



ALTERED

by the spirit

February 18, 2024

Lent 1 “Altered on the Edge of Belonging”

Sunday, February 18, 2024

(* indicates the assembly stands)

Gathering

Prelude	<i>“Interlude”</i>	D. Lord
Words of Welcome & Service Announcements		
*Confession and Forgiveness (see page 4)		
*Hymn 725		<i>“When the Poor Ones”</i>
*Greeting		
*Kyrie (see page 5)		
*Prayer of the Day		
Anthem	<i>“Into the Woods My Master Went”</i>	L. Sateren

Word

Thematic Litany (see page 6)		
First Reading		Genesis 9:8-17
Psalm 25: 1-10 (see page 7)		<i>(sung responsively)</i>
Second Reading		1 Peter 3:18-22
*Gospel Acclamation	<i>“Let your steadfast love”</i>	p. 103
*Gospel Reading		Mark 1:9-15
Sermon		
*Hymn of the Day 343		<i>“My Song is Love Unknown”</i>
*Apostles’ Creed		p. 217
*Prayers of Intercession		A: Your mercy is great.
*Peace		

Thanksgiving

*Hymn of Thanksgiving 510	<i>“Word of God, Come Down on High”</i>	
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*Thanksgiving for the Word

*Lord's Prayer (*Our Father, who art in heaven...*)

p. 221

Sending

General Announcements

*Blessing

*Hymn 325

"I Want Jesus to Walk with Me"

*Dismissal

A: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

"Prelude & Fugue in C Minor BWV 549"

J. S. Bach

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Lent is often a time of self-reflection, spiritual discipline, commitment, and community. Congregations gather to sing the minor harmonies of the way of Jesus on the road toward the cross. This Lent we'll see the ways the Spirit alters our perspective, transforms our communities, and consistently blazes a trail ahead of us. We'll catch up with the work of the Holy Spirit, finding ourselves:

Altered in witness

Altered through God's Creativity

Altered on the Edge of Belonging

Altered Alongside our enemies

Altered by disruption

Altered through Stories We Don't Trust

Because the Spirit is alive in, with, and under our ordinary lives, always calling us forward into transformation, nudging us into wholeness, and beckoning us forth into an alternative way.

For today: What does the "edge of belonging" mean to you?

Confession and Forgiveness:

P: Holy God,

We confess that we have rejected the refuge you offer.

**A: We try to hide behind self-sufficiency and pride,
but you see us, and love us still.**

P: We confess that we have chosen strife over peace;
we want to be right more than we want to be in right relationship.

**A: Forgive us for the ways we have rebelled against you
and harmed our neighbors in action, thought, or indifference.**

P: We confess that we have settled for convenient comforts,
for palm-sized imitations of mercy and justice.

**A: Your mighty hands break the bow and topple the throne,
yet also gather and shelter us like a mother hen.**

P: We confess that you know what we need and gladly provide it.

**A: Grant us the courage, patience, and trust
to receive and share your love.**

Amen.

P: Hear this...

*Kyrie

Refrain

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son, Chri - ste e - lei - son,

5
Ky - ri - e e - lei - - - - son.

O God, help us to take action with those who live in fear. Strengthen our hearts to listen to the painful cries we hear.

O God, meet us in our longing for the friends and things we know. Root us in love that sustains us; show us where we must let go.

O God, weave our lives together; may we chase away despair! Give us the tools to fight privilege, speaking truth with utmost care.

Leading Worship Today

Minister: Rev. Sebastian Meadows-Helmer

Diaconal Minister of Music: Deacon Scott Knarr

Lector: Rev. Dr. Allen Jorgenson

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

Broadcast: Jason Smolak

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

Thematic Litany

P: Children of God, you are enough.

You are lovable as you are,

and God will love you as you change and grow.

A: Where there is fear, give us courage.

Where there is doubt, give us faith.

P: Children of God, your neighbors are enough.

They are lovable as they are,

and God will love them as they change and grow.

A: Where there is fear, give us courage.

Where there is doubt, give us faith.

P: Children of God, your enemies are enough.

They are lovable as they are,

and God will love them as they change and grow.

A: Where there is fear, give us courage.

Where there is doubt, give us faith.

Children of God, the Creator has been, and will be.

There is no test to pass,

no score to keep,

no border to cross;

you have already arrived, and you can rest here.

A: Amen.

Worship Notes

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



Diaconal Sunday, Feb. 25: With our sister congregations throughout the ELCIC, we'll celebrate the work of Deacons in our churches. We're pleased to have as guest preacher Deacon Sherry Coman, who is Associate Professional Faculty at Waterloo Lutheran University College and founding Director of its Centre for Spirituality and Media.

General Announcements

Coffee Hour: Please note there is no Coffee Hour this Sunday. See you on the 25th!

Special Congregational Meeting: Following the service in the Sanctuary on Sunday, March 3rd, there will be a meeting regarding a partial pew removal. For more information, read the February Signal.

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.
- **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.

NOONTIME OASIS

EVERY WEDNESDAY NOON - 1 PM

TAKE A
breath

Lent

Feb. 14 - March 17

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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.

St. Peter's Breakfast Group is inviting St. Matthews to their monthly Breakfast group held at Kypreos restaurant on Lancaster St. The guest speakers provide interesting topics on various items. It's a great opportunity to connect with our brothers and sisters within our Grand River Ministry. If you are interested please use the link provided below to sign up. Kim Schaner - President - St. Matthews Board of Directors.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/st-peters-breakfast-club-tickets-802073713067?aff=oddttdtcreator>

Tuesday, February 20, 2024: Everyone is invited to participate in this group on Tuesday, February 20 at 9:00 a.m. at Kypreos Restaurant, 305 Lancaster St. W. Kitchener. Attendees will order from the menu and pay for their own meals. Our speaker will be Dr. Paul Georgopoulos of the Country Hills Chiropractic Centre in Kitchener. He will be accompanied by a massage therapist. Their presentation will focus on stress relief.



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