



LENT 2026

UNBOUND

Longing for Wholeness

MARCH 15, 2026

Lent 4 / “Longing for Community”

Sunday, March 15, 2026

(* indicates the assembly stands)

Gathering

Prelude	<i>“Prelude in G”</i>	W. Harris
Words of Welcome & Service Announcements		
*Confession and Forgiveness (see page 4)		
*Hymn 779		<i>“Amazing Grace”</i>
*Greeting		
*Kyrie		p. 184
*Prayer of the Day		
Anthem	<i>“In All Our Grief and Fear We Turn to You”</i>	arr. Keesecker

Word

First Reading		1 Samuel 16:1-13
Lenten Theme Song (see page 5)		<i>“We Belong to Each Other”</i>
Second Reading		Ephesians 5:8-14
*Gospel Acclamation	<i>“Let your steadfast love”</i>	p. 189
*Gospel Reading		John 9:1-41
Sermon		
*Hymn of the Day (see page 6)		<i>“God, We Gather as Your People”</i>

Healing

Introduction		
Prayers of Intercession		A: hear us, O God.
Laying on of Hands		
Hymns during Laying on of Hands 221, 617		

*Blessing

*Peace

Thanksgiving

*Offering Hymn 186

“Create in Me a Clean Heart”

*Thanksgiving for the Word

*Lord’s Prayer (*Our Father, who art in heaven...*)

p. 221

Sending

General Announcements

*Blessing

*Hymn 793

“Be Thou My Vision”

*Dismissal

A: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

“Solemn Postlude”

E. Thiman

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The man born blind enters the story marked not only by his lack of sight but by the assumptions others have made about him. His neighbors, his religious leaders, even Jesus’ own disciples try to explain his life through the lens of sin, blame, and divine punishment. He is isolated long before he is healed.

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: Let us confess our sins to God and one another.

**A: We confess to you, most loving God,
the sins that both bind and scatter us.**

We have knowingly believed dishonest words.

We have questioned your gracious power again and again.

We have given into temptation.

We have acted out of fear, placing blame on others yet holding ourselves apart.

In our disbelief and confusion we have hurt our neighbors and ourselves.

Gather us back to you.

Forgive us, free us, and make us whole

for the sake of your son Jesus Christ. Amen.

P: Friends, beloved of God,

Jesus came not to condemn the world but that all might be saved through him.

In the name of + Christ your sins are forgiven.

May God unbind your guilt and shame,

lead you by the Spirit,

and bring you to wholeness in abundant life.

A: Amen.

Leading Worship Today

Minister: Rev. Sebastian Meadows-Helmer

Diaconal Minister of Music: Deacon Scott Knarr

Lector: Rev. Dr. Allen Jorgenson

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

Broadcast: Jason Smolak

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

We Belong to Each Other

Refrain



We be - long, we be - long, we be - long to each - oth - er.



I am strong, you are strong; we are strong - er to - geth - er.

Verses



Each of us has gifts to share, there is plen - ty to
If we hold our gifts too tight, some - one else will be
Near or far, I'm on your side; we are part of God's



go a - round. When we're lone - ly, lost, and scared,
left be - hind. Give, for - give, and shine your light;
fam - il - y. I am yours and you are mine,



God makes sure we are found. *to Refrain*
take the time to be kind.
tied to - geth - er yet free.

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God, We Gather As Your People



1 God, we gath - er as your peo - ple to raise our song a -
2 Oh, we sing for all the chil - dren, that one day they be
3 Oh, we pray for all the young lives cut short by fear and
4 God, we're work - ing for the fu - ture when chil - dren far and



bove, and we dare to claim the prom - ise of your love.
free; and we sing for gen - er - a - tions yet to be,
shame, so a - fraid of who they are and whom they love.
wide can . . . live their lives with dig - ni - ty and pride.



Though the day may not yet be here, we
that they nev - er have a rea - son to
May the mes - sage now be ban - ished that your
As they grow in strength and stat - ure, may they



trust it soon will be, when your chil - dren will be free.
doubt that they are blest. May they, in your love, find rest.
love is for the few; may their faith in you re - new.
join us hand in hand, as a - gainst all hate we stand.

