

A scenic sunset over a body of water with a large evergreen tree in the foreground. The sky is filled with soft, golden light from the setting sun, with wispy clouds catching the light. The water is calm, reflecting the colors of the sky. The evergreen tree on the left is in silhouette, its branches reaching across the frame. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

Advent Carol Service

*Declaring Peace*

**Advent Carol Service**  
*Declaring Peace*  
**Sunday, December 1, 2024**  
(\* indicates the assembly stands)

Prelude

*“Magnificat”*

J.F. Dandrieu

Words of Welcome & Land Acknowledgement

\*Hymn 257 verses 1-2, 6- 7

*“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”*

\*Opening Dialogue

We gather together to expect the unexpected, and imagine the unimaginable.

O Emmanuel,

**Prepare our hearts for your coming.**

We await the day when your reign of peace will recycle tanks into tractors, and transform minefields into soccer fields. O Emmanuel,

**Prepare our hearts for your coming.**

We kindle hope in times and places of despair, telling stories of your faithfulness in every generation. O Emmanuel,

**Prepare our hearts for your coming.**

Creator and sustainer of the world, you are the potter, we are the clay, and you form us in your image. Shape our spirits by Christ’s transforming power, that as one people, we may live out your compassion and justice in the realm of your peace. O Emmanuel,

**Prepare our hearts for your coming.**

Jesus, we welcome your presence now, with the singing of songs, and lighting of candles, whose flames bring warmth to winter, and fill this place with the glow of hope. **Amen.**

Choir

*“O Nata Lux”*

M. Lauridsen

First Reading: Isaiah 60: 1-3, 16-18

L: Arise, shine; for your light has come,

**A: God's glory appears bright as the dawn.**

\*Hymn 261

*"As the Dark Awaits the Dawn"*

Second Reading: Isaiah 11:1-9

L: We wait for the Lord,

**A: and we hope in God who saves us.**

Choir

*"Creation will be at Peace"*

A. Page

Third Reading: Micah 5:2-5a

L: Almighty God, come to us,

**A: that all the earth may behold your glory.**

\*Hymn (see page 6)

*"We are waiting for Jesus"*

Fourth Reading: Zechariah 9:9-10

L: Holy One, stir our hearts and guide us

**A: to declare your peace to all nations and peoples.**

Choir

*"Adventlied" Op. 71*

R. Schumann

1. In lowly guise your King is coming
2. Your servants faithful tidings bearing
3. And when you cross the stormy sea
4. O Lord of grace and hope unending
5. Come, Jesus Christ, once more returning
6. O may your light with us be dwelling
7. Stamp out the embers of discord

Siyuan Carter-Patkau, Soprano

Fifth Reading: Luke 1:26-38

L: Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you. Do not be afraid,

**A: for nothing will be impossible with God.**

Choir *"Ave Maria"* Z. Kodály

Sixth Reading: Luke 2:1-7

L: To us a child is born, to us a Son is given,

**A: In the Word was life, and the life was the light of all people.**

Quintet *"A Cree Lullaby"* S. Sewewpagaham

Offering *"Cavatine"* J. Raff

\*Offering Hymn (see page 7) *"Build a Longer Table"*

\*Offering Prayer

\*Prayers

L: Gather us all under the promise of your Son, who taught us to pray:

**A: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,**

**your kingdom come, your will be done,**

**on earth, as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial,**

**and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,**

**now and forever. Amen.**

\*Blessing

L: The peace of God accompany your waiting,  
the light of Christ warm your hearts,  
and the joy of the Spirit fill you with hope.

**A: Amen.**

\*Hymn 435

*Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending"*

\*Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Christ is coming soon.

**A: Thanks be to God**

Postlude

*"Andante"*

W.A. Mozart

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*Please join us after the service for refreshments in the Community Hall.*

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

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**Leading Worship This Evening:**

**Minister & Violinist:** Rev. Sebastian Meadows-Helmer

**Diaconal Minister of Music:** Deacon Scott Knarr

**Choir Director:** Corey Linforth

**Soprano Soloist:** Siyuan Carter-Patkau

**Sanctuary Choir:** Thea Becker, Julia Crnko, Emmanuel Dye, Bill Gastmeier, Nicole Hamilton, Sarah Hu-A-Kam, Sylvia McLeod, Lana Moses, Nathalie Nasr, Bev Roeder, Erika Sattler, Jim Sattler, Tim Schaner, Caroline Schmidt, Dylan Siebert, Hannah Swiderski.

**Lectors:** Rev. Dr. Allen Jorgenson, Kim Schaner, Karen Farrell

**Broadcast:** Gary Pootz

**Reception Coordinators:** Marjorie and Scott Kuschnerait

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

# 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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# Build a Longer Table



1 Build a long - er ta - ble, not a high - er wall,  
2 Build a saf - er ref - uge, not a larg - er jail;  
3 Build a broad - er door - way, not a long - er fence.  
4 When we lived as ex - iles, ref - u - gees a - broad,



feed - ing those who hun - ger, mak - ing room for all.  
where the weak find shel - ter, mer - cy will not fail.  
Love pro - tects all peo - ple, spar - ing no ex - pense.  
Christ be - came our door - way to the reign of God.



Feast - ing to - geth - er, strang - er turns to friend,  
For an - y place where jus - tice is de - nied,  
When we em - brace com - pas - sion more than fear,  
So must our ta - bles wel - come those who roam.



Christ breaks walls to piec - es; false di - vi - sions end.  
Christ will breach the jail wall, free - ing all in - side.  
Christ tears down our fenc - es: all are wel - come here.  
None can be ex - clud - ed; all must find a home.

