

ADVENT

A TIME OF WAITING

St. Matthews Church

WHERE COMMUNITY GATHERS AND GROWS

December 3, 2023

Advent 1

Sunday, December 3, 2023

(* indicates the assembly stands)

Gathering

Prelude	<i>"Freu dich sehr"</i>	P. Manz
Words of Welcome & Service Announcements		
*Hymn 246	<i>"Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding!"</i>	
*Lighting of the Advent Wreath (see page 4)		
*Hymn 240 v. 1	<i>"Light One Candle"</i>	
*Greeting		
*Kyrie		p. 98
*Prayer of the Day		
Solo	<i>"Come, Thou Dear Redeemer"</i>	C. Franck

Word

First Reading		Isaiah 64:1-9
Psalm 80: 1-7, 17-19 (see page 5)	(sung responsively by full verse)	
Second Reading		1 Corinthians 1:3-9
*Gospel Acclamation		p. 102
*Gospel Reading		Mark 13:24-37
Gospel Reflection		
*Hymn of the Day (see page 6)	<i>"Come Now, O God"</i>	
Sermon		
*Nicene Creed		p. 104
*Prayers of Intercession		A: receive our prayer.

*Peace

Thanksgiving

*Offering Hymn 247

“Come Now, O Prince of Peace”

Thanksgiving for the Word (see page 7)

*Lord’s Prayer (*Our Father in heaven...*)

Sending

General Announcements

*Blessing

*Hymn 248

“People, Look East”

*Dismissal

A: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

“Pastorale on Wachtet auf”

W. Wold

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Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist’s plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.

The Advent Wreath

One of the best-known customs for the season is the Advent wreath. The wreath and winter candle-lighting amid growing darkness strengthen some of the Advent images found in the Bible. The unbroken circle of greens is an image of everlasting life, a victory wreath, the crown of Christ, or the wheel of time itself. Christians use the wreath as a sign that Christ reaches into our time to lead us to the light of everlasting life. The four candles mark the progress of the four weeks of Advent and the growth of light. Sometimes the wreath is embellished with natural dried flowers or fruit. Its evergreen branches lead the household and the congregation to the evergreen Christmas tree. In many homes, the family gathers for prayers around the wreath. *(Source: Sunday & Seasons)*

First Sunday of Advent

Praise to you, O God, our salvation who is near.

You hold us in our waiting and keep us awake to the world.

You show up in our lives at unexpected times.

Bless us as we light this candle to keep vigil for your arrival.

We trust that even though we do not know the day or the hour,
you hurry to gather all people to your peace.

Amen.

Leading Worship Today

Minister: Rev. Carey Meadows-Helmer

Diaconal Minister of Music: Deacon Scott Knarr

Lector: Ivan George

Advent Wreath: Sangeeth Mrunal Badugu and Stephy Grace Borugadda

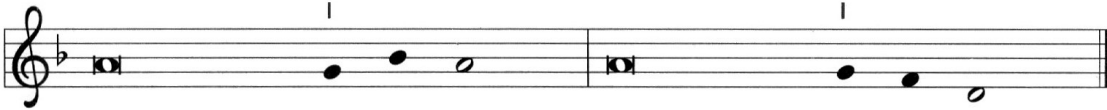
Choral Scholar: Hannah Swiderski

Broadcast: Jason Smolak

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

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.

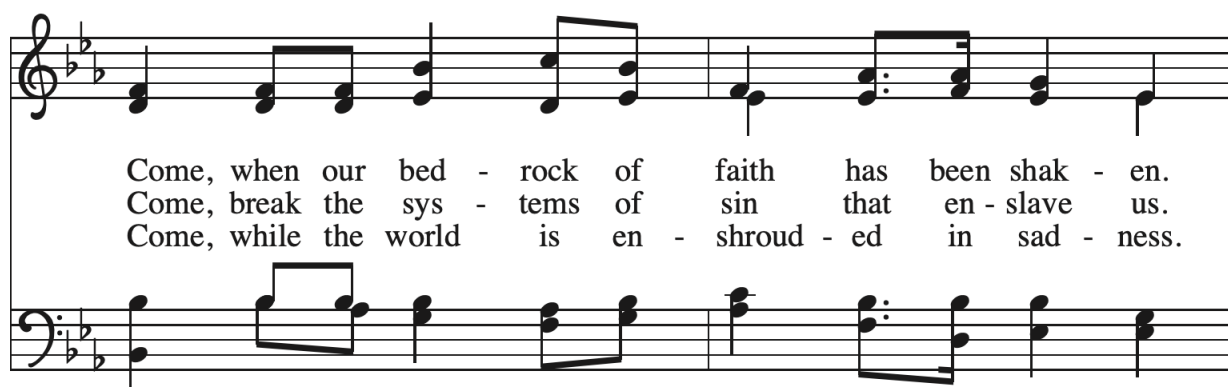
18And so will we never turn a- | way from you;
give us life, that we may call up- | on your name.

