

NEW YEAR'S EVE

LIGHT FOR BEGINNINGS AND ENDINGS



St. Matthews Church

WHERE COMMUNITY
GATHERS AND GROWS

Friday, December 31, 2021

New Year's Eve Worship

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(* indicates the assembly stands

** indicates singing is encouraged)

Opening

- Prelude "Au berceau" C. Cui
- Words of Welcome & Service Announcements
- *Opening Dialogue see page 4
- *Hymn of Light 561** "Joyous Light of Heavenly Glory"
- *Prayer of the Day

Psalmody

- *Psalm Hymn 232** "Let My Prayer Rise Up"
- *Psalm Prayer

Word

- Scripture Reading Ecclesiastes 3:1-13
- Gospel Reading Matthew 25:31-46
- Silence for Reflection
- Response

P: Jesus said, I am the light of the world.

C: Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness.

- Gospel Canticle 251 "My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness"
- *Sung Litany (see page 4) S. Knarr
- *Sharing of the Peace

Meal

- *Offering Hymn 181 "Let the Vineyards"
- *Offering Prayer

*Great Thanksgiving	p. 172
*Holy, Holy, Holy	p. 173
*Thanksgiving at the Table	
*Lord's Prayer ("Our Father, who art in heaven...")	p. 173
Communion Hymn 479	"We Come to the Hungry Feast"
*Table Blessing & Prayer	

Sending

*Blessing	
*Hymn 570**	"Now the Day is Over"
*Sending	C: Thanks be to God.
Postlude	"O Tannenbaum" D. Pearl

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At the turn of the year we meditate on endings and beginnings, knowing that all the world's time begins and ends in God. We watch and keep vigil for the coming of God's justice.

Welcome to worship this afternoon, 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.

Dialogue

The light shines | in the darkness,
and the darkness has not | overcome it.

The Word became flesh and | lived among us,
and we have be- | held Christ's glory.

To us a child is born, to us a | Son is given.

In the Word was life, and the life was the light | of all people.

*Sung Litany

Prayers

Refrain

God of Hope, come streng - then us.

Verses (Leader)

1. That grace and love will fill our hearts:
2. For all who ga - ther to wor - ship you:
3. To work for peace in e - very land:
4. For health and heal - ing we pray to you:
5. To help our neigh - bour in dis - tress:
6. That all cre - a - tion is held in care:
7. To list - en through our deep - est fear:
8. For sigh - ing when we have no words:
9. For all who rest with you in peace:
10. To fol - low you in all we do:

Leading Worship Today

Minister: Rev. Carey Meadows-Helmer

Assisting Minister & Cantor: Lana Moses

Diaconal Minister of Music : Deacon Scott Knarr

Radio Operator: Jason Smolak

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.

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!

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 **today**, for inclusion in your 2021 Income Tax Receipt.

Contact Information

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