Text: David Bjorlin, b. 1984

Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol

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**Siyuan Carter-Patkau** is an emerging soprano currently studying with Chad Louwerse. Siyuan has participated in Academie de Fourvière in Lyon, France and Accademia Europea dell'Opera in Lucca, Italy. Opera roles include Arminda in Mozart's *La Finta Giardiniera*, Giannetta in *Elisir d'Amore* by Donizetti, and Romilda in *Serse* by Handel. Siyuan also has a passion for teaching and maintains a private studio for both voice and violin. Siyuan holds a BMus in History, Theory, and Critical Analysis from Wilfrid Laurier University and an MMus in Literature and Performance from Western University. A former choral scholar at St. Matthews, we are delighted to welcome Siyuan back to share her musical gifts with us this evening.

**Corey Linforth** is a soprano and conductor based in Kitchener, Ontario. She has performed as a soloist with the Spiritus Ensemble, The Annex Singers, Arcady, Guelph Chamber Choir, Evi-ole, The Talisker Players, DaCapo Chamber Choir, and University of Waterloo Chamber Choir. As Music Director of St. Andrew's (Hespeler) Presbyterian Church from 2014 to 2020, she developed a diverse and vibrant music program, growing the choir from about ten singers to thirty. Corey has attended Early Music Vancouver, the Tallis Scholars' Summer School (England), and Tiora Musica Early Opera Course (Italy). In 2020, Corey shifted her focus from classical music to alternative folk. Under the stage name Coraline James she released an EP, *In The River* and will release her second EP in June 2025. She was recently awarded a grant to develop a musical installation art piece called *Enchanted Groves* and is co-chair for "Organ Festival Canada" to take place in Kitchener-Waterloo-Guelph in July 2025.

**Robert Schumann** was born in 1810 and died at 46 years of age in 1856. He was a German composer, pianist and influential music critic of the early Romantic era. He composed in all of the musical genres that were popular in his time. *Adventlied* was his opus 71, his first spiritual/religious larger work, written in November 1848 to a text by Friedrich Rückert from his 12 volume collection of poetry *Pantheon*. The English translation is based on the work of The Rev. Dr. John Troutbeck, Canon Precentor of Westminster Abbey, who provided it for publication by Novello & Co. The version presented today was abridged, adapted and reset to more recent English usage by Scott Knarr.

*Adventlied* is normally performed as one single movement without a break. There are 7 songs in the cycle which segue and change in voicing, timbre and style. In Europe, 1848 was a year of revolutions which spread across the continent from one country to the next. This context of overthrowing monarchies and giving rise to more participation in democratic processes would seem to be at least part of the inspiration for this work. The religious, ethical, humanist



and political themes are grouped together in ways which create an integrated worldview that goes beyond typical scriptural oratorio or operatic entertainment. The prevalent use of chromatic writing, alternating with more lyrical segments and grand climaxes reminiscent of Handel, brings much emotion and a sense of urgency to make our world a better place. Schumann himself conducted performances of *Adventlied* in Dresden in February-May 1849, in Düsseldorf in October 1850, and again in November-December 1852.

**Morten Johannes Lauridsen** was born February 27, 1943 in the Pacific Northwest of the United States. He was composer in residence of the Los Angeles Master Chorale from 1994 to 2001 and is best known for his setting of *O Magnum Mysterium*. *O Nata Lux* is a movement from his larger work *Lux Aeterna*, recorded by the Britten Sinfonia and Polyphony Chorus and nominated for a Grammy award in 2005.

**Sherryl Sewepagaham** is of Cree-Dene ancestry from the Little Red River Cree Nation in northern Alberta. She holds a Bachelor of Music Therapy (Capilano University), a Bachelor of Education and Masters of Education (University of Alberta) and is composer of traditional and contemporary First Nations drum songs. A Cree Lullaby is also titled *A Sleepy Song*, with Cree text: *Nipa, kisâkihitin* (Go to sleep, I love you.) This original composition was created in the spirit of Sherryl's great-grandmother's lullaby to soothe the spirit and the child within us all.



## Christmas Worship at St. Matthews

**Christmas Eve (German)**  
December 24th at 5:00 pm

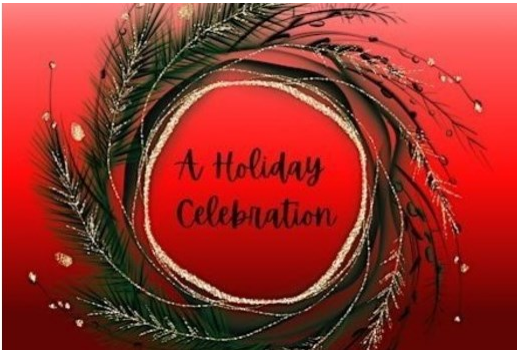
**Christmas Eve (English)**  
December 24th at 7:30 pm

**Christmas Day**  
December 25th at 9:30 am

**New Year's Eve**  
December 31st at 4:30 pm

## Important Information for today's worship

- **Offering:** The offering will be collected during the Offering solo.
- **Exiting:** At the end of the service, please remain in place until the end of the postlude.
- **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.



**Join the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony for “A Holiday Celebration”** on Friday, December 20 at 7:30 pm; or Saturday, December 21 at 7:30 pm; or the afternoon matinee on Dec 21 at 2:30 pm here at St. Matthews. More information and tickets online at [www.kwsymphony.com](http://www.kwsymphony.com)

**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.



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Contact [info@stmattskw.com](mailto:info@stmattskw.com) today!

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