

**EPIPHANY**  
CHRIST OUR LIGHT

**St. Matthews Church**

WHERE COMMUNITY GATHERS AND GROWS

January 18, 2026

# Epiphany 2

## Sunday, January 18, 2026

(\* indicates the assembly stands)

### Gathering

Prelude	<i>"Rise, O Sun of Righteousness"</i>	P. Eben
Words of Welcome & Service Announcements		
*Hymn 818		<i>"O Master, Let Me Walk With You"</i>
*Greeting		
*Prayer of the Day		

Solo	<i>"Andantino Cantabile"</i>	D. Kabalevsky
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### Word

First Reading		Isaiah 49:1-7
Anthem	<i>"Come, Beloved of the Maker"</i>	D. Cherwien
Second Reading		1 Corinthians 1:1-9
*Gospel Acclamation	<i>"Alleluia. Lord, to Whom Shall We Go?"</i>	p. 188
*Gospel Reading		John 1:29-42

### Sermon

*Hymn of the Day 696		<i>"Jesus Calls Us; o'er the Tumult"</i>
*Prayers of Intercession		<b>A: receive our prayer.</b>
*Peace		

### Thanksgiving

*Hymn of Thanksgiving 307		<i>"Light Shone in Darkness"</i>
*Thanksgiving for the Word		
*Lord's Prayer (Our Father, who art in heaven...)		p. 221

## Sending

### General Announcements

\*Blessing

\*Sending Hymn 665

"Rise, Shine, You People!"

\*Dismissal

**A: Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

"Rondo-Toccata"

D. Kabalevsky

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**Today's gospel opens with further reflection on Jesus' baptism.** He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world and the one anointed by the Spirit. In the liturgy we come and see Christ revealed among us in word and meal. We go forth to invite others to come and worship the Holy One and to receive the gifts of grace and peace made known among us.

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## Leading Worship Today

**Minister and violinist:** Rev. Sebastian Meadows-Helmer

**Diaconal Minister of Music:** Deacon Scott Knarr

**Choral Scholars:** Nicole Hamilton, Hannah Swiderski, Dylan Siebert, Drew Aarssen

**Lector:** Kim Schaner

**Broadcast:** Jamie Foley

**Building Monitor:** Steve Dickin (519-580-8407)

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## Worship Notes

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

**Worship Note:** Several of this morning's musical works are grounded in 20th century compositional techniques which are rarely heard at St. Matthews. Well respected Czech organist and composer Petr Eben wrote the set of preludes based on Bohemian chorale melodies at the request of the Barenreiter publishing house. The tune "Sonne der Gerechtigkeit" appears twice in Evangelical Lutheran Worship and I have chosen the text at hymn #657 as our title this morning. The violin solo is taken from Concerto in C, Op. 48 by Dimitri Kabalevsky and the postlude is from the piano syllabus of the Royal Conservatory of Music, adapted to the organ. These works offer surprising juxtapositions and harmonies that may be odd in our ears. We lift them to God in respect for the diversity of God's musical landscape.

### 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.
- **Please join us for Fellowship Time** in the Community Hall after the meeting. 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.

**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.

## General Announcements

**Special Congregational Meeting Today!** Following worship this morning, we will have a congregational meeting to vote on a motion regarding the sale of the 14 Church Street property. All voting members are encouraged to attend!

**Christian Unity Gathering:** An informal time of sharing, worship, and fellowship. On Wednesday, January 21st, from 7-8 pm, come meet some of the many congregations that share space here: Anugrah Nepali Church, Bethel Christian Fellowship, Christ Lifter International Church and UNA Church. It is an incredible gift that we are all worshipping God in different ways and in different spaces throughout the week, and this is an opportunity to connect and mutually encourage ourselves in our mission in downtown Kitchener. We'll meet in the Community Hall. If you're planning on attending and can help with hospitality, please let Pastor Sebastian know.

### Upcoming Events at St. Matthews

**Sunday, January 18:** Special Congregational Meeting

**Wednesday, January 21:** Christian Unity Gathering at 7 pm

**Saturday, January 31:** Spirituality & Healthy Ageing at 10 am

**Sunday, February 8:** 122nd anniversary with guest preacher Rev. Katherine Gohm (Altenburg)

### Contact Information

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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  
[www.stmatthewscentre.ca](http://www.stmatthewscentre.ca).

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



Feather & Cross invites you to join facilitators Fiona and Lana on a scenario-based journey exploring the causes and impacts of the overincarceration of Indigenous women.



**SATURDAY JANUARY 24, 2026**

**9:30AM TO 11:30AM**



St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 317 Franklin St. N, Kitchener, ON



Sign-up via Eventbrite or  
by email to [admin@featherandcross.org](mailto:admin@featherandcross.org)

Limited Spaces

Free event open to  
youth and adults.



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.



# **St. Matthews Lutheran Church**

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