

ADVENT

A TIME OF WAITING

St. Matthews Church

WHERE COMMUNITY GATHERS AND GROWS

December 8, 2024

Advent 2

Sunday, December 8, 2024

(* indicates the assembly stands)

Gathering

Prelude	<i>"Pastorale on Three Advent Themes"</i>	R. Germain
Words of Welcome & Service Announcements		
*Confession and Forgiveness (see page 4)		
*Hymn 264	<i>"Prepare the Royal Highway"</i>	
*Lighting of the Advent Wreath		
*Hymn 247 v. 1-2	<i>"Come Now, O Prince of Peace"</i>	
*Greeting		
*Kyrie		p. 120
*Prayer of the Day		
Anthem	<i>"And the Glory of the Lord"</i>	G.F. Handel

Word

First Reading		Malachi: 3:1-4
Canticle (see page 5)		Luke 1:68-79
Second Reading		Philippians 1:3-11
*Gospel Acclamation	<i>"Alleluia"</i>	p. 124
*Gospel Reading		Luke 3:1-6
Sermon		
*Hymn of the Day 249		<i>"On Jordan's Bank"</i>
*Nicene Creed		p. 126
*Prayers of Intercession		A: receive our prayer
*Peace		

Meal

*Offering Hymn (see page 6)	<i>"We Are Waiting"</i>	
*Offering Prayer		
*Great Thanksgiving		p. 129
*Holy, Holy, Holy		p. 130
*Thanksgiving at the Table III		p. 132
*Lord's Prayer (<i>Our Father, who art in heaven...</i>)		p. 134
Lamb of God		p. 135
Communion Hymn 255	<i>"There's a Voice in the Wilderness"</i>	
Table Blessing		
Prayer after Communion		p. 135

Sending

General Announcements		
*Blessing		
*Hymn 239	<i>"Hark, the Glad Sound"</i>	
*Dismissal	A: Thanks be to God.	
Postlude	<i>"The New Commonwealth"</i>	R. Vaughan Williams

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Forerunners and messengers advance the advent of our God. While John the baptizer's voice in the wilderness may be the principal focus of the day, Malachi's prophecy could as easily herald the coming Christ as forerunner of the Lord of hosts. Finally all the baptized are called to participate in the sharing of the gospel. In so doing we prepare the way for the coming of Jesus and assist all people in capturing a vision of the "salvation of God."

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the ...

God of mercy,

A: we confess that we have sinned.

We trust earthly powers and human authority alone.

We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.

P: God of might,

A: we confess that we have sinned.

We have turned away from our neighbors.

We have trusted false promises.

P: God in our midst,

A: we confess that we have sinned.

We plead: come to us.

Bring your mercy to birth in us.

P: A righteous branch springs forth:

it is Christ the Lord, our Savior,

in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy.

By the power of the Holy Spirit,

receive the grace and forgiveness of God

through † Christ Jesus,

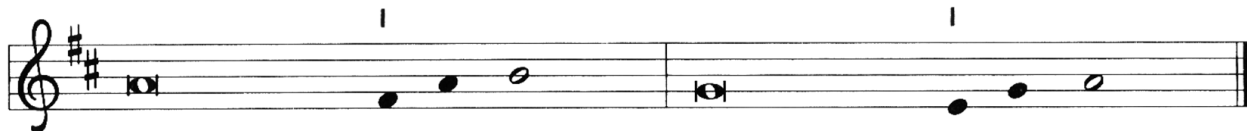
whose day draws near.

Amen.

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 AED and a first aid kit are in the hallway by the office.

Luke 1:68-79

Tone 1



⁶⁸ Blessed are you, Lord, the ¹ God of Israel,
you have come to your people and ¹ set them free.

