

Lent 4

Unbroken
A living faith

March 30, 2025

Lent 4

“God Compels Creation Toward Mercy”

Sunday, March 30, 2025

(* indicates the assembly stands)

Gathering

Prelude	<i>“Shade’s Mountain”</i>	K. Lee Scott
Words of Welcome & Service Announcements		
Confession and Forgiveness (see page 4)		
*Hymn 763	<i>“My Life Flows On in Endless Song”</i>	
*Greeting		
*Kyrie		p. 120
*Prayer of the Day		
Anthem	<i>“Let Us Break Bread Together”</i>	J. Helgen
Children’s Message		

Word

First Reading		Joshua 5:9-12
Psalm 32 (see page 6)		<i>(sung responsively by whole verse)</i>
Second Reading		2 Corinthians 5:16-21
*Gospel Acclamation	<i>“Let your steadfast love...”</i>	p. 125
*Gospel Reading		Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32
Sermon		
*Hymn 608	<i>“Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling”</i>	
*Prayers of Intercession		A: receive our prayer.
*Apostles’ Creed		p. 127
*Peace		

Meal

*Offering Hymn 186	<i>“Create in Me a Clean Heart”</i>	
*Offering Prayer		
*Great Thanksgiving		p. 129
*Holy, Holy, Holy		p. 130
*Thanksgiving at the Table		
*Lord’s Prayer (<i>Our Father in heaven...</i>)		p. 134
Lamb of God		p. 135
Communion Hymn 779	<i>“Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound”</i>	
*Table Blessing		
*Prayer after Communion		

Sending

General Announcements		
*Blessing		
*Hymn 774	<i>“What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine”</i>	
*Dismissal		A: Thanks be to God.
Postlude	<i>“Fugue & Andante”</i>	F. Mendelssohn

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God compels creation toward mercy. God’s merciful nature is preoccupied with graciousness rather than punishment or who deserves love and care and who doesn’t. That we are created in the image of God means we are called to embody unconditional love to other people and all living things, participating in the coming of God’s reign where all are supported, nourished, and loved.

Confession and Forgiveness

L: God of all grace, be near in the midst of our brokenness, turning us from the things that keep us from right relationship with you, ourselves, and one another.

Compel us toward compassion as we confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and are strengthened to serve in your name.

A: Amen.

L: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

**A: God of mercy,
you delight in goodness and judge sin.**

**Give us open and honest hearts
to recognize the ways we have turned from you,
from our own belovedness, and from one another.**

**We see the world through the lens of scarcity
instead of your lens of abundance.**

**We see people as us and them
instead of one body in you.**

**We participate in the brokenness of the world,
caught in webs beyond individual choices of right and wrong.**

**Quiet our inner and outer strife, O God,
and draw us into your forgiveness and wholeness.**

**Through your divine love,
transform all that threatens to destroy
the good that you have created.**

L: Beloved people of God:
At a table that Jesus sets,
God forgives us and feeds us with love eternal.
In water and promise,

God brings us to new life
and breathes into us gifts to serve the world.
You are forgiven, in the name of Christ (+),
who calls us into the coming of God's reign
where all are supported, nourished, and loved.

A: Amen.

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Leading Worship Today

Minister: Pastor Carey Meadows-Helmer

Assisting Minister: Scott Kuschnerait

Diaconal Minister of Music: Deacon Scott Knarr

Communion Server: Linda McLellan

Choral Scholars: Nicole Hamilton, Hannah Swiderski, Sarah Hu-A-Kam, Dylan Siebert,
Drew Aarssen

Broadcast: Jamie Foley

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

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 32

Tone 8



¹Happy are they whose transgressions [|] are forgiven,
and whose sin is [|] put away!

²Happy are they to whom the LORD im- [|] putes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there [|] is no guile!

³While I held my tongue, my bones with- [|] ered away,
because of my groaning [|] all day long.

⁴For your hand was heavy upon me [|] day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the [|] heat of summer.

⁵Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not con- [|] ceal my guilt.
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD."
Then you forgave me the guilt [|] of my sin.

⁶Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in [|] time of trouble;
when the great waters overflow, they [|] shall not reach them.

⁷You are my hiding-place; you preserve [|] me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts [|] of deliverance.

⁸"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that [|] you should go;
I will guide you [|] with my eye.

⁹Do not be like horse or mule, which have no [|] understanding;
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will [|] not stay near you."

¹⁰Great are the tribulations [|] of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those who trust [|] in the LORD.

¹¹Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice [|] in the LORD;
shout for joy, all who are [|] true of heart.

Worship Notes

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

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.

