

CHRISTMAS EVE



December 24, 2023

Christmas Eve Candlelight
Sunday, December 24, 2023
(indicates the assembly stands)*

Prelude (Carol Sing)

Hymn 279

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Hymn 272 v. 3 choir

"Lo, How a Rose"

Hymn 270

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

Gathering

Words of Welcome & Service Announcements

*Processional Hymn 283

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

*Christmas Dialogue (see page 3)

*Opening Prayer

Children's Time

Anthem

"Rakshakundu Udayinchinaadata"

M. Raghavaiah

Word

Reading

Isaiah 61:1-3, 11

Hymn 296

"What Child Is This"

*Gospel

Luke 2:1-7

Anthem

"O Magnum Mysterium"

I. Antognini

*Hymn 277

"Away in a Manger"

*Gospel

Luke 2:8-14

Hymn 289

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

Gospel

Luke 2:15-20

Homily

(The offering will be collected tonight during the Offering Music.)

Offering Music	<i>"I am so glad each Christmas Eve"</i>	W. Held
*Offering Hymn 290		<i>"Go Tell It on the Mountain"</i>
*Offering Prayer		
Sending		
<i>(Handheld candles are lit during the following anthem.)</i>		
Celebration Bells	<i>"Joy to the World"</i>	A.L. Page
*Hymn of Light (see page 3)		<i>"Silent Night"</i>
*Responsive Prayer (see page 4)		
*Lord's Prayer (see page 5)		
*Blessing (see page 5)		
<i>(Candles are extinguished.)</i>		
*Recessional Hymn 267		<i>"Joy to the World"</i>
Postlude	<i>"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"</i>	M. Corl

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In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child who brings peace and justice to the world. In the Gospel, 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.

Dialogue

L: Jesus, the bright Morning Star, shines light in the world.

A: By day and night the light shines for all to see.

L: Jesus was born in the midst of injustice and poverty

A: that the world may see the justice and richness of God.

L: God so loved the world that God sent Jesus,

A: so that all who believe may not perish but have eternal life.

L: Jesus is the light of the world.

A: Jesus is the light of our lives.

L: Sing to God a new song!

A: A song of hope, joy, and peace around the world.

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,

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.

Responsive Prayer

L: It is you, loving God, who lights our path with truth.

A: Your Word, Jesus, is truth.

L: In the Christ Child's light, draw all to the manger

A: to gather in wonder with the shepherds.

L: In the light of Jesus, draw all to the manger

A: to kneel in reverence with the wise ones.

L: In the light of Jesus, draw all to the manger

A: to sing for joy with the angels.

L: In the brightness of the Jesus' life

A: cast away the darkness of injustice, poverty, and hunger in the world.

L: It is you, loving God, who meets us on our way.

A: In the light of Jesus, show the world the way of life.

Amen.

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.

Blessing

L: Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!

A: Praise God, all creatures here below!

L: You are the shepherds telling the story.

A: We tell it in the streets and across the land.

L: You are the wise ones worshiping with thanksgiving.

A: We worship with gifts of song and service, talents and treasures.

L: You are the angels announcing peace.

A: We live with joy and go now in peace.

L: Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever. Amen.

Leading Worship Tonight

Minister: Rev. Carey Meadows-Helmer

Diaconal Minister of Music: Deacon Scott Knarr

Lector: Rev. Dr. Allen Jorgenson

Telugu Vocal Leaders: Andrews Badugu and Sangeeth Mrunal Badugu

Choral Scholars: Nicole Hamilton, Hannah Swiderski, Caroline Schmidt, Dylan Siebert, John Waterfield

Choristers: Julia Crnko, John McLellan, Lana Moses, Bev Roeder, Jim Sattler

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

Flute: Julia Crnko

Percussion: Peter Winkler

Broadcast: Gary Pootz

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

Important Information for this evening's worship

- **Children's Activities:** There are children's bulletins in the Narthex. Also, you can find Christmas craft stations down in the lower level.
- **Nursery and Baby Change Stations:** These can be found in the lower level and at Sanctuary level beside the office. The nursery is located in Scout Hall. Please ask an usher for directions.
- **The Peace:** We support people's choices for passing of the peace.
- **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.

Worship Notes

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

Rakshakundu Udayinchinaadata (Telugu) by Mocharla Raghavaiah

Refrain: The Heavenly Saviour is born for us.

1. Come shepherds, let's go see him right away to attain the blessings of faith.
2. A great Saviour is born in the clan of David, Jehovah our God has come to care for us.
3. Laid in a manger wrapped in swaddling clothes.

O Magnum Mysterium by Ivo Antognini

O great mystery and wonderful sacrament, that animals should see the newborn Lord, lying in a manger.

Blessed is the virgin whose womb was worthy to bear the Lord, Jesus Christ. Alleluia.

General Announcements

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

There will be no Coffee Hour on Sunday, December 31. We will see you on January 7!



JOIN OUR MAILING LIST

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

Contact info@stmattskw.com today!

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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



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



St. Matthews Lutheran Church

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