

ADVENT

A TIME OF WAITING



St. Matthews Church

WHERE COMMUNITY GATHERS AND GROWS

Sunday, November 27, 2022

Advent 1
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(* indicates the assembly stands)

Gathering

Prelude "Wachet auf!" J.S. Bach

Words of Welcome & Service Announcements

*Confession and Forgiveness (p. 4)

*Hymn 257 vs. 1-4 "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Hymn 253 vs. 1 (see page 5) "He Came Down"

*Greeting

*Kyrie p. 165

*Prayer of the Day

Greetings from the Delton Glebe Center

Anthem "The Prayer Perfect" O. Speaks

Word

First Reading Isaiah 2:1-5

Psalm 122 (see page 6) (sung responsively by full verse)

Second Reading Romans 13:11-14

*Gospel Acclamation "Alleluia. Lord, to Who Shall We Go?" p. 171

*Gospel Reading Matthew 24:36-44

Homily

*Hymn of the Day 250 "Blessed Be the God of Israel"

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

*Peace

Meal

*Offering Hymn 901 v. 1, 3 (see page 7) "Now the Heavens"

*Offering Prayer

*Great Thanksgiving		p. 172
*Holy, Holy, Holy		p. 173
*Thanksgiving at the Table		p. 110
*Lord's Prayer ("Our Father, who art in heaven...")		p. 173
Lamb of God		p. 174
Communion Hymns 252, 262		
*Table Blessing		
*Prayer after Communion		
Sending		
General Announcements		
*Blessing		
*Hymn 435	<i>"Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending"</i>	
*Dismissal		A: Thanks be to God.
Postlude	<i>"Tromba Pomposa"</i>	A. Fletcher

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The new church year begins with a wake-up call: Christ is coming soon! In today's readings both Paul and Jesus challenge us to wake from sleep, for we know neither the day nor hour of the Lord's coming. Isaiah proclaims the day when God will gather all people on the holy mountain and there will be no more war or suffering. Though we vigilantly watch for the promised day of salvation, we wait for what we already have: Christ comes among us this day as the word and meal that strengthens our faith in the promises of God.

Leading Worship Today

Minister: Rev. Carey Meadows-Helmer

Assisting Minister: Scott Kuschnereit

Diaconal Minister of Music: Deacon Scott Knarr

Choral Scholar: Dylan Siebert

Broadcast: Jason Smolak

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

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,
who alone does wondrous things.

A.: Blessed be God's name forever. Amen.

P: Beloved, ..

God of new beginnings,

A.; we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign.

We have strayed from your paths.

We prepare for war instead of peace.

We dishonour one another and your creation.

Purify us with your refining fire

and set us again on your way of love,

that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance,

and welcome your coming among us.

Amen.

He Came Down

- 1 He came down that we may have HOPE
he came down that we may have hope;
he came down that we may have hope;
hallelujah forevermore.

Text: Cameroon traditional

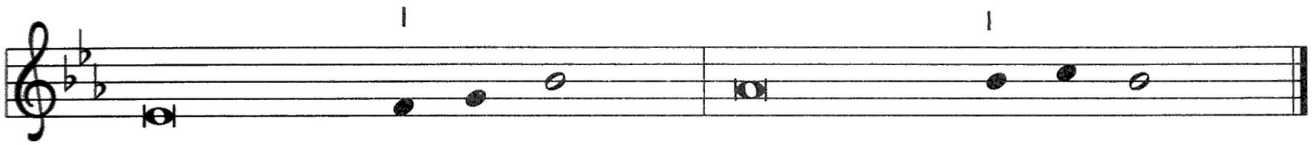


Advent Carol Service this evening at 7 pm

This evening's Advent Carol Service will feature the St. Matthews Sanctuary Choir and Celebration Bells. We will be joined by guests Mount Zion Lutheran Church Choir and St. John's Roman Catholic Church Choir. This special service of readings, anthems and hymns prepares our hearts for the Christmas season. "A Star from Jacob Comes Forth" is our theme: Christ the Morning Star who comes to bring hope and salvation. Freewill offering. Reception to follow the service.

Psalm 122

Tone 4



¹I was glad when they | said to me,
“Let us go to the house | of the LORD.”

²**Now our | feet are standing
within your gates, | O Jerusalem.**

³Jerusalem is built | as a city
that is at unity | with itself;

⁴**to which the tribes go up, the tribes | of the LORD,
the assembly of Israel, to praise the name | of the LORD.**

⁵For there are the | thrones of judgment,
the thrones of the | house of David.

