

ADVENT

A TIME OF WAITING



St. Matthews Church

WHERE COMMUNITY GATHERS AND GROWS

Sunday, December 4, 2022

Advent 2
Sunday, December 4, 2022
(indicates the assembly stands)*

Gathering

Prelude *“Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now”* A. Leupold

Words of Welcome & Service Announcements

*Confession and Forgiveness (see page 4)

*Hymn 249 *“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”*

*Lighting of the Advent Wreath

*Hymn 253 vs. 1 & 2 (see page 5) *“He Came Down”*

*Greeting

*Kyrie p. 165

*Prayer of the Day

Anthem *“E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come”* P. Manz

Word

First Reading Isaiah 11:1-10

Psalms 72: 1-7, 18-19 (see pg. 6) (sung responsively by full verse)

Second Reading Romans 15:4-13

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

*Gospel Reading Matthew 3:1-12

Gospel Reflection

*Hymn of the Day 259 *“Fling Wide the Door”*

Congregational Message

Music for Reflection *“Creator of the Stars”* A. Krentz Organ

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

*Peace

Thanksgiving

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

*Thanksgiving for the Word

*Lord's Prayer ("Our Father in heaven...")

p. 221

Sending

General Announcements

*Blessing

*Hymn 246

"Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding"

*Dismissal

A: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

"Macht hoch die Tür"

A. Leupold

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At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases we turn toward the approaching light of Christ. For Christians he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord's table we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.

Leading Worship Today

Minister: Rev. Sebastian Meadows-Helmer

Diaconal Minister of Music: Deacon Scott Knarr

Lector: Kim Schaner

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

Flute: Julia Crnko

Broadcast: Andrew Weber

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 dishonor 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.
- 2 He came down that we may have PEACE
he came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have peace;
hallelujah forevermore.

Text: Cameroon traditional

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.

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

Tone 16



¹Give the king your jus- | tice, O God,
and your righteousness to | the king's son;

²**that he may rule your | people righteously
and the | poor with justice;**

³that the mountains may bring prosperity | to the people,
and the | hills, in righteousness.

⁴**Let him defend the needy a- | mong the people,
rescue the poor, and crush | the oppressor.**

⁵May he live as long as the sun and | moon endure,
from one generation | to another.

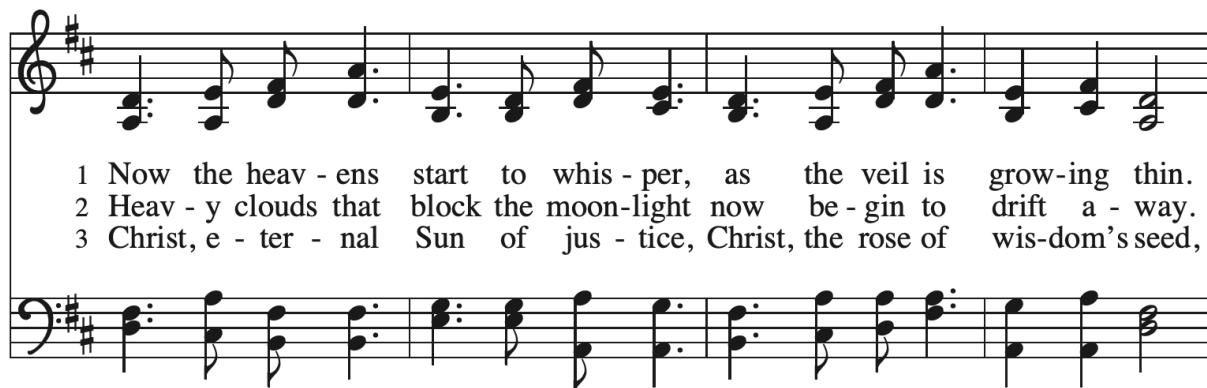
⁶**Let him come down like rain upon | the mown field,
like showers that wa- | ter the earth.**

⁷In his time may the | righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall | be no more.

