

CHRISTMAS



St. Matthews Church

WHERE COMMUNITY
GATHERS AND GROWS

Sunday, December 26, 2021

First Sunday of Christmas

Sunday, December 26, 2021

(* indicates the assembly stands

** indicates singing is encouraged)

Gathering

Prelude	<i>"Berceuse"</i>	L. Vierne
Words of Welcome & Service Announcements		
*Confession and Forgiveness (see page 4)		
*Hymn 269**	<i>"Once in Royal David's City"</i>	
*Greeting		
*Glory to God		p. 167
*Prayer of the Day		
Duet	<i>"Ihr Kinderlein, Kommet/Carol of the Bagpipers"</i>	R. Lehman

Word

First Reading		I Samuel 2:18-20, 26
Psalm 148 (see page 4)		<i>(read responsively by full verse)</i>
Second Reading		Colossians 3:12-17
*Gospel Acclamation <i>"Alleluia. Lord, to Whom Shall We Go?"</i>		p. 171
*Gospel Reading		Luke 2: 41-52
Sermon		
*Hymn of the Day 297**	<i>"Jesus, What a Wonderful Child"</i>	
*Nicene Creed		p. 104
Music for Reflection	<i>"Pastorale"</i>	F. Giardini
*Prayers of Intercession		A: receive our prayer
*Peace		

Thanksgiving

Offering Hymn 294

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

*Thanksgiving for the Word

A: our hearts sing of your mercy and might!

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

p. 221

Sending

General Announcements

*Blessing

*Hymn 290**

“Go, Tell It On the Mountain!”

*Dismissal

A: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

“He Came Down/Go Tell It”

B. Sowash

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On the first Sunday of Christmas we find the boy Samuel and the boy Jesus, both in the temple, both growing in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and humankind. We too have returned to the house of God “to sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God,” who has gifted us with a savior. As the festival continues, “let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.” It is Christmas, still.

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

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.

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be ...
Holy God,

**A.: we confess our sin before you.
We replace compassion with competition.
We seek what is mighty while ignoring the meek.
We are quick to anger but slow to forgive.
We have not put on love in harmony with you.
Wrap us in the grace of your powerful Word.
Swaddle our hearts with your peace,
that all we do, in word or deed,
may reflect your love born among us.
Amen.**

Psalm 148

¹Hallelujah! Praise the LORD¹ from the heavens;
praise God¹ in the heights.

²**Praise the LORD,¹ all you angels;
sing praise, all you¹ hosts of heaven.**

³Praise the LORD,¹ sun and moon;
sing praise, all you¹ shining stars.

⁴**Praise the LORD, heav-¹en of heavens,
and you waters a-¹bove the heavens.**

⁵Let them praise the name¹ of the LORD,
who commanded, and they¹ were created,

⁶**who made them stand fast forev-¹er and ever,
giving them a law that shall not¹ pass away.**

⁷Praise the LORD¹ from the earth,
you sea monsters¹ and all deeps;

⁸**fire and hail,¹ snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, do-¹ing God's will;**

⁹mountains¹ and all hills,

fruit trees¹ and all cedars;
¹⁰wild beasts¹ and all cattle,
creeping things and¹ flying birds;
¹¹sovereigns of the earth¹ and all peoples,
princes and all rulers¹ of the world;
¹²young¹ men and maidens,
old and¹ young together.
¹³Let them praise the name¹ of the LORD,
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over¹ earth and heaven.
¹⁴The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all¹ faithful
servants,
the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD.¹ Hallelujah!

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Leading Worship Today

Minister and violinist: Rev. Sebastian Meadows-Helmer

Assisting Minister: Lana Moses

Diaconal Minister of Music : Deacon Scott Knarr

Cantor: Julia Crnko

Flute: Pauline Finch

Radio Operator: Erwin Neuhof

Building Monitor: Dennis Diebolt (519-571-4525)

Worship Notes

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

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 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 re-

ceived 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.