

# ADVENT



## St. Matthews Church

WHERE COMMUNITY  
GATHERS AND GROWS

Sunday, December 12, 2021

# Advent 3

## Sunday, December 12, 2021

(\* indicates the assembly stands

\*\* indicates singing is encouraged)

### Gathering

Prelude "Largo" from Sonata V J. S. Bach

Words of Welcome & Service Announcements

Confession & Forgiveness (see page 4)

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

\*Hymn 239\*\* "Hark, the Glad Sound"

\*Greeting

\*Kyrie p. 165

\*Prayer of the Day

Children's Message

Anthem "Rejoice in the Lord Always" H. Purcell

### Word

First Reading Zephaniah 3:14-20

Psalm : Isaiah 12:2-6 (see page 4) (said responsively by full verse)

Second Reading Philippians 4:4-7

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

\*Gospel Reading Luke 3:7-18

Sermon

\*Hymn of the Day 311\*\* "Hail to the Lord's Anointed"

(to tune Aurelia ELW 542)

\*Apostles' Creed pg. 217

Music for Reflection "Herr Christ, der ein'ge Gottes Sohn" J. S. Bach

\*Prayers of Intercession

**A: Your mercy is great.**

\*Peace

## Thanksgiving

Hymn of Thanksgiving 1023 (see page 5)

*“God Alone Be Praised”*

\*Thanksgiving for the Word

\*Lord’s Prayer (*“Our Father, who art in heaven...”*)

p. 221

## Sending

General Announcements

\*Blessing

\*Hymn 244\*\*

*“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”*

\*Dismissal

**A: Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

*“Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland”*

J. S. Bach

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**Christ’s presence in our midst is cause for singing.** The nearness of the God in prayer, in every circumstance, is cause for rejoicing. The coming of one “more powerful” than John, even with a winnowing fork in hand, is good news—and cause for exultation—for us who are being saved. Great joy is the tone for the third Sunday of Advent.

**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

P: Blessed be... God for whom we wait,

**A: 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.**

## Isaiah 12:2-6

<sup>2</sup>Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not<sup>l</sup> be afraid,  
for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might, and has become<sup>l</sup> my  
salvation.

<sup>3</sup>**With joy you<sup>l</sup> will draw water  
from the wells<sup>l</sup> of salvation.**

<sup>4</sup>And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call<sup>l</sup> on God's name;  
make known the deeds of the LORD among the nations; proclaim that this  
name<sup>l</sup> is exalted.

<sup>5</sup>**Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done<sup>l</sup> gloriously;  
let this be known in<sup>l</sup> all the earth.**

<sup>6</sup>Shout aloud and sing for joy, O<sup>l</sup> royal Zion,  
for great in your midst is the Holy<sup>l</sup> One of Israel.



# 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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## **Leading Worship Today**

**Minister:** Rev. Sebastian Meadows-Helmer

**Assisting Minister:** Scott Kuschnereit

**Diaconal Minister of Music :** Deacon Scott Knarr

**Choral Scholar:** Laura Moolenbeek

**Radio Operator:** Andrew Weber

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

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## **Worship Notes**

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

**Today's Christmas Pageant Poem** was "In the bleak midwinter", by Christina Rossetti.

Audio assembled by Pastor Sebastian, video by Delaney Laking, featuring the following voices:

Mateo Swainson,

Gabrielle, James and Elise Meadows-Helmer,

Henry and Jean Fischer,

Lauren and Spencer Fischer,

Mike, Sue and Delaney Laking,

Fiona, Lily, and Isla Boyce.

## 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**

**Parking at 39 Church Street.** Due to the closing of the sale of our 39/51 Church Street properties, the surface parking lot across the street is no longer ours to use and members should now park either at our main lot beside the church or in the Parking Garage on Charles Street. Parking at the garage is free on Sundays. Please consider using the parking garage if you are able, in order keep space available at the 54 Benton St. parking lot for those who need to park closer. Please note that continuing to park at the 39 Church Street lot will be at your own risk. Thank you for understanding!

**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.

**The church office is open by appointment only.** Call the church office (519-742-0462 x10) or email [lvanderhout@stmattskw.com](mailto: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.

**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.

**2021 contributions and expenses** must be received by end of day on December 31, for inclusion in your 2021 Income Tax Receipt.

**Adieu but not good-bye.** As many of you know, Jim and Cathy Treusch are retiring from their day jobs and moving to Goderich next week. They are maintaining their memberships at St. Matthews and promise to come back from time to time. However, they must relinquish their volunteer jobs here. We will miss them and all that they do. Over the years that has included:

For Jim

- More than 20 years on the board of directors, serving in executive roles of

Treasurer (1998-2008), VP (2015-2016) and then President(2016-2020).

- . Finance committee
- . Redevelopment committee
- . Stewardship
- . Foundation
- . Investment committee
- . Call committee and pastoral search committee

For Cathy

- . ELW (President 2003-2007)
- . St. Matthews Women (formerly ELW)
- . World Day of Prayer
- . Music reception help
- . Sunday Church School

Together

- . Lay internship committee
- . Altar Guild
- . Elders and Ushers
- . Help with coffee hour (sometimes on short noticeJ)

We are grateful for all they have contributed to the life of St. Matthews over the years and wish them a happy and blessed retirement.

**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.

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

### Contact Information

519-742-0462 [www.stmattskw.com](http://www.stmattskw.com)

Rev. Carey Meadows-Helmer      Ext. 14      [pastorcarey@stmattskw.com](mailto:pastorcarey@stmattskw.com)

Rev. Sebastian Meadows-Helmer      Ext. 23      [pastorsebastian@stmattskw.com](mailto:pastorsebastian@stmattskw.com)

Deacon Scott Knarr      Ext. 15      [deaconscott@stmattskw.com](mailto:deaconscott@stmattskw.com)

Leanne Vanderhout      Ext. 10      [lvanderhout@stmattskw.com](mailto:lvanderhout@stmattskw.com)



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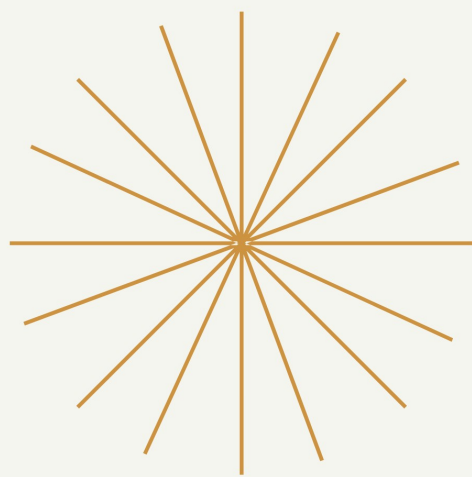


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# Christmas at St. Matthews

## 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**

**A child is born!**

### **Registration**

[stmattskw.com](http://stmattskw.com)  
or by phoning the office  
by 4 pm on December 23rd.