

Advent 2
John Said Yes!

THE POWER OF
YES

December 7, 2025

Advent 2:
“John Said Yes!”
Sunday, December 7, 2025
(indicates the assembly stands)*

Gathering

Prelude	<i>“The King of Glory Comes”</i>	W. Wold
Words of Welcome & Service Announcements		
*Confession and Forgiveness (see page 4)		
*Hymn 239		<i>“Hark, the Glad Sound!”</i>
*Lighting of the Advent Wreath		
*Hymn 240 v. 1, 2		<i>“Light One Candle”</i>
*Greeting		
*Kyrie		p. 184
*Prayer of the Day		
Duet	<i>“Benedictus”</i>	C. Saint-Saens

Word

First Reading	Isaiah 11:1-10
Psalms 72:1-7, 18-19 (see page 5)	<i>(sung responsively)</i>
Second Reading	Romans 15:4-13
*Gospel Acclamation	p. 216
*Gospel Reading	Matthew 3:1-12
Sermon	
*Hymn of the Day 249	<i>“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”</i>
*Nicene Creed	p. 104
*Prayers of Intercession	A: hear our prayer.

*Peace

Thanksgiving

*Offering Hymn 247

"Come Now, O Prince of Peace"

*Thanksgiving for the Word (see page 6)

*Lord's Prayer (*Our Father in heaven...*)

p. 112

Sending

General Announcements

*Blessing

*Hymn 264

"Prepare the Royal Highway"

*Dismissal

A: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

"Venez Divin Messie"

R. Germain

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John emerges from the wilderness, clothed like Elijah, eating locusts and wild honey, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near". At first glance, John's "yes" to God can be hard to discern. He is not exactly a gentle figure. His "yes", therefore, does not sound like agreement or affirmation. Instead, it takes the form of bracing truth-telling, of clearing away the obstacles. John demonstrates a rather relentless "yes" to God.

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.

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be ...
Long-expected God,

**A: we confess that we look to ourselves
for the peace and security only you can provide.
We reach for swords and spears,
reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war.
We become impatient while waiting
and weary of keeping awake.
Free us from self-reliance,
and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbours.
Increase our trust in God's timing,
and awaken us to your advent among us,
that we may abound in the hope you have promised.
Amen.**

Leading Worship Today

Minister: Pastor Carey Meadows-Helmer

Diaconal Minister of Music: Deacon Scott Knarr

Lector: Kim Schaner

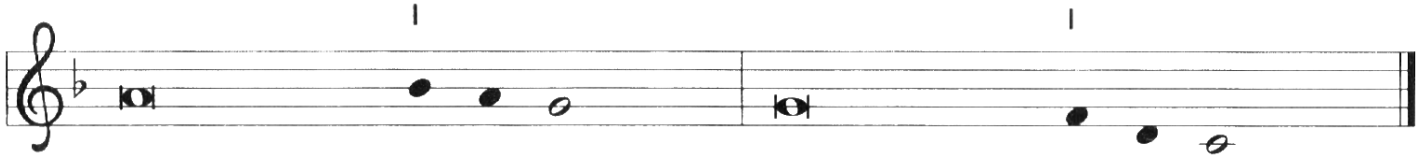
Choral Scholars: Hannah Swiderski and Drew Aarssen

Broadcast: Jason Smolak

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

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

Tone 2



¹Give the king your jus- | tice, O God,
and your righteousness to | the king's son;

²that he may rule your | people righteously
and the | poor with justice;

³that the mountains may bring prosperity | to the people,
and the | hills, in righteousness.

⁴Let him defend the needy a- | mong the people,
rescue the poor, and crush | the oppressor.

⁵May he live as long as the sun and | moon endure,
from one generation | to another.

⁶Let him come down like rain upon | the mown field,
like showers that wa- | ter the earth.

⁷In his time may the | righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall | be no more.

¹⁸Blessed are you, LORD God, the | God of Israel;
you alone do | wondrous deeds!

¹⁹And blessed be your glorious | name forever,
and may all the earth be filled with your glory. A- | men. Amen.

Thanksgiving for the Word

L: Holy God,

the Beginning and the Ending, our Hope as we wait,

we praise you for joining us to your people of old.

We bless you for your prophets who call us to righteousness

and promise a new earth with peace for all.

For the Word of your covenant, we thank you, O God.

A: We thank you, O God.

L: We praise you for the coming of Jesus our Lord,

who lifts up the lowly, heals the suffering world,

and proclaims your way of mercy and truth.

For your Word who is Christ, we magnify you, O God.

A: We magnify you, O God.

L: Send your Spirit on all who receive your Word.

Nurture our faith with your grace,

accompany us with your might,

and empower our zeal for your justice and joy.

For your Word through the church, we praise you, O God.

A: We praise you, O God.

All praise to you, holy God,

today, tomorrow, and forever.

Amen.

Worship Notes

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

Benedictus

*Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini,
Deus Dominus et illuxit nobis.
Deus meus es tu et confitebor tibi.
Deus meus et exaltabo te.*

Blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord.
The Lord is God, and has given us light.
You are my God, and I will give thanks to you:
You are my God, I will praise you.

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.
- **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

Annual Budget Meeting following the service this morning. Printed budgets as well as large-print versions will be available in the Narthex. All voting members are encouraged to attend this important meeting to discuss the 2026 budget and a motion regarding the Property Sale Tithe.

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

A special word of thanks to all who made last Sunday's Advent Carol Service a memorable evening. We are grateful to the singers, violinists, ushers, readers, sound operator and building monitor, bakers, decorators, and those who prepared, served, and cleaned up the lovely reception which took place after the service. All of your contributions to make the event meaningful for our community and those who chose to come and worship with us magnified our hospitality and welcome. Kudos!

Coffee Hour: There is no Coffee Hour this Sunday, see you next week!

Contact Information

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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)

ST . MATTHEWS



PRAYER CIRCLE



IS THE JOURNEY CHALLENGING?
WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE CONNECTED
TO GOD AND THE COMMUNITY OF
FAITH THROUGH PRAYER?
ST. MATTHEWS PRAYER CIRCLE CAN
PRAY FOR YOU.
REACH OUT TO THE PASTORS OR
HENRY FISCHER WITH YOUR
REQUEST.

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





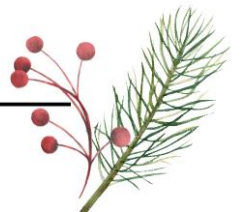
Christmas Worship at St. Matthews

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

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