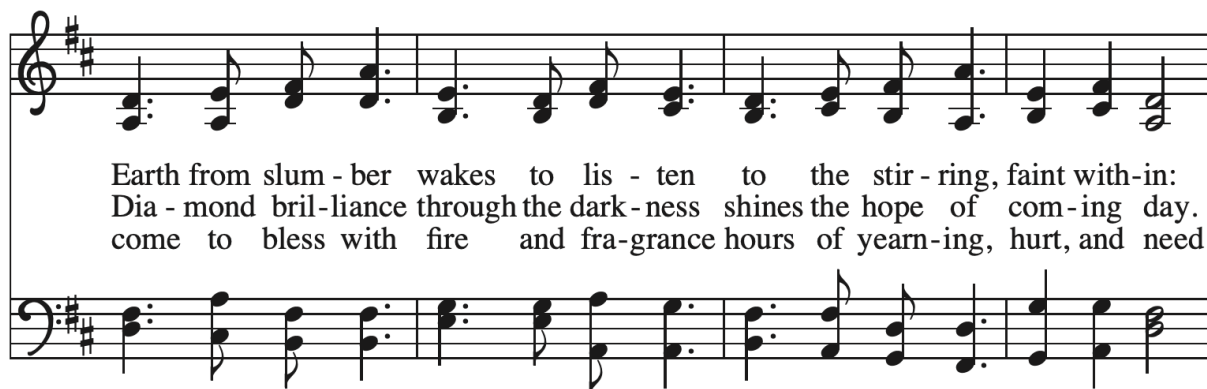
¹⁸**Blessed are you, LORD God, the | God of Israel;
you alone do | wondrous deeds!**

²nd half ¹⁹And blessed be your glorious | name forever,
and may all the earth be filled with your glory. **A- | men. Amen.**

