

Advent Carol Service

Mary's Song



November 30, 2025

Advent Carol Service

Messengers of God
Sunday, November 30, 2025

Prelude

"Suite du 3e Ton"
"Noel: Or nous dites Marie"

J. Boyvin
G. Lasceux

Words of Welcome & Land Acknowledgement

***Hymn 257 vs. 1-4**

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

First Reading

Isaiah 11:1-9

L: Hear the voice of God's Messenger.

A: We listen and open our hearts to do God's will.

Choir

"A Child Shall Lead Them"

D. Aarssen

Second Reading

Jeremiah 23:5-6

L: Hear the voice of God's Messenger.

A: We listen and open our hearts to do God's will.

***Hymn 265**

"The Angel Gabriel"

Third Reading

Luke 1:26-38

L: Hear the voice of God's Messenger.

A: We listen and open our hearts to do God's will.

Fourth Reading

Mark 1:1-8

L: Hear the voice of God's Messenger.

A: We listen and open our hearts to do God's will.

***Hymn 255**

"There's a Voice in the Wilderness"

Offering

"Balletti à tre, Op.3, No.5: Allemanda & Corrente"

T. Albinoni

***Offering Hymn 247**

"Come Now, O Prince of Peace"

***Offering Prayer**

***Prayers**

L: Come once again with your gracious presence.

A: We meet you in our neighbour and share the good news of your love.

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 246**

"Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding"

***Dismissal**

L: Go in peace. Christ is coming soon.

A: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

"Prelude to the Te Deum"

M.A. Charpentier

Information for tonight's worship

- **Offering:** Will be collected today during the Offering music.
- **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.
- **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.

Leading Worship This Evening:

Ministers: Rev. Sebastian Meadows-Helmer and Rev. Carey Meadows-Helmer

Readers: Rev. Carey Meadows-Helmer, Rev. Dr. Allen Jorgenson, Bob Loeb sack, and Deacon Sherry Coman

Charpentier Chorus:

Sopranos: Thea Becker, Julia Crnko, Nicole Hamilton, Sarah Storms, Hannah Swiderski; **Altos:** Pauline Finch, Anne Lowe, Michelle Mehring, Lana Moses, Nathalie Nasr, Caroline Schmidt, Mary Thompson; **Tenors:** Bev Roeder, Dylan Siebert; **Basses:** Drew Aarssen, Emmanuel Dye, Bill Gastmeier, Tim Schaner

Choir Director: Corey Linfoth

Harpsichord & Organ: Deacon Scott Knarr

Baroque Violin: Michelle Odorico, Rev. Sebastian Meadows-Helmer

Mezzo-Soprano: Caroline Schmidt

Tenor: Dylan Siebert

Bass: Drew Aarssen

Broadcast: Andrew Weber

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

Worship Note

"A Child Shall Lead Them" was composed for and dedicated to St. Matthews Sanctuary Choir by Drew Aarssen specifically for this evening's service. This is a world premiere!

Magnificat

1 *Magnificat, anima mea, Dominum*
2 *et exultavit spiritus meus in Deo, salutari meo.*
3 *Quia respexit humilitatem ancillæ suæ:*
 ecce enim ex hoc beatam me dicent omnes generationes.
4 *Quia fecit mihi magna, qui potens est, et sanctum nomen eius,*
5 *et misericordia eius a progenie in progenies timentibus eum.*
6 *Fecit potentiam in brachio suo,*
 dispersit superbos mente cordis sui.
7 *Deposuit potentes de sede et exaltavit humiles;*
8 *esurientes implevit bonis et divites dimisit inanes.*
11 *Gloria Patri, et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto:*
12 *Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper, et in sæcula sæculorum. Amen.*

1 My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
2 and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.
3 For you Lord, have looked with favour on your lowly servant.
 From this day all generations will call me blessed.
4 For you, the Almighty have done great things for me; and holy is your
 name.
5 You have mercy for those that fear you from generation to generation.
6 You have shown strength with your arm;
 and scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts,
7 casting down the mighty from their thrones, and lifting up the lowly.
8 You have filled the hungry with good things; and sent the rich away
 empty.
11 Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
12 As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
 Amen.