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

Spiritual Discernment on the Election of a New National Bishop - At the 2025 ELCIC National Convention, delegates will elect a new National Bishop. The ELCIC's National Church Council invites members into a discernment process leading up to the election.

Further information about the discernment process is available on the ELCIC website. As of January 2025, a form is now available for individuals to complete when they are ready to formally identify someone they feel has the skills and gifts for the call to serve as national bishop. Supporting materials and the form are available on the 2025 ELCIC National Convention section of the ELCIC website. If you have questions about the process, please submit them via email to discernment@elcic.ca.

Road Work Benton (Charles- Courtland) Gas Main Replacement: Road paving by the Region of Waterloo and replace natural gas main. Work will begin on or about March 24, 2025 (weather permitting) and will take approximately 2 - 3 months to complete. **The following site access and traffic restrictions will apply during construction:**

- March 24 - April 4 - work in the laneway and backyard of 22-38 Courtland Ave. E.
- March 31 - April 16 - Road Closure of Benton from Courtland to St. George, local traffic only and no parking on the east side of Benton. No access to Benton northbound from Courtland and no left turns onto Benton southbound from Courtland.
- April 16 - June 13 - Northbound right lane closed on Benton from Courtland to Charles. No parking on the east side of Benton from Courtland to St. George St.

We meet next on Tuesday, March 18, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. at Kypreos Restaurant, 305 Lancaster St. W. Kitchener. Attendees order from the menu and Tent City.

The St. Matthews Centre, our community hub, has a website which links all upcoming events, especially concerts of the KW Symphony and the Grand Philharmonic Choir.

Scroll down to “Upcoming Events” at <https://www.stmatthewscentre.ca>

The St. Matthews Centre also has a Facebook page, which you can “follow” to get updates.



Revive Lent

EQUIPPING LAY LEADERS TO BE SPIRITUAL LEADERS

TUESDAYS 1.30 PM - 3:00 PM

MARCH 4: DISCOVERING YOUR SPIRITUAL STORY

MAR 18: TELLING YOUR SPIRITUAL STORY

MAR 25: WHAT IS PRAYER AND HOW DO WE PRAY?

APRIL 1: MAKING SPACE, AND PRAYING THE LECTIO
AND VISIO DIVINA

APRIL 8: PRAYING THROUGH THE HURT

APRIL 16: DEATH AND DYING, AND PRAYING WITH
JESUS IN THE GARDEN

Contact Information

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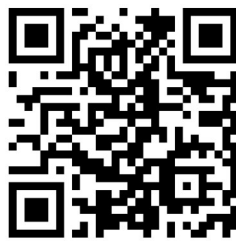
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St. Matthews Lutheran Church

Lenten Oasis

12:00 Organ Recital

12:30 Soup Lunch

Admission: Pay-what-you-can

March 12:

David Hall

St. Paul's Lutheran, Cambridge

March 19:

Bradley Moggach

St. Peter's Lutheran, Cambridge

March 26:

Angus Sinclair

St. John the Evangelist Anglican, Kitchener

April 2:

Kathleen King Martin

First United, Waterloo

April 9:

Mark Himmelman

Church of the Holy Saviour, Waterloo

www.stmattskw.com

519-742-0462

TAKE A

breath

2025 MID-WEEK LENTEN WORSHIP

2 UNITED CHURCHES & 2 LUTHERAN CHURCHES + 1 ANGLICAN PRIEST

First United Waterloo



Worship 7:00 pm

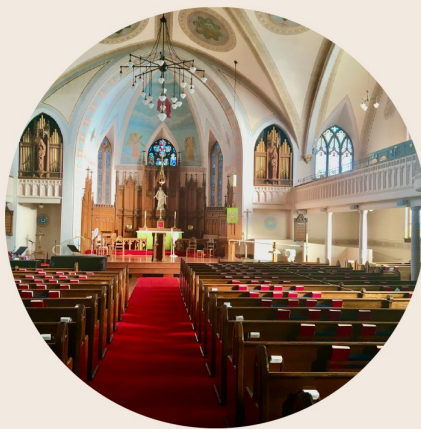
TUES
MARCH
25

Presider: Rev. Hoeun Lee

Preacher: Rev. Sebastian Meadows-Helmer

FIRST UNITED CHURCH, 16 WILLIAM ST W, WATERLOO

St. Matthews Lutheran



Soup Supper 5:00 pm

Worship 7:00 pm

Holden Evening Prayer

WED
APRIL
2

Presiders: Rev. Brenda Torrie

Rev. Carey Meadows-Helmer

Preacher: Rev. Mario Hryniewicz

ST. MATTHEWS LUTHERAN CHURCH, 54 BENTON ST, KITCHENER



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN
CHURCH, BRIDGEPORT





St. Matthews Lutheran Church

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