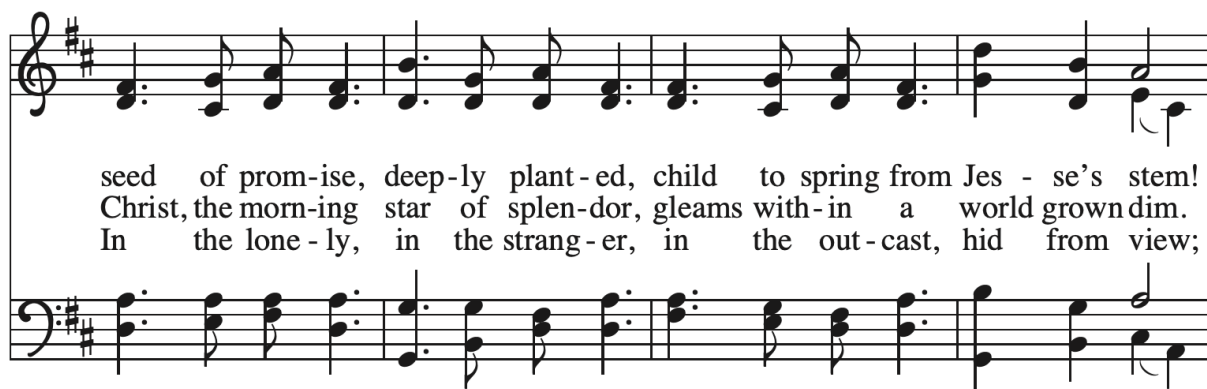
Now the Heavens Start to Whisper



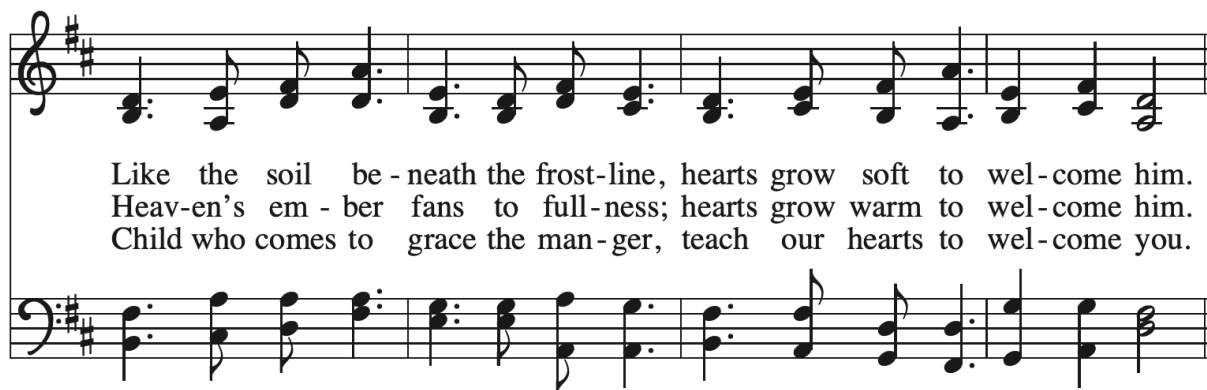
1 Now the heav - ens start to whis - per, as the veil is grow - ing thin.
2 Heav - y clouds that block the moon - light now be - gin to drift a - way.
3 Christ, e - ter - nal Sun of jus - tice, Christ, the rose of wis - dom's seed,



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!**

Worship Notes

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

Music Notes: The prelude is based on the German chorale "Herr Jesu Christ, dich zu uns wend" which is found in Evangelical Lutheran Worship at hymn #527. The postlude is our hymn of the day, ELW #259 "Fling Wide the Door". An abridged version of today's choir anthem was sung at last week's carol service. Today you will hear the full version with the exciting middle section which makes the sopranos curl their toes!

General Announcements

Thank you to everyone who contributed to last Sunday's Advent Carol Service. Those who lit candles, those who prepared and placed the candles, tables and other furnishings; those who sang, played bells, violin and recorder; those who placed microphones and made recordings; those who prepared, served and cleaned up the reception; those who welcomed our guests and offered a kind word of hospitality - all of these activities are appreciated and make St. Matthews a warm and caring place to visit! Advent blessings to each and every one of you as we prepare for Christ's coming together in this place.

Annual Budget Meeting: Will be held in-person (only) after worship today, in the Fellowship Hall. All voting members should attend if possible.

Also on the agenda will be the following motion:

That the Board's decision, to disburse a Property Sale Tithe portion in the amount of \$200,000 as presented, be approved.

As part of the meeting, Pastor Sebastian will discuss the 2022 Property Sale Task Force's process, as well as a description of the 4 beneficiary organizations that have been selected. We have been richly blessed through the sale of 39 and 51 Church St, and this is a first step in giving back a portion to the community, both local and global. Come and be part of making missional history here at St. Matthews!

Offering Envelope boxes are available to be picked up outside the office today. They will also be available on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, after which they will be available in the office starting January 3.

Update: West Tower Door for Emergency Only. Due to the current demolition, 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.

Phone System Update:

Dear Congregation Members,

It is with great pleasure we announce that St Matthews now has its new VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol) Phone System up and running! Staff have been trained, and the door buzzer is working. Thank you for your patience while Ron Roeder and John Heil did the due diligence in choosing the right phone system for St. Matthews. Also thank you to Leanne, who managed to answer phones and get people into the building when the phones were not operational in full capacity, as well as being the main contact person and trainer for the new system.

Please note the new extension numbers as listed here:

Pastor Sebastian – 2

Pastor Carey – 3

Deacon Scott – 4

Bookkeeper Rick Kitchen – 5

Administrator Leanne Vanderhout – 6

Please also note that handsets in other locations (e.g. Room 102, Kitchen) have been removed. The church phone number (519-742-0462) remains unchanged.



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Contact info@stmattskw.com today!

Contact Information

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