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

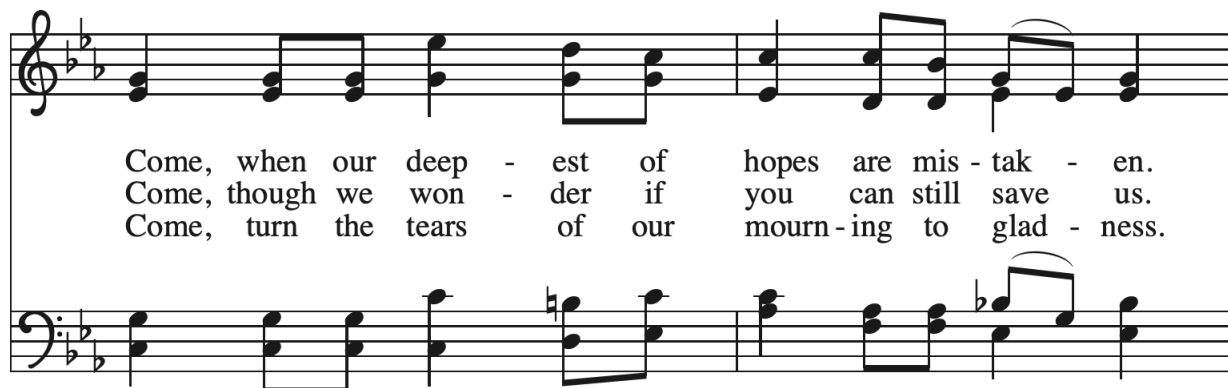
Come, Now, O God



1 Come now, O God, when our love is for - sak - en.
2 Come, when we squan - der the free - dom you gave us.
3 Come, put an end to our self - serv - ing mad - ness.



Come, when our bed - rock of faith has been shak - en.
Come, break the sys - tems of sin that en - slave us.
Come, while the world is en - shroud - ed in sad - ness.



Come, when our deep - est of hopes are mis - tak - en.
Come, though we won - der if you can still save us.
Come, turn the tears of our mourn - ing to glad - ness.



Come, Em - man - u - el. Come, Em - man - u - el.

Text: David Bjorlin, b. 1984
Music: LOST IN THE NIGHT, Finnish folk tune
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Thanksgiving for the Word

(Exodus 15; 1 Samuel 2; Psalm 113; Luke 1; John 1)

L: We praise you, O God, for your creating Word!

You set the foundations of the world

and gave breath to every living thing.

There is no Rock like you.

Blessed be God, forevermore;

A: our hearts sing of your mercy and might!

L: We praise you, O God, for your liberating Word!

In your steadfast love you led the people whom you redeemed,

you guided them by your strength to the land of promise.

You have lifted up the lowly.

Blessed be God, forevermore;

A: our hearts sing of your mercy and might!

L: We praise you, O God, for your life-giving Word!

Your Word became flesh and lived among us,

full of grace and truth.

You have looked with favour on the lowliness of your servants.

Blessed be God, forevermore;

A: our hearts sing of your mercy and might!

L: Blessed be God, from this time on and forevermore,

from the rising of the sun to its setting.

With Miriam, Hannah, and Mary, we give you thanks and praise
for your creating, liberating, and life-giving Word!

Send us forth in the power of your Spirit
to sing of your greatness and serve all people,
following Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.

Amen.

Worship Notes

In our prayers Jeanette, Meaghan, Henry, Marie, Grace, Maureen and John.

General Announcements

The 2024 Offering Envelope Boxes are available for pickup outside the church office.

West Tower Door for Emergency Only. Due to the ongoing construction planning, 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.



Advent Carol Service

featuring

A Ceremony of Carols
by Benjamin Britten

Sunday, December 3, 2023 at 7 pm

Our annual **Advent Carol Service** takes place **tonight** at 7 pm. The Sanctuary Choir will be joined by guest artist Lori Gemmell, harpist with the former Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony, to present selections from Benjamin Britten's A Ceremony of Carols.

Important Information for today's worship

- **Offering:** Please place your offering in one of the offering plates in the Narthex (entranceway) upon entering. The offering plates will be presented at 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.
- **Please join us for Fellowship Time** after worship in room 102! Use the door nearest to the piano, and follow the signs.

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.

Contact Information

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The Musicians of the Kitchener-Waterloo
Players' Association Present

Charles Dickens'
**a Christmas
Carol** 

Sunday, December 17, 4:00pm

**St. Matthews Lutheran Church
54 Benton Street, Kitchener ON**

*Readers - CBC Radio's Tom Allen with special guests Andrew Craig
Larry Larson, Cynthia Johnston Turner
& Carmen Grant*

*Musicians - Matthew Jones conductor
KW Youth Orchestra with soloists
Sarah Rodriguez-Valtierra & Samuel Molina
KW Brass
KWSPA Strings
Lori Gemmell harp Lina Cao guzheng
Andrew Craig piano & voice*

\$30 at the door. For online ticket sales scan the QR code
or got to <https://tinyurl.com/2d4269ya>



Proceeds to support the **KW Symphony Players' Association**

CHRISTMAS AT ST. MATTHEWS

Worship Services

Christmas Eve (German)

December 24th

5:00 pm

Christmas Eve (English)

December 24th

7:30 pm

Christmas Day

December 25th

9:30 am





St. Matthews Lutheran Church

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