

ADVENT

A TIME OF WAITING



St. Matthews Church

WHERE COMMUNITY GATHERS AND GROWS

Sunday, December 18, 2022

Thanksgiving

*Offering Hymn 901 v. 2, 3 (see page 7) *“Now the Heavens”*

*Thanksgiving for the Word

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

Sending

General Announcements

*Blessing

*Hymn 264 *“Prepare The Royal Highway”*

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

Postlude *“Noël: Quoi ma voisine es-tu fâchée”* G. Lasceux

** *Bible texts are taken from A Women’s Lectionary for the Whole Church (Wilda C. Gafney, 2021)*

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The gospel is Matthew’s account of the annunciation and birth of the one named Emmanuel, God-with-us. During these final days of Advent we pray, “O come, O come, Emmanuel,” a beloved hymn based on the O Antiphons, ancient prayers appointed for the seven days preceding Christmas. On this final Sunday of Advent we prepare to celebrate the birth of the one born to save us from the power of sin and death.

Leading Worship Today

Minister: Rev. Sebastian Meadows-Helmer

Diaconal Minister of Music: Deacon Scott Knarr

Choral Scholar: Laura Moolenbeek

Lector: Sonia Groh

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 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.
- 3 He came down that we may have JOY;
he came down that we may have joy;
he came down that we may have joy;
hallelujah forevermore.
- 4 He came down that we may have LOVE;
he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love;
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 80:1-7, 17-19

Tone 9



1Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph | like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned up- | on the cherubim.

2In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, | and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and | come to help us.

3Restore | us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.

4O LORD| God of hosts,
how long will your anger fume when your | people pray?

5You have fed them with the | bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of | tears to drink.

6You have made us the derision | of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh | us to scorn.

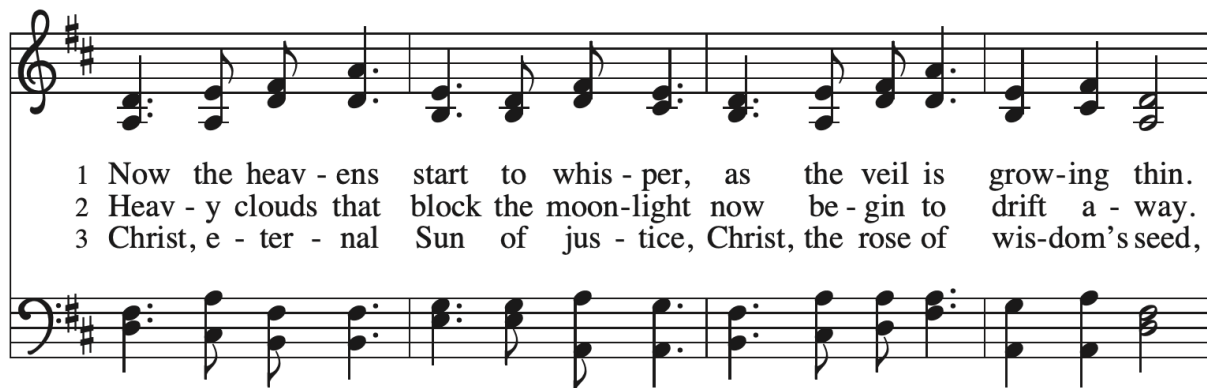
7Restore us, O | God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.

17Let your hand be upon the one at | your right hand,
the one you have made so strong | for yourself.

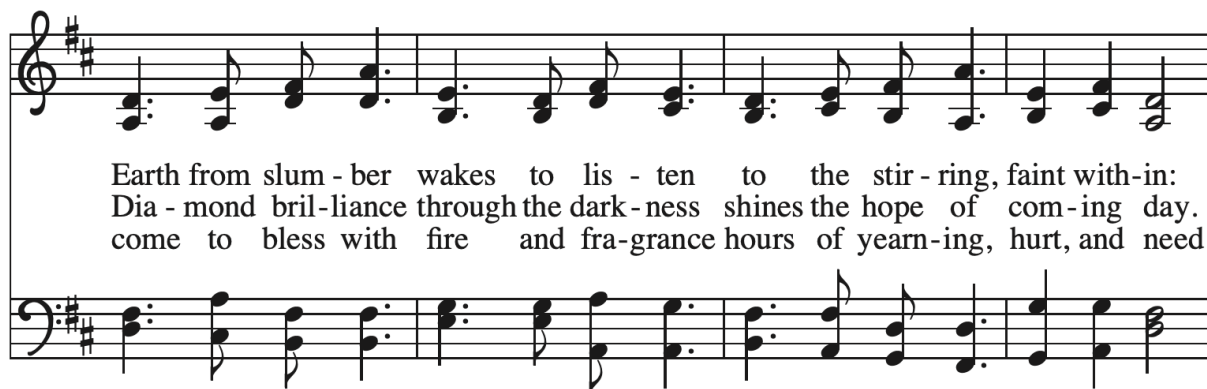
18And so will we never turn a- | way from you;
give us life, that we may call up- | on your name.

