

CHRISTMAS EVE

A CHILD BORN AMONG US



St. Matthews Church

WHERE COMMUNITY GATHERS AND GROWS

December 24, 2022

Word

- *Hymn 289 *"Angels We Have Heard On High"*
- First Reading Isaiah 26:16-19
- Anthem *"Baloo Lammy"* trad. Scottish, arr. S. Knarr
- Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
- Solo *"What Child is This?"* trad. English
- *Gospel Reading Luke 2:1-20
- Celebration Bells *"Away in a Manger"* arr. J. Krug
- Sermon
- *Hymn 270 *"Hark, The Herald Angels Sing"*
- Offering *"Lo, How a Rose"* arr. L. Smith
- *Offering Hymn 276 *"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"*
- *Offering Prayer
- (Handheld candles are lit during the following anthem:)*
- Anthem *"In the Bleak Midwinter"* arr. S. Knarr
- *Gospel of the Incarnation John 1:1-14
- *Prayers of Intercession **A: hear our prayer.**
- *Lord's Prayer

**Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

Sending

*Hymn "*Silent Night*"

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!
Alles schläft, einsam wacht
nur das traute, hochheilige Paar.
Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,
schlaf in himmlischer Ruh,
schlaf in himmlischer Ruh.

Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from your holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

*Blessing

(Handheld candles are extinguished during the following hymn:)

*Recessional Hymn 267

"Joy to the World"

*Dismissal

P: Christ the Savior is born!

Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

A: Thanks be to God

Postlude

"Joy to the World"

R. Germain

** Responses are adapted from *The Rhythm of Life: Celtic Daily Prayer* (David Adam, 2007).

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

In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child.

The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.

Notes on the service: The conclusion to today's service is different to what was tradition at St. Matthews prior to 2020. The intent is to improve the flow, acknowledge the present reality of the choir and the discontinued radio broadcast, as well as to maximize the congregational handheld candle time.

During the handheld candle lighting: The minister lights a large candle, which symbolizes Christ, the Light of the world of whom John's gospel speaks. The ushers light their candles from the minister's candle, then light the candle of each worshiper nearest the aisle. The lighted candle is never tilted, but is always held upright when giving light to another.

Leading Worship Tonight

Minister: Rev. Sebastian Meadows-Helmer

Diaconal Minister of Music: Deacon Scott Knarr

Celebration Bells: Julia Crnko, Anneke Klaver, Christine Klaver-Schmidt, Gwenanne Jorgenson, Linda McLellan, Chloe Schmidt, Sam Schmidt, Mary-Ellen Winkler.

Choral Scholars and Sanctuary Choir: Nicole Hamilton, Laura Moolenbeek, Dylan Siebert, Jacob Steinmann, Grace Mason Soucie, Julia Crnko, Lana Moses, John McLellan, Bev Roeder, Erika Sattler, Jim Sattler.

Vocal Solo: Gabrielle Meadows-Helmer

Piano: Christine Klaver-Schmidt

Lector: John Heil

Broadcast: Gary Pootz

Building Monitor: Ron Roeder (519-895-6833)

Important Information for tonight'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:** The offering plates will be passed during the service this evening.
- **The Peace:** We support people's choices for passing of the peace.
- **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!**



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Contact info@stmattskw.com today!

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 this evening and Christmas Day, after which they will be available in the office starting January 3.

There will be no Coffee Hour on Sunday, December 25 and Sunday, January 1. We will see you on January 8.

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.

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.

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

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 Day

January 1st

9:30 am

New Year's Eve

December 31st

4:30 pm



54 Benton Street, Kitchener, 519.742.0462

Contact Information

Office: 519-742-0462 stmattskw.com

Rev. Carey Meadows-Helmer Ext. 3
pastorcarey@stmattskw.com

Rev. Sebastian Meadows-Helmer Ext. 2
pastorsebastian@stmattskw.com

Deacon Scott Knarr Ext. 4
deaconscott@stmattskw.com

Leanne Vanderhout Ext. 6
lvanderhout@stmattskw.com



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St. Matthews Lutheran Church

**54 BENTON STREET
KITCHENER
N2G 3H2
519.742.0462**

**stmattskw.com
info@stmattskw.com**