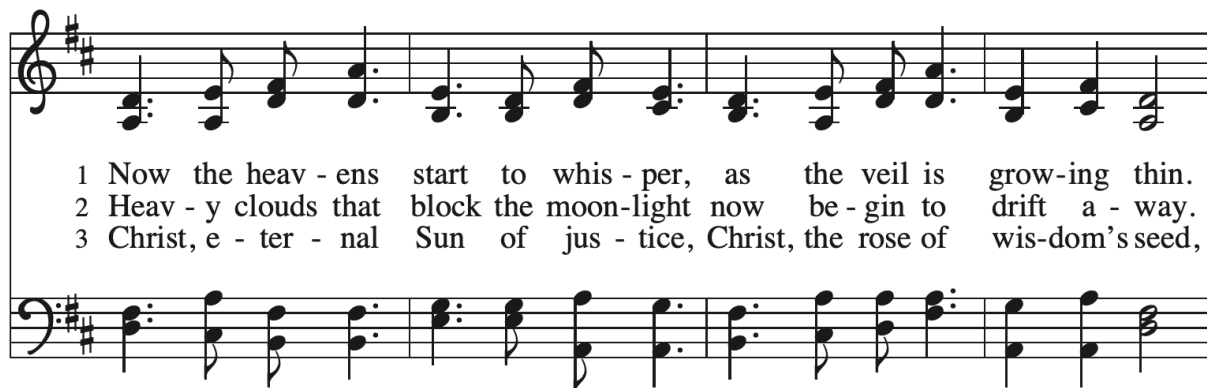
⁶**Pray for the peace | of Jerusalem:
“May they pros- | per who love you.**

⁷Peace be with- | in your walls
and quietness with- | in your towers.

⁸**For the sake of my kindred | and companions,
I pray for | your prosperity.**

⁹Because of the house of the | LORD our God,
I will seek to | do you good.”

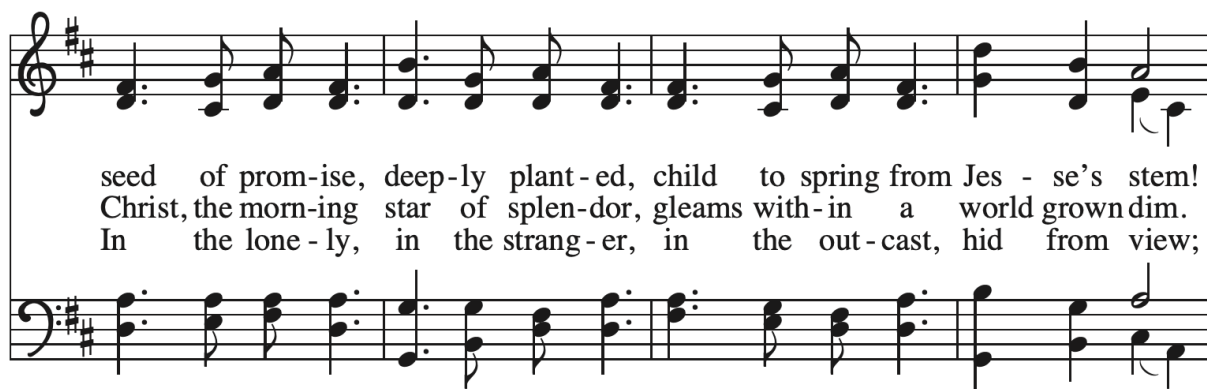
Now the Heavens Start to Whisper



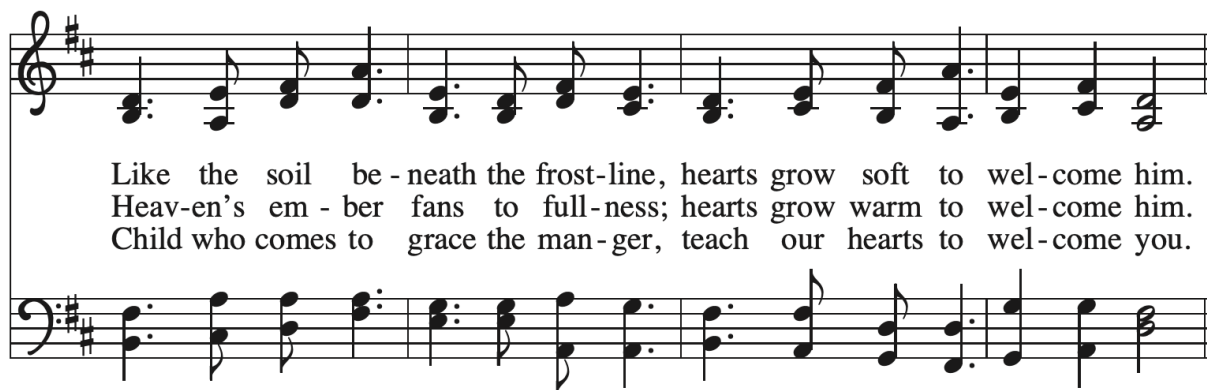
1 Now the heav - ens start to whis - per, as the veil is grow - ing thin.
2 Heav - y clouds that block the moon - light now be - gin to drift a - way.
3 Christ, e - ter - nal Sun of jus - tice, Christ, the rose of wis - dom's seed,



