

EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

FOLLOW THE STAR

St. Matthews Church

WHERE COMMUNITY GATHERS AND GROWS

January 5, 2025

Epiphany of Our Lord
Sunday, January 5, 2025
(* indicates the assembly stands)

Gathering

Prelude	<i>"Bright and Glorious is the Sky"</i>	W. Wold
	<i>"The Minstrel Boy"</i>	C. Donkin
Words of Welcome & Service Announcements		
*Confession and Forgiveness (see page 4)		
*Hymn 303		<i>"Brightest and Best"</i>
*Greeting		
*Glory to God		p. 121
*Prayer of the Day		
Solo	<i>"Sonatina in D: Allegro molto Op. 137, No. 1"</i>	F. Schubert

Word

First Reading		Isaiah 60:1-6
Music for Reflection	<i>"A Cloudy Day"</i>	R. Mooney
	<i>"Mango Walk"</i>	C. Donkin
Second Reading		Ephesians 3:1-12
*Gospel Acclamation	<i>"Alleluia"</i>	p. 124
*Gospel Reading		Matthew 2:1-12
Sermon		
*Hymn of the Day 300		<i>"The First Noel"</i>
*Nicene Creed		p. 126
*Prayers of Intercession		A: Receive our prayer
*Peace		

Meal

*Offering Hymn 296	<i>"What Child is This"</i>	
*Offering Prayer		
*Great Thanksgiving		p. 129
*Holy, Holy, Holy		p. 130
*Thanksgiving at the Table III		p. 132
*Lord's Prayer (<i>Our Father in heaven...</i>)		p. 134
Lamb of God		p. 135
Communion Hymn 302	<i>"As With Gladness Men of Old"</i>	
Table Blessing		
Prayer after Communion		

Sending

General Announcements		
*Blessing		
*Hymn 646 WOV	<i>"We Three Kings"</i>	
*Dismissal	A: Thanks be to God.	
Postlude	<i>"Improvisation on We Three Kings"</i>	S. Knarr

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Within the gospel reading's profound words lies the simple message that God is revealed in a human person. Though we may try to understand how the Word existed with God from the beginning of time, the wonder we celebrate at Christmas is that the Word continues to dwell among us. Christ comes among us in the gathered assembly, the scriptures, the waters of new birth, and the bread and the wine. Through these ordinary gifts we receive the fullness of God's grace and truth.

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed

God-with-us,

A: we confess that we have turned away

those seeking shelter,

claiming there is no room when we have plenty.

We have made power and wealth our idols,

while you show us true glory: a baby in a manger.

We have overlooked the shepherds,

expecting good news in prettier packaging.

Too often, we have valued violence

instead of your peace.

Turn us from our ways to your ways.

Grant us the grace to begin again.

Free us from all that keeps us bound,

and forgive our sin,

through Jesus Christ, who gives himself for us.

Amen.

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.

Leading Worship Today

Minister and Violinist: Rev. Sebastian Meadows-Helmer

Diaconal Minister of Music: Deacon Scott Knarr

Communion Server: Linda McLellan

Cellist: James Meadows-Helmer

Broadcast: Andrew Weber

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

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.

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.

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.

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



JOIN OUR MAILING LIST

Get the newsletter and email updates on upcoming church events, announcements, reminders and service changes.

Contact info@stmattskw.com today!

Contact Information

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