

CHRISTMAS

A CHILD BORN AMONG US

St. Matthews Church

WHERE COMMUNITY GATHERS AND GROWS

December 29, 2024

First Sunday of Christmas
Sunday, December 29, 2024
(indicates the assembly stands)*

Gathering

- Prelude *"The Holly and the Ivy"* H. Sumsion
- Words of Welcome & Service Announcements
- *Hymn 290 *"Go Tell It On the Mountain"*
- *Dialogue (see page 4)
- *Greeting
- *Hymn 270 *"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"*
- *Prayer of the Day

Word

- First Reading 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26
- Psalm 148 (see page 5)
- Second Reading Colossians 3:12-17
- *Gospel Acclamation *"Alleluia"* p. 124
- *Gospel Luke 2:41-52
- Sermon
- *Hymn 287 *"Let All Together Praise Our God"*
- *Nicene Creed p. 126
- *Prayers of Intercession **A: receive our prayer**
- *Peace

Meal

- *Offering Hymn 292 *"Love Has Come"*
- *Offering Prayer

*Great Thanksgiving		p. 129
*Holy, Holy, Holy		p. 130
*Thanksgiving at the Table		p. 130
*Lord's Prayer (<i>Our Father, who art in heaven...</i>)		p. 134
Lamb of God		p. 135
Communion Hymns 288		<i>"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"</i>
*Table Blessing		
*Prayer after Communion		
Sending		
General Announcements		
*Blessing		
*Hymn 299		<i>"Cold December Flies Away"</i>
*Dismissal (see page 6)		
Postlude	<i>"Fugue on Good King Wenceslas"</i>	B. Cabena

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On the first Sunday of Christmas we find the boy Samuel and the boy Jesus, both in the temple, both growing in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and humankind. We too have returned to the house of God "to sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God," who has gifted us with a savior. As the festival continues, "let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts." It is Christmas, still.

Dialogue

L: Come! Look upon the baby Jesus,
cradled in the arms of his mother.

**A: Seeing this wondrous sight,
may our hearts be comforted
and our spirits filled with peace.**

L: Come! Listen to choirs of angels
announcing good news to all people.

**A: Hearing this marvellous song, may we too sing:
Glory to God in the highest!**

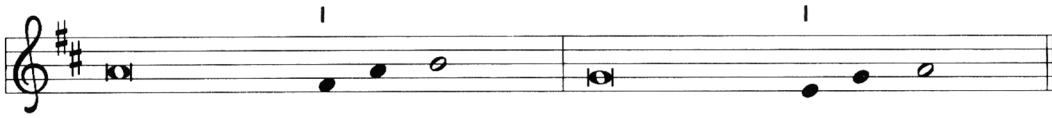
L: Come! Receive this ancient story in your heart,
not as history but as a gift.

**A: Opening our hearts to this great mystery,
may Christ be born in us today.**

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.

Psalm 148

Tone 1



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

²Praise the LORD, ¹all you angels;
sing praise, all you ¹hosts of heaven.

³Praise the LORD, ¹sun and moon;
sing praise, all you ¹shining stars.

⁴Praise the LORD, heav- ¹en of heavens,
and you waters a- ¹bove the heavens.

⁵Let them praise the name ¹of the LORD,
who commanded, and they ¹were created,

⁶who made them stand fast forev- ¹er and ever,
giving them a law that shall not ¹pass away.

⁷Praise the LORD ¹from the earth,
you sea monsters ¹and all deeps;

⁸fire and hail, ¹snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, do- ¹ing God's will;

⁹mountains¹ and all hills,
fruit trees¹ and all cedars;

¹⁰wild beasts¹ and all cattle,
creeping things and¹ flying birds;

¹¹sovereigns of the earth¹ and all peoples,
princes and all rulers¹ of the world;

¹²young¹ men and maidens,
old and¹ young together.

¹³Let them praise the name¹ of the LORD,
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over¹ earth and heaven.

¹⁴The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all¹ faithful servants,
the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD.¹ Hallelujah!

Dismissal

L: Glory to God in the highest!

A: **And peace to God's people on earth!**

L: Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

A: **Thanks be to God.**

Leading Worship Today

Minister: Rev. Carey Meadows-Helmer

Assisting Minister: Scott Kuschnerreit

Diaconal Minister of Music: Deacon Scott Knarr

Communion Server: Jeanette Harrop

Broadcast: Jason Smolak

Building Monitor: Don Robins (519-502-2099)

Worship Notes

All are welcome at the meal where Jesus is present loving and forgiving us. For the wine, there is a common cup station and a pouring chalice station (please take an empty small glass). There is also a small tray of pre-poured grape juice glasses. Gluten-free wafers are also available; please indicate this request to the Pastor. If you would (also) like to receive a blessing, please approach the Pastor with your arms crossed over your chest. If you'd like to receive Communion in your pew, the pastor will come to you. Please let an usher or the pastor know before worship if possible.

In our prayers George, Anneke, Judy, Clare, Yvonne, Jeanette, Meaghan, Henry, Grace, Maureen and John.

General Announcements

Special Congregational Meeting January 12th, 2025: All voting members are invited to attend the special meeting following worship on January 12th to approve the new proposed bylaws. Synod Council had conditionally approved the bylaws we approved in October, but asked for some minor wording changes. Only one congregational meeting will be required this time. At the meeting we will also have a motion to destroy the ballots of the property redevelopment vote.

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

Please have your 2024 donations to the office before 11:00 am on December 31, 2024.

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.
- **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	deaconscott@stmattskw.com
Leanne Vanderhout	Ext. 6	lvanderhout@stmattskw.com



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