

Second Sunday in Advent

INTERGENERATIONAL  
CHRISTMAS  
PROGRAMME

December 10, 2023



## Advent 2

Sunday, December 10, 2023

(\* indicates the assembly stands)

### Gathering

Prelude *"Rejoice, Rejoice Believers"* W. Wold

Words of Welcome & Service Announcements

\*Hymn 264 *"Prepare the Royal Highway"*

\*Lighting of the Advent Wreath (see page 4)

\*Hymn 240 v. 1-2 *"Light One Candle"*

\*Greeting

\*Prayer of the Day

### Word

Children's Christmas Programme

Hymns during the Programme:

281 Children sing v.1, All v.2-3 *"Silent Night"*

279 *"O Little Town of Bethlehem"*

277 Children sing v.1, All v.2-3 *"Away in a Manger"*

290 Children sing Refrain, All v.1-3 *"Go Tell it on the Mountain"*

Trio *"In the Bleak Midwinter"* A. Oosthuizen

\*Prayers of Intercession **A: you receive our prayer!**

\*Peace

### Meal

\*Offering Hymn (see page 5) *"Come Now, O God"*

\*Offering Prayer

\*Great Thanksgiving p. 107

*Holy, Holy, Holy	p. 108
*Thanksgiving at the Table III	p. 110
*Lord's Prayer ( <i>Our Father in heaven...</i> )	p. 112
Lamb of God	p. 112
Communion Hymns 256, 253	
Table Blessing	
Prayer after Communion	
<b>Sending and Dedication of the New Hall</b>	
General Announcements	
*Recessional Hymn 239	<i>"Hark, the Glad Sound"</i>
Introductory Words and Scripture	
Hymn of Thanksgiving (see page 6)	<i>"Now thank we all our God"</i>
Response (see page 6)	
Prayers	
Blessing	
Dismissal	<b>A: Thanks be to God.</b>

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## 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*)

### Second Sunday of Advent

Praise to you, O God, who gives us courage to start again.

You fasten righteousness around your waist

and baptize with the Holy Spirit's fire.

Bless us as we mirror your mighty fire in these simple flames,

and teach us to mirror your justice in the paths we prepare.

We ask that peace abound,

until none hurt or destroy over all the earth.

# 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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## **Now thank we all our God**

Now thank we all our God  
with hearts and hands and voices,  
who wondrous things has done,  
in whom this world rejoices;  
who, from our mothers' arms,  
has blest us on our way  
with countless gifts of love,  
and still is ours today.

## **Response**

P: The Lord be with you.

**A: And also with you.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**A: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

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## **Leading Worship Today**

**Minister:** Rev. Sebastian Meadows-Helmer

**Assisting Minister:** Scott Kuschnerreit

**Diaconal Minister of Music:** Deacon Scott Knarr

**Communion Server:** Lynda Karn

**Tenor Saxophone:** John Heil

**Violins:** Lana Moses, Simon Thompson, Rev. Sebastian Meadows-Helmer

**Cello:** James

**Guitars:** Dennis, Jeremy, Delaney

**Piano:** Noah, Pr. Carey

**Programme Participants:** Noah, Meghan, Iram, Jeremy, Clara, John, Jaime, Sydney, Davis, Gabrielle, James, Elise, Delaney, Sue

**Solo:** Gabrielle

**Broadcast:** Jason Smolak

**Building Monitor:** Don Robins (519-502-2099)

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

Contact [info@stmattskw.com](mailto:info@stmattskw.com) today!

## Worship Notes

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

### General Announcements

**Advent 4 Service:** Our regular Sunday morning 9.30 a.m. service is cancelled on December 24th. In its place at 9.30 a.m., there will be a brief 10 minute worship with readings, hymns and Lighting of the Advent Wreath. This service will not be live-streamed.

**Thank you** to everyone who helped to make last Sunday's Advent Carol Service a welcoming, hospitable event for all the visitors to St. Matthews. Thanks to singers, ushers, building monitor, harpist, violinist, torchbearers and crucifer. Special thanks to the broadcast people and to those who prepared the magnificent reception. Nobody left disappointed! Kudos to all!

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

### 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 the Lower Level Hall. Use any of the staircases (Narthex, west stair tower, parking lot tower) to go down.

- **Lower Level Sanctuary Washrooms** can be accessed via any of the staircases. There is one wheelchair accessible washroom, and the rest are all-gender washrooms. A further all-gender washroom is also available via the west stair tower door (front left of the Sanctuary) on the same level. Turn right at the hallway.

### Contact Information

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**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.

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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