Michelle Odorico received her Bachelor of Music in Performance from the University of Ottawa under David Stewart, as well as her Masters of Music at the University of Toronto specializing in baroque violin under Tafelmusik's late musical director, Jeanne Lamon. Michelle has performed with many groups specializing in baroque repertoire including the Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra, Opera Atelier, Elixir Baroque Ensemble, Gallery Players of Niagara, and the Nota Bene Baroque Players. When not at the park with her four children, she plays regularly with the Toronto String Quartet and teaches violin at the Hamilton Suzuki School of Music.

Caroline Schmidt received her Bachelor of Arts in Honours Music with Intensive Music Specialization from the University of Waterloo. She has studied voice and vocal pedagogy with Brandon Leis and Dr. Elizabeth Lepock. Caroline has performed with Da Capo Chamber Choir, The Edison Singers, Grand Philharmonic Choir, Spiritus Ensemble, as well as Trillium Lutheran Church and St. Matthews Lutheran Church. She teaches privately and is a licensed Kindermusik Instructor for Little Music Makerz studio in Kitchener.

Drew Aarssen received his Bachelor of Music in Composition from Wilfrid Laurier University and recently completed an Opera Diploma. He has composed two commissioned works for St. Matthews Sanctuary Choir and regularly workshops new compositions in a variety of contexts. This season Drew is an emerging artist with the Guelph Chamber Choir and has recently been stage manager for Grand River Opera.

Dylan Siebert is tenor choral scholar at St. Matthews since 2021. He has sung with many choirs in Southwestern Ontario, including the Da Capo Chamber Choir. Dylan has recently brought his experience in arts logistics management to the team of the St. Matthews Centre as Events Coordinator.

Sebastian Meadows-Helmer received his Masters of Music in Performance from McGill University where he studied with Mark Gothoni and Yehonatan Berick. Sebastian has played with the KW Symphony and the Sherbrooke Symphony Orchestra. He is also pastor of St. Matthews Lutheran Church alongside his wife, Carey Meadows-Helmer.

Corey Linforth received her Bachelor of Arts in Music from the University of Waterloo. She has performed with Spiritus Ensemble, The Annex Singers, Arcady, Guelph Chamber Choir, Eviole, The Talisker Players, Da Capo Chamber Choir, and University of Waterloo Chamber Choir. In 2020, Corey shifted her focus from classical music to alternative folk with the stage name Coraline James, under which she released two EPs: *In the River* and *Brambles*.

Scott Knarr received his Bachelor of Music from the University of Ottawa, studying with Karen Holmes and Frances Macdonnell. His role at St. Matthews is Diaconal Minister of Music, which includes supporting concert events as well as coordinating music for worship and encouraging wider use of the beautiful acoustics of this sanctuary.

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.

Upcoming Events at St. Matthews

Sunday, December 7: Annual Budget Meeting following service.

Sunday, December 14: Sunday School Pageant

Sunday, December 21: Christmas Cabaret & Carol Sing (3 pm)

Wednesday, December 24: German Language Christmas Eve Service (5 pm)

Wednesday, December 24: English Language Christmas Eve Service (7:30 pm)

Thursday, December 25: Christmas Day Service (9:30 am)

Wednesday, December 31: New Year's Eve Service (4:30 pm)

Contact Information

Office: 519-742-0462 stmattskw.com

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Rev. Sebastian Meadows-Helmer Ext. 2 pastorsebastian@stmattskw.com

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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.





CHRISTMAS

Cabaret & Carol Sing

DECEMBER 21, 2025 @ 3 PM

THE ST. MATTHEWS CENTRE
54 BENTON ST, KITCHENER

Admission by Donation for
Out of the Cold Community Suppers

featuring
St. Matthews Sanctuary Choir
Khang Le, classical guitar
Eternal Voices
Celebration Bells
and Community Music School of
Waterloo Region students





Christmas Worship at St. Matthews

Christmas Eve (German)

December 24th at 5:00 pm

Christmas Eve (English)

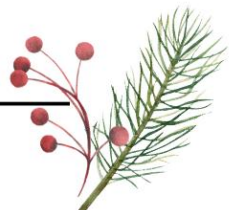
December 24th at 7:30 pm

Christmas Day

December 25th at 9:30 am

New Year's Eve

December 31st at 4:30 pm





St. Matthews Lutheran Church

**54 BENTON STREET
KITCHENER**

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