

CHRISTMAS

A CHILD BORN AMONG US

St. Matthews Church

WHERE COMMUNITY GATHERS AND GROWS

December 31, 2023

Christmas 1

Sunday, December 31, 2023

(* indicates the assembly stands)

Gathering

Prelude	<i>"Noel: Ah ma voisine es tu fâchée"</i>	C. Balbastre
Words of Welcome & Service Announcements		
*Confession and Forgiveness		p. 116
*Hymn 299	<i>"Cold December Flies Away"</i>	
*Greeting		
*Glory to God		p. 99
*Prayer of the Day		
Music for Reflection	<i>"Sonata Op. 1 #3: Andante, Allegro"</i>	G.F. Handel

Word

First Reading		Isaiah 61:10–62:3
Psalm Hymn 148 (see page 4)		
Second Reading		Galatians 4:4-7
*Gospel Acclamation	<i>"Alleluia!"</i>	p. 102
*Gospel Reading		Luke 2:22-40
Sermon		
*Hymn of the Day 417	<i>"In His Temple Now Behold Him"</i>	
*Nicene Creed		p. 104
*Prayers of Intercession		A: Your mercy is great.
*Peace		

Meal

*Offering Hymn 294	<i>"In the Bleak Midwinter"</i>	
*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
Special Music	<i>"New Year Carol"</i>	B. Britten
*Post-Communion Canticle Hymn 313	<i>"O Lord, Now Let Your Servant"</i>	
*Table Blessing		
*Prayer after Communion		

Sending

*General Announcements		
*Prayer for the New Year		
*Blessing		
*Hymn 778 WOV	<i>"O Christ the Same"</i>	
*Dismissal	A: Thanks be to God.	
Postlude	<i>"In dir ist Freude"</i>	J.S. Bach

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Psalm 148

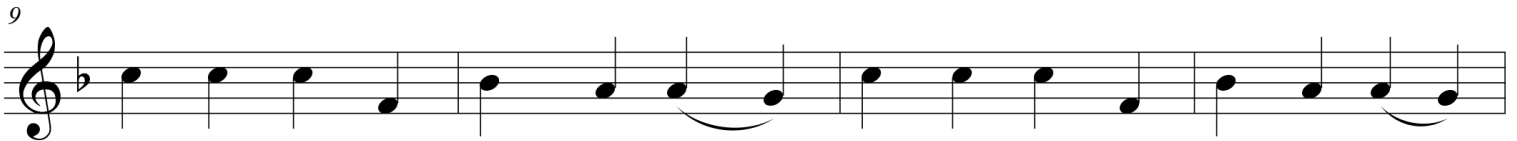
F. Mendelssohn



Praise the Lord in high-est heav'n, Praise the Lord, an - ge - lic host!
Let them praise the Lord of all, — moun-tains, trees, and wa-ters deep!



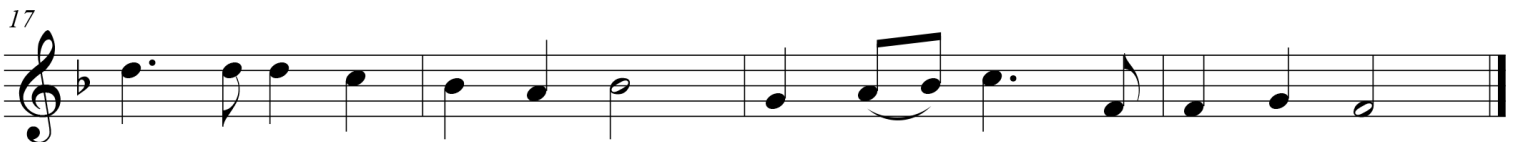
Praise the Lord, you sun and moon Sing God's praise, you shin - ing stars!
Creep - ing things, and fly - ing birds, Let them praise God's Ho - ly Name!



Praise the Lord you fire and hail, — Praise the Lord, you snow and frost,
God has raised up strength for ser - vice, young and old, all now draw near;



Praise the Lord, tem - pes - tuous wind! — Sing God's praise and do God's will!
Giv - ing us a law for - ev - er that will — nev - er pass a - way!



Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is born! Sing God's praise on earth, in heav'n!

Leading Worship Today

Minister and violinist: Rev. Sebastian Meadows-Helmer

Assisting Minister: Scott Kuschnerreit

Diaconal Minister of Music: Deacon Scott Knarr

Vocalist: Lana Moses

Communion Server: Linda McLellan

Broadcast: Andrew Weber

Building Monitor: Steve Dickin (519-580-8407)

The psalmist calls on the natural world, celestial bodies, fire and earth, creatures, and all humanity, to praise God. The voices of Simeon and 84-year-old Anna join the chorus today, recognizing what God is doing in Jesus. Simeon's song is often sung after communion, for we have seen God's salvation in the assembled community and have held Jesus in our hands in the bread. Then, like the prophet Anna, we tell of Jesus to all who look for the healing of the world.

Worship Notes

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

Please note there is no New Year's eve afternoon service on Dec. 31.

General Announcements

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

There will be no **Coffee Hour** this morning, we will see you on January 7!

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.
- **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.
- **Exiting:** At the end of the service, please remain in place until the end of the postlude.

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



St. Matthews Lutheran Church

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