

LENT

A WILDERNESS JOURNEY



St. Matthews Church

WHERE COMMUNITY
GATHERS AND GROWS

March 20, 2022

Lent 3

Sunday, March 20, 2022

(* indicates the assembly stands

** indicates singing is encouraged)

Gathering

Prelude "Gethsemane" R. Powell

Words of Welcome & Service Announcements

*Confession and Forgiveness p. 211

Introit "Lead Me, Lord" S. Wesley arr. D. Wagner

*Greeting

*Kyrie 615** "In All Our Grief"

*Prayer of the Day

Anthem "Lord, to Thee we turn" O. di Lasso

Word

Reading Isaiah 55:1-9

Psalms 63:1-8 (read responsively by full verse, see page 4)

*Gospel Acclamation "Let Your Steadfast Love" p. 103

*Gospel Reading Luke 13:1-9

Sermon

*Hymn of the Day 777 v. 1-2,5-6** "Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty"

*Statement of Faith (see page 5)

Music for Reflection "Allemanda in D minor" J.S. Bach

*Prayers of Intercession A: receive our prayer.

*Peace

Thanksgiving

Celebration Bells “Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross” W. Doane arr. D. Wagner

*Thanksgiving for the Word

*Lord’s Prayer (“Our Father, who art in heaven...”) p. 221

Sending

General Announcements

*Blessing

*Hymn 618** “Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer”

*Dismissal **A: Thanks be to God.**

Postlude “Cwm Rhondda” M. Helman

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The warnings are plentiful and blunt on the third Sunday in Lent. Cut it out or get cut down! The warnings are accompanied by God’s invitation to attentiveness: “Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live.” The landowner’s ultimatum is forestalled by the gardener’s readiness to till the ground one more year. That is good news for all of us. Thanks be to God!

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.

Psalm 63

¹O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you;
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land
where there is no water.

²Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place,
that I might behold your power and your glory.

³For your steadfast love is better than life itself;
my lips shall give you praise.

⁴So will I bless you as long as I live
and lift up my hands in your name.

⁵My spirit is content, as with the richest of foods,
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,

⁶when I remember you upon my bed,
and meditate on you in the night watches.

⁷For you have been my helper,
and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.

⁸My whole being clings to you;
your right hand holds me fast.

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Statement of Faith:

We are a community of faith. We share a vision of God: a God whose spirit is love, accessible to all yet beyond our knowing, the source of all being, the way leading to wholeness, the spirit which pervades everything. We search for the meaning of God and our own experience revealed in those sacred stories which have been passed down to us. We tell them again and again: Of God the Creator, the Almighty, who made everything that is, and saw that it was good. Of Jesus of Nazareth, who in history lived among us, healed the afflicted, taught, suffered and died. Jesus forgave those who crucified him. In the mystery of the resurrection Jesus continues to live more profoundly through the ages, the Incarnation of Love, the Christ, to whom his disciples have responded “My Lord and my God!” Christ shows us the Way, which leads to the reconciliation of all things, saying: “Whatever you do for the least of these, you do for me.”

It is the Way of love, compassion, justice, forgiveness and peace. Of the Spirit, the Breath, the Wind of God, the Giver of Life, the Holy Wisdom, who inspires the people of God to cry out for justice for the powerless and oppressed, to see the presence of God in every created thing, and to respond with love. Of the communion of saints: all the people of God, living, dead and yet to be born, who are empowered to recognize that they are, and always have been, brothers and sisters, one family in God. We are reborn in the Spirit, followers of that Way shown by Jesus: to love God with our whole being; to love our neighbors as ourselves; to treat others as we would have them treat us; to strive for justice and peace; to have respect and compassion for every person and for the whole of creation; to forgive those who do us harm; to love one another as Christ has loved us. We journey together on this Way towards reconciliation with the whole creation. We break bread together and pray together. We reach out to one another for strength beyond our own. This is our community. This is our faith.

(St. John's Grace Episcopal Church, Buffalo, 2005.)

Leading Worship Today

Minister & Violin: Rev. Sebastian Meadows-Helmer

Assisting Minister: Linda McLellan

Diaconal Minister of Music : Deacon Scott Knarr

Choral Scholars: Nicole Hamilton, Laura Moolenbeek, Dylan Siebert, Jacob Steinmann

Vocal Ensemble: Julia Crnko, Lana Moses, Bev Roeder, Jim & Erika Sattler

Celebration Bells: Gwenanne Jorgenson, Anneke Klaver, Laura McClellan, Linda McClellan, Christine Klaver-Schmidt, Chloe Schmidt, Sam Schmidt, Mary-Ellen Winkler

Radio: Andrew Weber

Building Monitor: Steve Dickin (519-580-8407)

Worship Notes

In our prayers John, Susan, Marie, Grace, Maureen, Frank and Bernice.

Midweek Lenten Worship Services on Wednesdays at 7 p.m., featuring Holden Evening Prayer. Come join us live or via live-stream.

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!**

Annual Congregational Meeting at 11 a.m. on Sunday March 27th in the Fellowship Hall (in-person only). All members are invited to join for this important meeting to review the Annual Report and to conduct other congregational business, such as the election of the Board of Directors.

JOIN OUR MAILING LIST



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

Contact info@stmattskw.com today!

Contact Information

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