

Advent 4
Joseph Said Yes!

THE POWER OF

YES

December 21, 2025

Advent 4
“Joseph said Yes!”
Sunday, December 21, 2025
(indicates the assembly stands)*

Gathering

Prelude	<i>“Lo, How a Rose”</i>	J. Brahms
Words of Welcome & Service Announcements		
*Confession and Forgiveness (see page 4)		
*Hymn 260		<i>“The King Shall Come”</i>
*Lighting of the Advent Wreath		
*Hymn 240 v. 1-4		<i>“Light One Candle”</i>
*Greeting		
*Kyrie		p. 184
*Prayer of the Day		
Anthem	<i>“Joseph was an old man”</i>	Cherry Tree Carol

Word

First Reading		Isaiah 7:10-16
Psalms 80; 1-7, 17-19 (see page 5)		<i>(sung responsively)</i>
Second Reading		Romans 1:1-7
*Gospel Acclamation	<i>“Alleluia”</i>	p. 188
*Gospel Reading		Matthew 1:18-25
Sermon		
*Hymn of the Day (see page 6)		<i>“Freedom Is Coming”</i>
*Nicene Creed		p. 104
*Prayers of Intercession		A: hear our prayer.

*Peace

Thanksgiving

*Hymn (see page 7)

“Come Now, O God”

*Thanksgiving for the Word

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

p. 221

Sending

General Announcements

*Blessing

*Hymn 257 v.5-8

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

*Dismissal

A: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

“Noel: A la venue de Noel” J.J. Beauvarlet-Charpentier

Cover image © 2025 Church Anew. Used with permission. Liturgy from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2024 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB142079.

Joseph has often been cast as a kind of third wheel in the nativity story, a man standing at the periphery of a scene firmly centered on Mary and her child. Yet it’s good to see him as more than merely Mary’s husband. Joseph’s “yes” is therefore not incidental. His decision shielded Mary from shame and perhaps even from the danger that would likely befall a dishonoured woman and her family. Far from peripheral, Joseph’s “yes” is absolutely essential to God’s unfolding story.

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.

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be ...
Long-expected God,

A: we confess that we look to ourselves
for the peace and security only you can provide.
We reach for swords and spears,
reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war.
We become impatient while waiting
and weary of keeping awake.
Free us from self-reliance,
and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors.
Increase our trust in God's timing,
and awaken us to your advent among us,
that we may abound in the hope you have promised.
Amen.

Leading Worship Today

Minister: Rev. Sebastian Meadows-Helmer

Diaconal Minister of Music: Deacon Scott Knarr

Choral Scholars: Nicole Hamilton, Hannah Swiderski, Lindsay Scott, Dylan Siebert, Drew Aarssen

Lector: Rev. Dr. Allen Jorgenson

Broadcast: Jason Smolak

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

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.

"Freedom Is Coming"

1 *(Oh, freedom,)* Freedom is coming.
Freedom is coming.
Freedom is coming. Oh, yes, I know.
Freedom is coming.
Freedom is coming.
Freedom is coming. Oh, yes, I know.

Oh, oh, yes, I know.
Oh, oh, yes, I know.
Oh, oh, yes, I know. Oh, yes, I know.
Oh, oh, yes, I know.
Oh, oh, yes, I know.
Oh, oh, yes, I know. Oh, yes, I know.

2 *(Oh, Jesus.)*
Jesus is coming.
Oh, yes, I know.

Text: South African; transc. Freedom Is Coming, 1984

Text © 1984 Peace of Music Publishing AB, admin. Walton Music Corp., a div. of GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved.

Text and music © 1984 Peace of Music Publishing AB, admin. Walton Music Corp., a division of GIA Publications, Inc.

Reprinted under ONE LICENSE #A-733192, valid for: 04/16/2025– 04/15/2026

Come, Now, O God



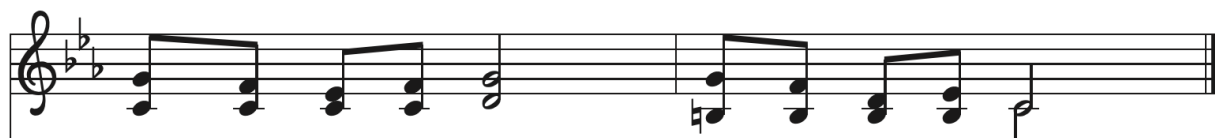
1 Come now, O God, when our love is for - sak - en.
2 Come, when we squan - der the free - dom you gave us.
3 Come, put an end to our self - serv - ing mad - ness.