19Restore us, O LORD| God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.

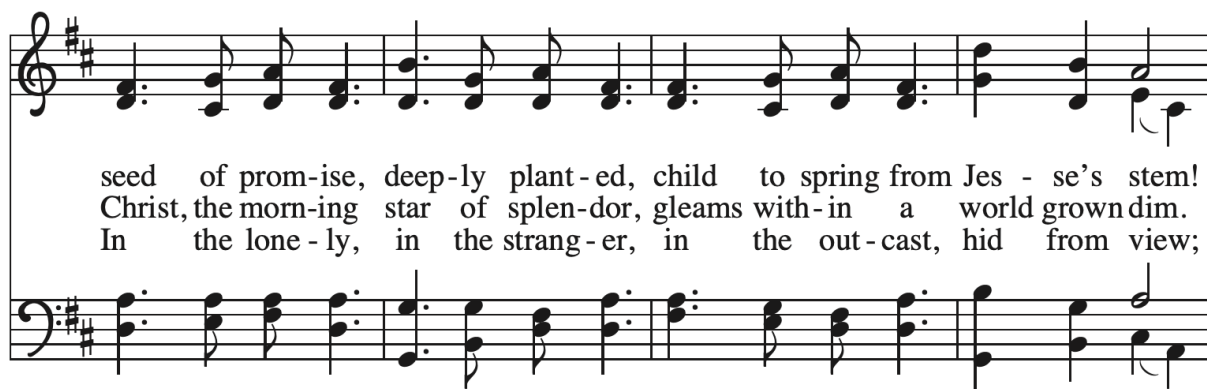
Now the Heavens Start to Whisper



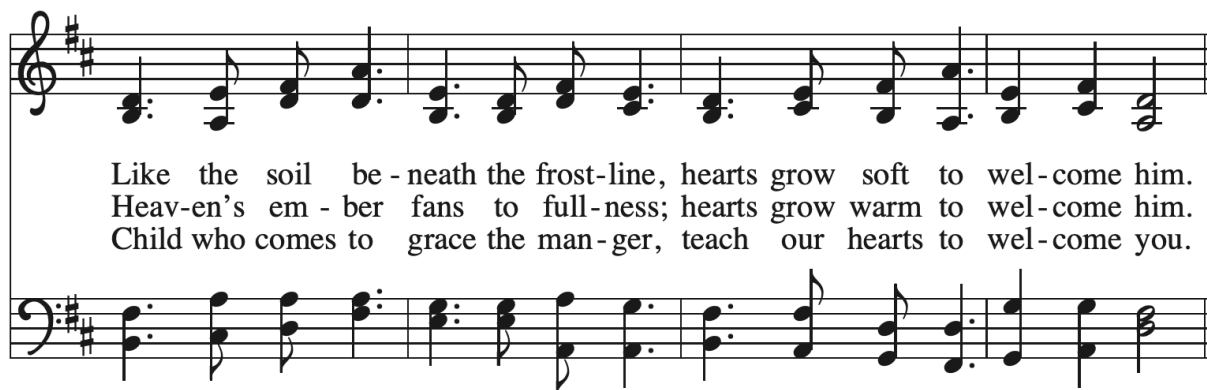
1 Now the heav - ens start to whis - per, as the veil is grow - ing thin.
2 Heav - y clouds that block the moon - light now be - gin to drift a - way.
3 Christ, e - ter - nal Sun of jus - tice, Christ, the rose of wis - dom's seed,



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, Frank and Bernice.

General Announcements

Offering Envelope boxes are available to be picked up outside the office 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.

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



54 Benton Street, Kitchener, 519.742.0462



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

Contact info@stmattskw.com today!

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