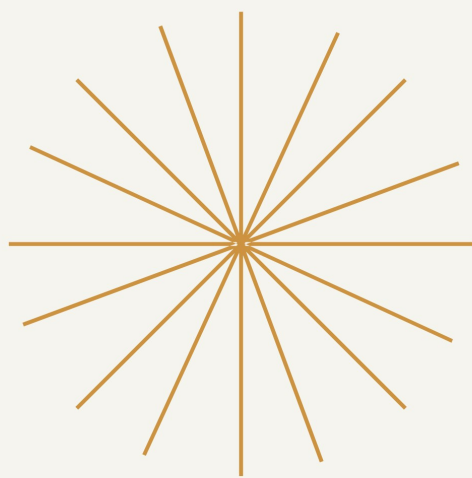
If you would still like to follow along with the readings, there are Bibles available to borrow at the back of the Sanctuary (pulpit side), or you may consider one of many smartphone apps that contain the NRSV translation which we use in worship (such as “Olive Tree”). Any Congregational Psalms will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

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.



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

KITCHENER

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519.742.0462

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info@stmattskw.com