Earth from slum - ber wakes to lis - ten to the stir - ring, faint with - in:
Dia - mond bril - liance through the dark - ness shines the hope of com - ing day.
come to bless with fire and fra - grance hours of yearn - ing, hurt, and need.



seed of prom - ise, deep - ly plant - ed, child to spring from Jes - se's stem!
Christ, the morn - ing star of splen - dor, gleams with - in a world grown dim.
In the lone - ly, in the strang - er, in the out - cast, hid from view;



Like the soil be - neath the frost - line, hearts grow soft to wel - come him.
Heav - en's em - ber fans to full - ness; hearts grow warm to wel - come him.
Child who comes to grace the man - ger, teach our hearts to wel - come you.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953
Music: SUO GÂN, Welsh melody; arr. hymnal version
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Arr. © 2020 Augsburg Fortress

Important Information for today's worship

- **Self-Screening:** Members are reminded to continue to perform self-assessments if they have COVID symptoms.
- **Masks:** We support people's choice to wear a mask, and we strongly encourage the following of current guidelines.
- **Physical distancing:** Members are encouraged to continue physical distancing where possible indoors.
- **Offering:** Please place your offering in one of the offering plates in the Narthex (entranceway) upon entering. The offering plates will be again presented to the High Altar during the service.
- **The Peace:** We support people's choices for passing of the peace.
- **Exiting:** At the end of the service, please remain in place until the end of the postlude.
- **Ministers** will be greeting worshippers after the postlude in the Narthex, without handshakes.
- **Thank you for helping to keep all of us as safe as possible during this pandemic, by following these directions!**

Fire Exits: All Sanctuary fire exits remain operational during lower-level demolition and renovations. This includes the three Narthex (Entrance) doors, the mid-tower door (half-way up the right side), and the staircase at the front left, piano side.

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.

Are you new here?

We're so glad that you joined us for worship!

-*Page numbers* in the Evangelical Lutheran Worship (red hymnal), e.g. marked "p.125", are located at the bottom of the page in the front section of the book. Hymn numbers are the large numbers at the top of the page in the second half of the book.

-*Washrooms*: use the west stair tower door (closest to the piano) and stay on that floor. Use the hallway by the office to the stairway to the floor below. The men's washroom is to your immediate left, and the women's is behind you to your left.

-*Safety*: Our building monitor patrols the building to ensure security on Sunday mornings. Their cell number is found under "Leading Worship Today".

-*Accessibility*: Accessible on-street parking is available beside the church along Church St. Our marked accessible entrance is on Church Street, with a lift up to the sanctuary level. Two spots (labeled "For Accessible Needs") are also available in our main parking lot nearest the Office Entrance. Our accessible washroom is located beside our Fellowship Hall (off the entranceway on the Church St. side). Unfortunately, to currently reach the Fellowship Hall or this washroom without using stairs, you must use the lift and then exit the building and proceed via the sidewalk down to the Fellowship Hall doors (with the alcove).

- *Fellowship Hall Coffee Hour following the service*: To get there, use the west stair tower door (closest to the piano) and stay on that floor. Use the hallway by the office to the stairway to the floor below. Turn left and then immediately right down the hallway.

Worship Notes

In our prayers Bruce, John, Marie, Grace, Maureen and Bernice.

All are welcome at the meal where Jesus is present loving you and forgiving you. The pastor will distribute communion wafers using tongs. Gluten-free wafers are also available; please indicate this request to the Pastor. You may then take a pre-poured wine cup from the larger tray or a juice cup from the smaller tray. If you would (also) like to receive a blessing, please approach the Pastor with your arms crossed over your chest. If you'd like to receive Communion in your pew, the pastor will come to you. Please let an usher or the pastor know before worship if possible.

General Announcements

Update: West Tower Door for Emergency Only. When going in to the church house or washrooms, use the west stair tower door and stay on that floor. Use the hallway by the office to the stairway to the floor below. The stairs in the west tower are closed to the lower level sanctuary and should only be used in case of an emergency to exit the building.

Dear Congregation Members, We thank you for your patience with the broken phone system. Quotes are coming in and once the decision is made on what company to go with, we'll have a better understanding of the timing of when the phone will be operational again. Another update will be sent out once we have that information. Thank you, Ron Roeder and Kim Schaner.

Offering Envelope boxes will be available to be picked up outside the office starting Sunday, November 27. They will also be available Sun-

day December 4, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, after which they will be available in the office starting January 3.

Special Fellowship Time Event:

November 27 - John Dinner and Joseph Thomas from the Delton Glebe Centre

John and Joseph will guide our conversation to help us reflect on what have the past two years been like you? We look at our experiences - losses, gains, challenges and victories - making meaning of the process while we look to the future.



Christmas at St. Matthews Worship Services

Christmas Eve (German)

December 24th

5:00 pm

Christmas Day

December 25th

9:30 am

**Christmas Eve
(English)**

December 24th

7:30 pm

New Year's Eve

December 31st

4:30 pm

New Year's Day

January 1st

9:30 am



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