

# Christmas Day

Saturday, December 25, 2021

(\* indicates the assembly stands

\*\* indicates singing is encouraged)

## Gathering

Prelude *“Dans Cette Étable”* R. Germain

Words of Welcome & Service Announcements

Christmas Proclamation

\*Hymn 270\*\* *“Hark, the Herald Angels Sing”*

\*Greeting

\*Glory to God p. 213

\*Prayer of the Day

Anthem *“Christ is born! (Little Noël)”* E. Louis

## Word

First Reading Isaiah 62:6-12

Psalm 97 (see page 4) *(read responsively by full verse)*

Second Reading Titus 3:4-7

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

\*Gospel Reading Luke 2:8-20

Sermon

\*Hymn of the Day 296\*\* *“What Child is This?”*

\*Nicene Creed p. 104

\*Prayers of Intercession **A: receive our prayer.**

\*Peace

## Meal

* Offering Hymn 181	<i>“Let the Vineyards”</i>	
*Offering Prayer		
*Great Thanksgiving		p. 172
*Holy, Holy, Holy		p. 173
*Thanksgiving at the Table III		p. 132
*Lord’s Prayer ( <i>“Our Father, who art in heaven...”</i> )		p. 134
Lamb of God		p. 174
Communion Hymns 909 (see page 5), 276		
Table Blessing		
Prayer after Communion		

## Sending

General Announcements		
*Blessing		
*Hymn 288**	<i>“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!”</i>	
*Dismissal		<b>A: Thanks be to God.</b>
Postlude	<i>“Pastorale on Hark the Herald Angels”</i>	H. Gehrke

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**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!

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## Psalm 97

<sup>1</sup>The LORD reigns; let the <sup>1</sup> earth rejoice;  
let the multitude of the <sup>1</sup> isles be glad.

<sup>2</sup>Clouds and darkness sur- <sup>1</sup> round the LORD,  
righteousness and justice are the foundations <sup>1</sup> of God's throne.

<sup>3</sup>Fire goes be- <sup>1</sup> fore the LORD,  
burning up enemies on <sup>1</sup> every side.

<sup>4</sup>Lightnings light <sup>1</sup> up the world;  
the earth <sup>1</sup> sees and trembles.

<sup>5</sup>The mountains <sup>1</sup> melt like wax  
before the Lord of <sup>1</sup> all the earth.

<sup>6</sup>The heavens declare your righteous- <sup>1</sup> ness, O LORD,  
and all the peoples <sup>1</sup> see your glory.

<sup>7</sup>Confounded be all who worship carved images and delight <sup>1</sup> in false gods!  
Bow down before the LORD, <sup>1</sup> all you gods.

<sup>8</sup>Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Ju- <sup>1</sup> dah rejoice,  
because of your judg- <sup>1</sup> ments, O LORD.

<sup>9</sup>For you are the LORD, most high over <sup>1</sup> all the earth;  
you are exalted far a- <sup>1</sup> bove all gods.

<sup>10</sup>You who love the <sup>1</sup> LORD, hate evil!

God guards the lives of the saints and rescues them from the hand <sup>1</sup> of the  
wicked.

<sup>11</sup>Light dawns <sup>1</sup> for the righteous,  
and joy for the hon- <sup>1</sup> est of heart.

<sup>12</sup>Rejoice in the <sup>1</sup> LORD, you righteous,  
and give thanks to God's <sup>1</sup> holy name.

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# Where Shepherds Lately Knelt



1 Where shep-herds late - ly knelt and kept the an - gel's word,  
2 In that un - like - ly place I find him as they said:  
3 How should I not have known I - sa - iah would be there,  
4 Can I, will I for - get how Love was born, and burned



I come in half - be - lief, a pil - grim strange - ly stirred.  
sweet new - born babe, how frail! and in a man - ger bed:  
his proph - e - cies ful - filled? With pound - ing heart I stare:  
its way in - to my heart— un - asked, un - forced, un - earned,



But there is room and wel - come there for me;  
a still, small voice to cry one day for me;  
a child, a son, the Prince of peace for me;  
to die, to live, and not a - lone for me;



but there is room and wel - come there for me.  
a still, small voice to cry one day for me.  
a child, a son, the Prince of peace for me.  
to die, to live, and not a - lone for me?

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008

Music: MANGER SONG, Carl F. Schalk, b. 1929

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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:** Hannah Swiderski

**Radio Operator:** Andrew Weber

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

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## Worship Notes

**Welcome to worship this morning**, whether you are joining us in person or via the Golden Hour.

**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 to the Glory of God and in loving memory of devoted members of St. Matthews, Martin & Rosina Topper (April 8, 2003 and June 22, 2017), and John & Rosina Schneider (December 24, 1975 and November 17, 1992).

### **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 to 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!

**The church office is open weekdays by appointment only.** Call the church office (519-742-0462 x 10) 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 of-*

*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.



**2021 contributions and expenses** must be received by end of day on December 31, for inclusion in your 2021 Income Tax Receipt. \*\*Please note, the church office reopens on Monday, January 3, 2022.

**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.

### Contact Information

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

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



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