

ADVENT

A TIME OF WAITING



St. Matthews Church

WHERE COMMUNITY GATHERS AND GROWS

December 1, 2024

Advent 1

Sunday, December 1, 2024

(* indicates the assembly stands)

Gathering

Prelude	<i>"Wachet auf"</i>	J.S. Bach
Words of Welcome & Service Announcements		
*Confession and Forgiveness (see page 4)		
*Hymn 246	<i>"Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding"</i>	
*Lighting of the Advent Wreath		
*Hymn 247 v. 1	<i>"Come now, O Prince of Peace"</i>	
*Greeting		
*Kyrie		p. 120
*Prayer of the Day		
Solo	<i>"Partita #3: Loure"</i>	J.S. Bach

Word

First Reading		Jeremiah 33:14-16
Psalm 25:1-10 (see page 5)		<i>(sung responsively)</i>
Second Reading		1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
*Gospel Acclamation	<i>"Alleluia"</i>	p. 124
*Gospel Reading		Luke 21:25-36
Sermon		
*Hymn of the Day 260		<i>"The King Shall Come"</i>
*Nicene Creed		p. 126
Music for Reflection	<i>"Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland"</i>	F. Frahm
*Prayers of Intercession		A: receive our prayer

*Peace

Thanksgiving

*Hymn of Thanksgiving (see page 6)

"We Are Waiting"

*Thanksgiving for the Word

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

p. 134

Sending

General Announcements

*Blessing

*Hymn 248

"People Look East"

*Dismissal

A: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

"Gigue Fugue"

D. Buxtehude

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Advent is about the "coming days." God's people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. The ancients anticipated a "righteous Branch to spring up for David." The Thessalonians awaited "the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints." Jesus' contemporaries hoped for the time "to stand before the Son of Man." With them we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of Christ in word and supper.

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 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

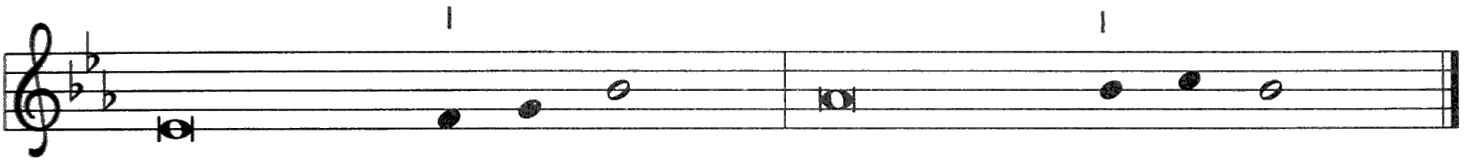
through Christ Jesus,

whose day draws near.

Amen.

Psalm 25

Tone 4



¹To | you, O LORD,
I lift | up my soul.

²My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph | over me.

³Let none who look to you be | put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame | who are treacherous.

⁴Show me your | ways, O LORD,
and teach | me your paths.

⁵Lead me in your | truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all | the day long.

⁶Remember, O LORD, your compas- | sion and love,
for they are from | everlasting.

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your good- |
ness, O LORD.

⁸You are gracious and up- | right, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners | in your way.

⁹You lead the low- | ly in justice
and teach the low- | ly your way.

¹⁰All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast | love and faithfulness
to those who keep your covenant and your | testimonies.

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

Leading Worship Today

Minister & violinist: Rev. Sebastian Meadows-Helmer

Diaconal Minister of Music: Deacon Scott Knarr

Lector: Kim Schaner

Broadcast: Gary Pootz

Building Monitor: Ron Roeder (519-895-6833)

Worship Notes

In our prayers Lynda, 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

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

Congregational Redevelopment Meeting Proxy Votes are allowable and can be submitted until December 18th at noon. For more information on this, read the letter in the Narthex or via the Office.

The Annual Budget Meeting will be held on Sunday, December 8 following worship. All voting members please consider attending!

Calling all bakers! Your St. Matthews Women of Faith Group is hosting this evening's Advent Carol Service Reception, with the theme "Declaring Peace". While most of the preparations are complete, there is remains a need for nut free baked goods and sweets (cookies, squares etc.). Any members of the congregation who would like to contribute any such items are asked to either bring them down to the Community Hall before or after the Sunday morning service today or to drop them off at the Hall before the beginning of the Carol Service, which starts at 7pm. We would ask that any contributions be nut-free. Please feel free to reach out to Marjorie Kuschnereit if you have any questions, and we thank you for any contributions you might be able to provide.

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.

Please join us tonight at 7 pm for our annual Advent Carol Service which features Robert Schumann's work *Adventlied*, a song for the season of Christ's coming. Declaring Peace is our theme and we will hear how each Christian is encouraged to be part of God's renewing of Creation and humankind. Former choral scholar Siyuan Carter-Patkau will be with us to sing the Soprano solo in this cycle of 7 songs for which Deacon Scott has adapted a new English text for our context.

HALO CANADA PROJECT - Update

You may recall from the Oct Signal; I talked about the work of the HALO Project. By taking actual data from St. Matthews Church and the Non-Profit groups that share space in the building, we now know St Matthew's Socio-Economic Impact in our community.

Mike Wood Daly, the founder, and Research Director of the HALO Canada Project has completed studies of more than 100 congregations Canada-wide, and compiled the data collected from St. Matthews to help us to reimagine our relationship with our community through the lens of social benefit.

The impact study consisted of annual budgeting, program design, building community partnerships, and attracting volunteers to determine our social benefit for every dollar we spend. Nation-wide Churches contribute more than \$18 million worth of social impact to Canadian society through outward facing community programs. On average Canadian Churches generate \$3.39 worth of social benefit for every dollar they spend.

How did St. Matthews fair in this study? First, we are not quite done collecting the information from some of our space sharing partners, so the information will change – it will only get better!!!! St. Matthews Socio-Economic Impact is in excess of \$2.4 million with an approximate return of about \$3.50 (above the national average) for every

dollar the congregations spends.

So what do we do with this information? If you ever asked; are we really making a difference by space sharing with community groups? Or, how important is St. Matthews Church to our community? The results stated above is your answer. Without our 54 Benton Street building, the community would have to look for space where the cost to rent could be higher, not accessible by Ion or Bus, and not centrally located for their clients to easily access their business. The St. Matthews Centre is a community hub, that helps small businesses sustain and grow. It gives a new meaning to keeping our legacy going.

“Church closings represent losses not just for church-goers; they represent a loss for all Canadians. When churches close, Canadians lose space for dance recitals, community concerts, seniors’ lunches and childrens programs. They lose the benefit of Bonzai classes, badminton, bridge and basketball. These programs provided by and housed in churches offer communal and emotional value. But they also offer health benefits, reduce demand on municipalities for programs and services, stimulate volunteer participation and reduce demands on the criminal justice system – all of which have real dollar benefits for Canadians.”
– taken from God Doesn’t Live here anymore - Decline and Resilience in the Canadian Church – written by Michael Wood Daly.

Submitted by Kim Schaner, Board of Directors - President

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Advent Carol Service

Declaring Peace

featuring Robert Schumann's
Adventlied Op. 71

December 1, 2024 at 7 pm
Freewill Offering

St. Matthews Lutheran Church
54 Benton Street, Kitchener
stmattskw.com



St. Matthews Lutheran Church

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