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.

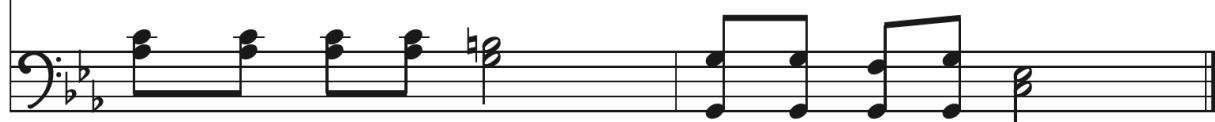


Come, when our deep - est of hopes are mis - tak - en.
Come, though we won - der if you can still save us.
Come, turn the tears of our mourn - ing to glad - ness.



Come, Em - man - u - el.

Come, Em - man - u - el.



Text: David Bjorlin, b. 1984

Music: LOST IN THE NIGHT, Finnish folk tune

Text © 2018 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved.

Text © 2018 GIA Publications, Inc. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE #A-733192, valid for: 04/16/2025– 04/15/2026

Worship Notes

In our prayers, Marjorie, Kevin, Betty, Anneke, Judy, Yvonne, Jeanette, Meaghan, Henry, Maureen, and John.

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.
- **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.

Contact Information

Office: 519-742-0462 stmattskw.com

Rev. Carey Meadows-Helmer	Ext. 3	pastorcarey@stmattskw.com
Rev. Sebastian Meadows-Helmer	Ext. 2	pastorsebastian@stmattskw.com
Deacon Scott Knarr	Ext. 4	deaconscoott@stmattskw.com
Leanne Vanderhout	Ext. 6	lvanderhout@stmattskw.com



[Facebook](#)



[Instagram](#)



[YouTube](#)



[Donate](#)



CHRISTMAS

Cabaret & Carol Sing

DECEMBER 21, 2025 @ 3 PM

THE ST. MATTHEWS CENTRE
54 BENTON ST, KITCHENER

Admission by Donation for
Out of the Cold Community Suppers

featuring
St. Matthews Sanctuary Choir
Khang Le, classical guitar
Eternal Voices
Celebration Bells
and Community Music School of
Waterloo Region students





Christmas Worship at St. Matthews

Christmas Eve (German)

December 24th at 5:00 pm

Christmas Eve (English)

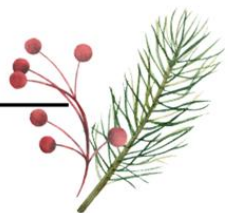
December 24th at 7:30 pm

Christmas Day

December 25th at 9:30 am

New Year's Eve

December 31st at 4:30 pm



General Announcements

Join us for a Christmas Ice Skating Party on Friday, January 2nd from 2- 3 pm at Activa Sportsplex located at 135 Lennox Lewis Way. Come to skate or socialize.

The St. Matthews Centre, our community hub, has a website which links all upcoming events, especially concerts of the KW Symphony and the Grand Philharmonic Choir.

Scroll down to “Upcoming Events” at
<https://www.stmatthewscentre.ca>

The St. Matthews Centre also has a Facebook page, which you can “follow” to get updates.



Upcoming Events at St. Matthews

Wednesday, December 24: German Language Christmas Eve Service (5 pm)

Wednesday, December 24: English Language Christmas Eve Service (7:30 pm)

Thursday, December 25: Christmas Day Service (9:30 am)

Wednesday, December 31: New Year's Eve Service (4:30 pm)

Friday, January 2: Ice Skating Party, January 2, 2-3 pm, Activa Sportplex

Wednesday, January 7: Noontime Oasis Resumes

Sunday, January 18: Special Congregational Meeting



St. Matthews Lutheran Church

**54 BENTON STREET
KITCHENER**

N2G 3H2

519.742.0462

stmattskw.com

info@stmattskw.com