⁶⁹ **You have raised up for us a ¹ mighty Savior,
born of the house of your ¹ servant David.**

⁷⁰ Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us ¹ from our enemies,
⁷¹ from the hands of ¹ all who hate us,

⁷² **to show mercy ¹ to our forebears,
and to remember your ¹ holy covenant.**

⁷³ This was the oath you swore to our ¹ father Abraham:
⁷⁴ to set us free from the hands of our ¹ enemies,

**free to worship you ¹ without fear,
⁷⁵ holy and righteous before you, all the days ¹ of our life.**

⁷⁶ And you, child, shall be called the prophet of ¹ the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to pre- ¹ pare the way,

⁷⁷ **to give God's people knowledge ¹ of salvation
by the forgiveness ¹ of their sins.**

⁷⁸ In the tender compassion ¹ of our God
the dawn from on high shall ¹ break upon us,

⁷⁹ **to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shad- ¹ ow of death,
and to guide our feet into the ¹ way of peace.**

We Are Waiting for Jesus



1 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
2 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



Sun of jus - tice, shine up - on us; we are trust - ing in your prom - ise.
Lov - ing Shep - herd, walk be - side us; stir our hearts, and gent - ly guide us.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.

Text: John Helgen, b. 1957

Music: JESUS BRINGS PEACE, John Helgen

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Leading Worship Today

Minister: Rev. Sebastian Meadows-Helmer

Assisting Minister: Jim Treusch

Diaconal Minister of Music: Deacon Scott Knarr

Choral Scholars: Nicole Hamilton, Hannah Swiderski, Sarah Hu-A-Kam, Dylan Siebert

Communion Server: Rev. Dr. Allen Jorgenson

Broadcast: Jason Smolak

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

Worship Notes

All are welcome at the meal where Jesus is present loving and forgiving us. For the wine, there is a common cup station and a pouring chalice station (please take an empty small glass). There is also a small tray of pre-poured grape juice glasses. Gluten-free wafers are also available; please indicate this request to the Pastor. 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.

In our prayers Anneke, Glennis Koenig, Judy, Clare, Yvonne, Jeanette, Meaghan, Henry, Grace, Maureen and John.

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.

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 Community Hall. Use any of the staircases (Narthex, west stair tower, parking lot tower) to go down.
- **Downstairs 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.

General Announcements

The Annual Budget Meeting will be held today following worship. All voting members please consider attending!

Boxed Envelopes are ready for pick up outside the church office.

Property Redevelopment Proxy Vote: Voting members may submit their proxy vote until December 18th at noon. For more information, please consult the information letter that went out via email, or is located in the Narthex or via the Office.

Thank You! Your St. Matthews Women Of Faith would like to thank all you bakers out in the congregation who showered us with your donated treats for last Sunday's Advent Carol Service Reception. We couldn't believe how many goodies we received! Thanks for helping to make the reception a delectable success. Submitted by Marjorie Kuschnerit

Intergenerational Christmas Play. Calling all shepherds, sheep and angels! Join us for a delightful Children's Christmas Play on December 15! Get ready to be captivated as the children (and young at heart) bring the Christmas story to life. This is a perfect opportunity to come together and celebrate Christmas. So, mark your calendars and make sure to bring your loved ones to be a part of this transformational story of Jesus born among us. We can't wait to see you there! Speak to Pastors Carey or Sebastian to participate.



For unto us
a child is born!



Intergenerational

Christmas Play

December 15th

St. Matthews

9:30 am Worship

10:30 am Refreshments

& Christmas Cookies

Join us for our annual
Intergenerational
Christmas Play and
fellowship time.



JOIN OUR MAILING LIST

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

Contact info@stmattskw.com today!

Contact Information

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stmattskw.com

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Christmas Worship



Christmas Eve (German)

December 24th

5:00 pm

Christmas Eve (English)

December 24th

7:30 pm

New Year's Eve

December 31st

4:30 pm

Christmas Day

December 25th

9:30 am



Merry Christmas

St. Matthews Lutheran

54 Benton Street, Kitchener



St. Matthews Lutheran Church

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