Refrain



Oh, may our hearts and minds be o - pened, fling the church doors o - pen



wide. May there be room e - nough for ev - 'ry - one in - side.



For in God there is a wel - come, in God we all be -



long. May that wel - come be our song.

Text: David Lohman, b. 1961
Music: WELCOME BE OUR SONG, David Lohman
Text and music © 2007 Welcome Song Music, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Worship Notes

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

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** 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

Coffee Hour: There is no Coffee Hour this Sunday. See you next week!

The pastors are taking a holiday week during March Break with their children. They will be away from March 16-22. Rev. Monika Wiesner will lead worship. Rev. Heike Toeller is the emergency on-call during this time. (Office: 519.893.3826 / Cell: 519.212.9952)

Church Breakfast Group - We meet next on Tuesday, March 17 at 9:00 a.m. at Kypreos Restaurant, 305 Lancaster St. W. Kitchener. Attendees order from the menu and pay for their own meals. Everyone is welcome. Jennifer Leat will speak to us about the Pollinator Roadsides Project and native plants. The goal of Waterloo Region Nature is to promote the planting of roadsides with pollinator-friendly plants to beautify them and recreate habitat for native pollinators and other wildlife in our region. Come and learn more about why this is so important for the environment.

Help Us Make Easter Sunday Coffee Hour Special.

Learning and Sharing & Caring are planning a special coffee hour on Easter Sunday.

We would love to have your help.

Please bring special treats (coloured eggs, baking, hot cross buns, etc.) before Church on Easter and drop them off in the Community Hall.

Also, we will need helpers to set up, serve, and clean up.

There will be a sign-up sheet (for helpers) in the Community Hall, or you can email Bev at roeder@netflash.net. Thank you!



Upcoming Events at St. Matthews

Sunday, March 22: Rev. Moniker Wiesner Presides

Wednesday, March 25: St. Matthews Presents: Organ Recital (noon) and Soup (12:30).

Wednesday, March 25: Lenten Midweek service at St. Peter's at 7 pm

Sunday, March 29: Palm Sunday w. Craft for Children

Thursday, April 2: Maundy Thursday, 7 pm

Friday, April 3: Good Friday, 9:30 am

Sunday, April 5: Easter Sunday w. Craft for Children



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ST. MATTHEWS

presents



Organ Recitals and Soup

begins on

Wednesday, February 25, 2026 at 12 noon

Music at 12; Soup at 12:30pm

recitals every other Wednesday

Freewill Offering

February 25

Sebastian Meadows-Helmer, baroque violin

Pauline Finch, baroque flute

Scott Knarr, harpsichord & organ

March 11

Corey Linforth, vocalist

Peter Nikiforuk, organ & piano

March 25

Bruce Gremo, flute

Corinne Dutton, organ

April 8

Sherry Coman, spoken word

Scott Knarr, organ

April 22

Sebastian Meadows-Helmer, Lana Moses, violins

Scott Knarr, organ

Contact Information

Office: 519-742-0462 stmattskw.com

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Rev. Sebastian Meadows-Helmer	Ext. 2	pastorsebastian@stmattskw.com
Deacon Scott Knarr	Ext. 4	deaconscoott@stmattskw.com
Leanne Vanderhout	Ext. 6	lvanderhout@stmattskw.com

2026 MID-WEEK LENTEN WORSHIP

WEDNESDAY NIGHT



St. Peter's Lutheran

Worship 7:00 pm

Compline

Presider: Rev. M. Ehlebracht

MAR
25

ST. PETER'S CHURCH, 49 QUEEN ST N. KITCHENER



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN
CHURCH, BRIDGEPORT



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.

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

Holy Week 2026

PALM SUNDAY

March 29 at 9:30 am

MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 2 at 7:00 pm

GOOD FRIDAY

April 3 at 9:30 am

EASTER SUNDAY

April 5 at 9:30 am

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