

ASH WEDNESDAY



St. Matthews Church

WHERE COMMUNITY
GATHERS AND GROWS

March 2, 2022

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, March 2, 2022

(* indicates the assembly stands
** indicates singing is encouraged)

Gathering

Prelude "Agnus Dei" K. Meek

Words of Welcome & Service Announcements

*Hymn 321** "Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church"

*Greeting

*Prayer of the Day

Anthem "Hymn to Christ" W. MacNutt

Word

First Reading Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Psalm 51 to Tone 9

Second Reading 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

*Gospel Acclamation "Let Your Steadfast Love" p. 102

*Gospel Reading Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Homily

*Hymn of the Day 328** "Restore in Us, O God"

*Invitation to Lent

*Confession of Sin

Imposition of Ashes

*Prayers of Intercession **A: hear our prayer.**

*Peace

Sending

General Announcements

*Blessing

*Hymn 320**

“The Glory of These Forty Days”

Dismissal

A: Thanks be to God.

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On Ash Wednesday we begin our forty-day journey toward Easter with a day of fasting and repentance. Marking our foreheads with dust, we acknowledge that we die and return to the earth. At the same time, the dust traces the life-giving cross indelibly marked on our foreheads at baptism. While we journey through Lent to return to God, we have already been reconciled to God through Christ. We humbly pray for God to make our hearts clean while we rejoice that “now is the day of salvation.” Returning to our baptismal call, we more intentionally bear the fruits of mercy and justice in the world.

Leading Worship Today

Minister: Rev. Carey Meadows-Helmer

Diaconal Minister of Music : Deacon Scott Knarr

Choral Scholar: Hannah Swiderski

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

Worship Notes

In our prayers John, Susan, Marie, 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

Join St. Matthews, and the Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada, in celebrating the 96th Annual World Day of Prayer, on Friday, March 4th, 2022. This year's service, prepared by the women of England, Wales & Northern Ireland, is themed "I Know The Plans I Have For You". A video presentation of the service is available for viewing at any time at www.wicc.org, and will be broadcast locally on Rogers Cable Television Channel 20 at 8:30am & 5pm, March 4th. St. Matthews will be hosting our own special World Day of Prayer service & prayer session next Friday at 11am. Please visit the St. Matthews website, or contact the church office, for details on how to attend.

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

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Get the newsletter and email updates on upcoming church events, announcements, reminders and service changes.

Contact info@stmattskw.com today!

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



St. Matthews Lutheran Church

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