

CHRISTMAS DAY

December 25, 2022



Christmas Day
Sunday, December 25, 2022
(indicates the assembly stands)*

Gathering

Prelude *"The Shepherds Part One"* O. Messiaen

Words of Welcome & Service Announcements

*Hymn 288 *"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"*

*Dialogue (see page 4)

*Greeting

*Prayer of the Day

Anthem *"The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy"* H. Hopson

Word

Who Are These Angels Who Come to Earth?

Lesson: Luke 2:8-14

Following a brief reflection and silence for prayer:

L: Glory to God in highest heaven,

A: who unto us the Son has given.

Carol: 284 (vs. 1, 2) *"Twas in the Moon of Wintertime"*

Who Are These Shepherds Who Run to See?

Lesson: Luke 2:15-20

Following a brief reflection and silence for prayer:

L: Glory to God in highest heaven,

A: who unto us the Son has given.

Carol: 284 (vs. 3, 4) *"Twas in the Moon of Wintertime"*

Who Is This Child, So Small, So Slight?

Lesson: Isaiah 9:2-7

Following a brief reflection and silence for prayer:

L: Glory to God in highest heaven,

A: who unto us the Son has given.

Carol: 272 (vs. 1,2)

“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”

Who Is This King, a Manger His Throne?

Lesson: Isaiah 52:7-10

Following a brief reflection and silence for prayer:

L: Glory to God in highest heaven,

A: who unto us the Son has given.

Carol: 272 (vs. 3,4)

“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”

*Responsive Prayer (see page 4)

*Hymn 294

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

*Prayers of Intercession

A: hear our prayer.

*Peace

Meal

*Offering Hymn 278

“Away in a Manger”

*Offering Prayer

*Great Thanksgiving

p. 172

*Holy, Holy, Holy

p. 173

*Thanksgiving at the Table

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

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Lamb of God

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Communion Hymn 269

*Table Blessing

*Prayer after Communion

Sending

General Announcements

*Blessing

*Hymn 296

“What Child Is This?”

*Dismissal

A: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

“The Shepherds Part Two”

O. Messiaen

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As on the first day of creation, on this Christmas Day the Word illumines the world, shining forth to bring all things into being. Today we celebrate the incarnate Word, God becoming flesh to live among us in the person of Jesus Christ then and now. Emboldened by the good news of Christ’s birth, along with the shepherds, Mary and Joseph, and all witnesses to the light of Christ, we declare to the world that we have indeed seen and been transformed by the arrival of “the salvation of our God.” O come, let us adore!

Leading Worship Today

Minister: Rev. Carey Meadows-Helmer

Assisting Minister: Scott Kuschnereit

Diaconal Minister of Music: Deacon Scott Knarr

Vocalists: Lana Moses and Dylan Siebert

Broadcast: Jason Smolak

Building Monitor: Dennis Diebolt (519-571-4525)

Dialogue

L: Who are these angels who come to earth,

A: bearing the news of the Christ child's birth?

L: Who are these shepherds who run to see,

A: and worship the babe on bended knee?

L: Who is this child, so small, so slight,

A: of whom the angels sang that night?

L: Who is this king, a manger his throne,

A: who humbles himself to make us his own?

L: Who is this God who sends a Son

A: into our midst, the promised one?

Responsive Prayer

L: Gracious God, you come from heaven above into the midst of our world.

A: Fill our hearts with the joy of the angels at your birth.

L: You come from heaven above to the lowliest of human conditions.

A: Watch over those in need, the sick, the hungry, the grieving.

L: You come from heaven above to walk the way of the cross.

A: Guide us to follow your path of forgiveness, mercy, and peace.

L: You come from heaven above to become flesh and live among us.

A: May we see your glory, full of grace and truth. Amen.

Worship Notes

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.

Music note: Olivier Messiaen (1908–1992) was a French composer, organist, and ornithologist who had a major impact on the music world as professor of the Paris Conservatory from 1941 to 1978. Bird songs fascinated him and he was well known for documenting distinct bird calls from around the world and using them as part of his compositions. "The Birth of the Lord: Nine Meditations for organ" was composed in 1936. "The Shepherds" is the second meditation which is being played today in two sections. The first section may take place very early on Christmas morning with the stars shining in the sky. The shepherds have just arrived to see the baby Jesus and are quietly waiting and watching. The second section begins with bird calls to greet the new morning. The shepherds then run off, perhaps bumping into one another and tripping, hurriedly praising and glorifying God on their way.

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.

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 be 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!**



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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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