



**LENT 2026**

**UNBOUND**  
*Longing for Wholeness*

**MARCH 22, 2026**

# Lent 5 / “Longing for Authenticity”

Sunday, March 22, 2026

(\* indicates the assembly stands)

## Gathering

Prelude	<i>“Voluntary in D minor”</i>	J. Alcock
Words of Welcome & Service Announcements		
*Confession and Forgiveness (see page 4)		
*Hymn 328		<i>“Restore in Us, O God”</i>
*Greeting		
*Kyrie		p. 184
*Prayer of the Day		
Anthem	<i>“Thou Wilt Keep Him in Perfect Peace”</i>	S.S. Wesley

## Word

First Reading		Ezekiel 37:1-14
Lenten Theme Song (see page 5)		<i>“We Belong to Each Other”</i>
Second Reading		Romans 8:6-11
*Gospel Acclamation	<i>“Let your steadfast love”</i>	p. 189
*Gospel Reading		John 11:1-45
Sermon		
*Hymn of the Day 750		<i>“Lord, Thee Love with All My Heart”</i>
Prayers of Intercession		<b>A: hear us, O God.</b>

## Meal

*Offering Hymn 188		<i>“Create in me a Clean Heart”</i>
*Offering Prayer		
*Great Thanksgiving		

*Holy, Holy, Holy		p. 190
*Lord's Prayer ( <i>Our Father, who art in heaven...</i> )		p. 191
Lamb of God		p. 191
Communion Hymn 773	<i>"Precious Lord, Take My Hand"</i>	
*Table Blessing		
*Prayer after Communion		
<b>Sending</b>		
General Announcements		
*Blessing		
*Hymn 666	<i>"What Wondrous Love Is This"</i>	
*Dismissal	<b>A: Thanks be to God.</b>	
Postlude	<i>"Cornet Voluntary in D minor"</i>	J. Stanley

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**Before Lazarus ever steps out of the tomb**, this story is already pulsing with raw, unfiltered honesty. Mary and Martha do not hide their disappointment; they don't protect Jesus from their grief. "Lord, if you had been here..." is not a polite lament—it is the sound of hearts breaking open.

## 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 neighbours 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**

# 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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## Leading Worship Today

**Minister:** Rev. Monika Wiesner

**Assisting Minister:** Scott Kuschnereit

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

**Communion Server:** Pat Gilck

**Choral Scholars:** Nicole Hamilton, Hannah Swiderski, Linsday Scott, Nathalie Nasr, Dylan Siebert, Drew Aarssen

**Broadcast:** Jamie Foley

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

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## Worship Notes

**In our prayers,** Marjorie, Kevin, Betty, Anneke, Judy, 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.

## 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

**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)

### 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](mailto:roeder@netflash.net). Thank you!



Join us on **Maundy Thursday** for soup and bread being served in the Community Hall @ 5:30 prior to the service.

### Upcoming Events at St. Matthews

**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 Soup Supper, 5:30 pm in Community Hall

**Thursday, April 2:** Maundy Thursday, 7 pm

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

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

**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.

### Contact Information

Office: 519-742-0462      stmattskw.com

Rev. Carey Meadows-Helmer	Ext. 3	pastorcarey@stmattskw.com
Rev. Sebastian Meadows-Helmer	Ext. 2	pastorsebastian@stmattskw.com
Deacon Scott Knarr	Ext. 4	deaconscott@stmattskw.com
Leanne Vanderhout	Ext. 6	lvanderhout@stmattskw.com



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

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





**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

# 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

## **UNBOUND**

*Longing for Wholeness*



# St. Matthews Lutheran Church

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