

Christmas 1

THE POWER OF

YES

December 28, 2025

Christmas 1
“Joseph’s second Yes!”
Sunday, December 28, 2025
(indicates the assembly stands)*

Gathering

Prelude	<i>“Cradle Song”</i>	H. Sumsion
Words of Welcome & Service Announcements		
*Hymn 269		<i>“Once in Royal David’s City”</i>
*Greeting		
*Glory to God		p. 213
*Prayer of the Day		
Organ Solo	<i>“Partita on The Coventry Carol”</i>	B. Cabena

Word

First Reading		Isaiah 63:7-9
Psalms 148 (see page 4)		<i>(sung responsively)</i>
Second Reading		Hebrews 2:10-18
*Gospel Acclamation	<i>“Alleluia”</i>	p. 188
Gospel Reading		Matthew 2:13-23
Sermon		
*Hymn of the Day (see page 6)		<i>“Away and in danger”</i>
*Nicene Creed		p. 104
*Prayers of Intercession		A: Your mercy is great.
*Peace		

Meal

*Offering Hymn 284	<i>“’Twas in the Moon of Wintertime”</i>
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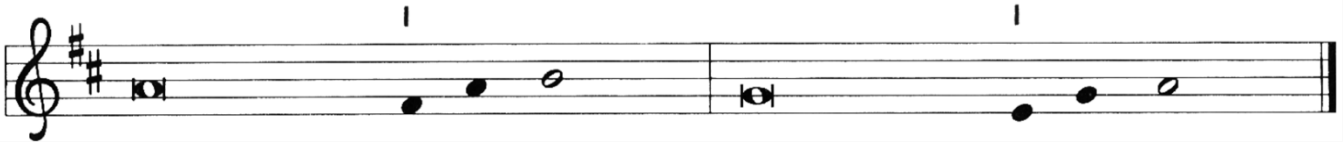
*Offering Prayer	
*Great Thanksgiving	p. 190
*Holy, Holy, Holy	p. 190
*Thanksgiving at the Table	
*Lord's Prayer (<i>Our Father in heaven...</i>)	p. 134
Lamb of God	p. 191
Communion Hymn 296	<i>"What Child is This?"</i>
Table Blessing	
Prayer after Communion	
Sending	
General Announcements	
*Blessing	
*Hymn 299	<i>"Cold December Flies Away"</i>
*Dismissal	A: Thanks be to God.
Postlude	<i>"Susani"</i> R. Powell

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Though Joseph's words are never recorded in Scripture, his life is marked by a steadfast, repeated "yes" to God. In Joseph's story we glimpse the precarity of the Holy Family's situation, journeying from one point to another trying to find safety and refuge. Underlying this is a repeated "yes" from Joseph to God's larger vision, and it calls to mind the many parents who today set out with their children hoping to find a way forward for their families in a dangerous world.

Psalm 148

Tone 1



¹Hallelujah! Praise the LORD | from the heavens;
praise God | in the heights.

²Praise the LORD, | all you angels;
sing praise, all you | hosts of heaven.

³Praise the LORD, | sun and moon;
sing praise, all you | shining stars.

⁴Praise the LORD, heav- | en of heavens,
and you waters a- | bove the heavens.

⁵Let them praise the name | of the LORD,
who commanded, and they | were created,

⁶who made them stand fast forev- | er and ever,
giving them a law that shall not | pass away.

⁷Praise the LORD | from the earth,
you sea monsters | and all deeps;

⁸fire and hail, | snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, do- | ing God's will;

⁹mountains | and all hills,
fruit trees | and all cedars;

¹⁰wild beasts | and all cattle,
creeping things and | flying birds;

¹¹sovereigns of the earth | and all peoples,
princes and all rulers | of the world;

¹²young | men and maidens,
old and | young together.

¹³Let them praise the name | of the LORD,
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over | earth and heaven.

¹⁴The LORD has raised up strength for the people
and praise for all | faithful servants,
the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. | Hallelujah!

Leading Worship Today

Minister: Rev. Sebastian Meadows-Helmer

Diaconal Minister of Music: Deacon Scott Knarr

Assisting Minister: Linda McLellan

Broadcast: Jason Smolak

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

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.

Upcoming Events at St. Matthews

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

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

Wednesday, January 7: Noontime Oasis Resumes

Sunday, January 18: Special Congregational Meeting

“Away and in danger”

1. Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus lay down his sweet head.
The stars in the night sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.
2. Away and in danger, no hope of a bed,
The refugee children no tears left to shed,
Look up at the night sky for someone to know
That refugee children have no place to go.
3. God meets us in strangers and helps us to see
That helping my neighbour is God helping me.
The little Lord Jesus arrives in strange ways,
That startle our privilege and quiet self-praise.
4. Be near us, Lord Jesus, we ask you to stay
Close by us forever to shape loving ways.
To live with each other as one human race,
Show us how our weakness is God's place of grace.

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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.



Worship Notes

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

General Announcements

There is no Coffee Hour today. See you next week!

Please have your 2025 donations to the office before 11:00 am on December 31, 2025. If you need to be reimbursed for expenses, please submit receipts by December 31, 2025.

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

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.
- **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

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