

BE NOT AFRAID

FINDING HOPE

NOVEMBER 29, 2026

Advent 1

Sunday, November 29, 2026

(indicates the assembly stands)*

Gathering

Prelude *"He Shall Feed His Flock"* G. F. Handel

Words of Welcome & Service Announcements

*Hymn 257 v. 1-4 *"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"*

*Litany for Lighting of Advent Candles (see page 4)

*Hymn 247 v. 1 *"Come Now, O Prince of Peace"*

*Greeting

*Prayer of the Day

Children's Message

Solo *"Idylle"* D. Bédard

Word

First Reading Isaiah 64:1-9

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 (see page 5) *(sung responsively by full verse)*

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

*Gospel Acclamation p. 102

*Gospel Reading Luke 1: 5-25

Sermon

*Hymn of the Day (see page 6) *"Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning"*

*Prayers of Intercession **A: receive our prayer.**

*Peace

Meal

*Offering Hymn (see page 7) *"Don't Be Afr*

*Offering Prayer

*Great Thanksgiving p. 107

*Holy, Holy, Holy p. 108

*Thanksgiving at the Table

*Lord's Prayer p. 112

Lamb of God p. 112

Communion Hymns 242, 466

*Table Blessing

*Prayer after Communion

Sending

Sharing Marillac Place

General Announcements

*Blessing

*Hymn 244 *"Rejoice, Rejoice Believers!"*

*Dismissal **A: Thanks be to God.**

Postlude *"Allegro Moderato"* C.S. Lang

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Across the stories of Advent and Christmas, angels show up and say "Do not be afraid"—not because there's nothing to fear, but because in fact, the opposite is true: there is much to be afraid of. But fear never gets the final word. In this season, we learn that courage is not the absence of fear, it is being afraid and doing the scary thing anyway. Through stories of ordinary people finding their courage and doing scary things, we discover the good news that was there all along.

Lighting of Advent Candles

L: In the temple, an old priest was told, “Do not be afraid”— and still, he did not believe.

A: We light this candle for everyone who has ever doubted a promise too good to be true.

L: His silence was not the end of the story. Something was still growing.

A: We light this candle for the waiting that feels like nothing, but hides something more.
(light candle)

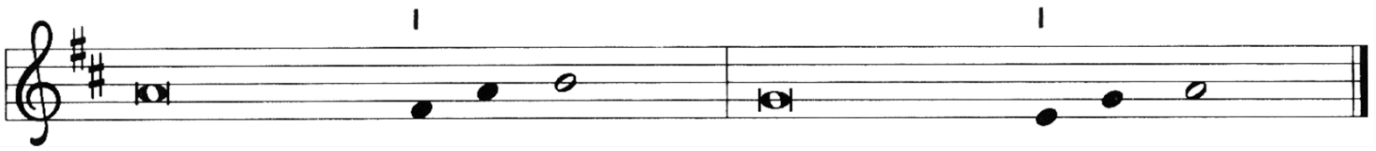
L: Fear did not get the final word for Zechariah. It will not get the final word for us.

A: Come, Lord Jesus. We are waiting—afraid, and yet, hoping.



Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Tone 1



[1]Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph | like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned up- | on the cherubim.

[2]In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, | and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and | come to help us.

[3]Restore | us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.

[4]O LORD | God of hosts,
how long will your anger fume when your | people pray?

[5]You have fed them with the | bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of | tears to drink.

[6]You have made us the derision | of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh | us to scorn.

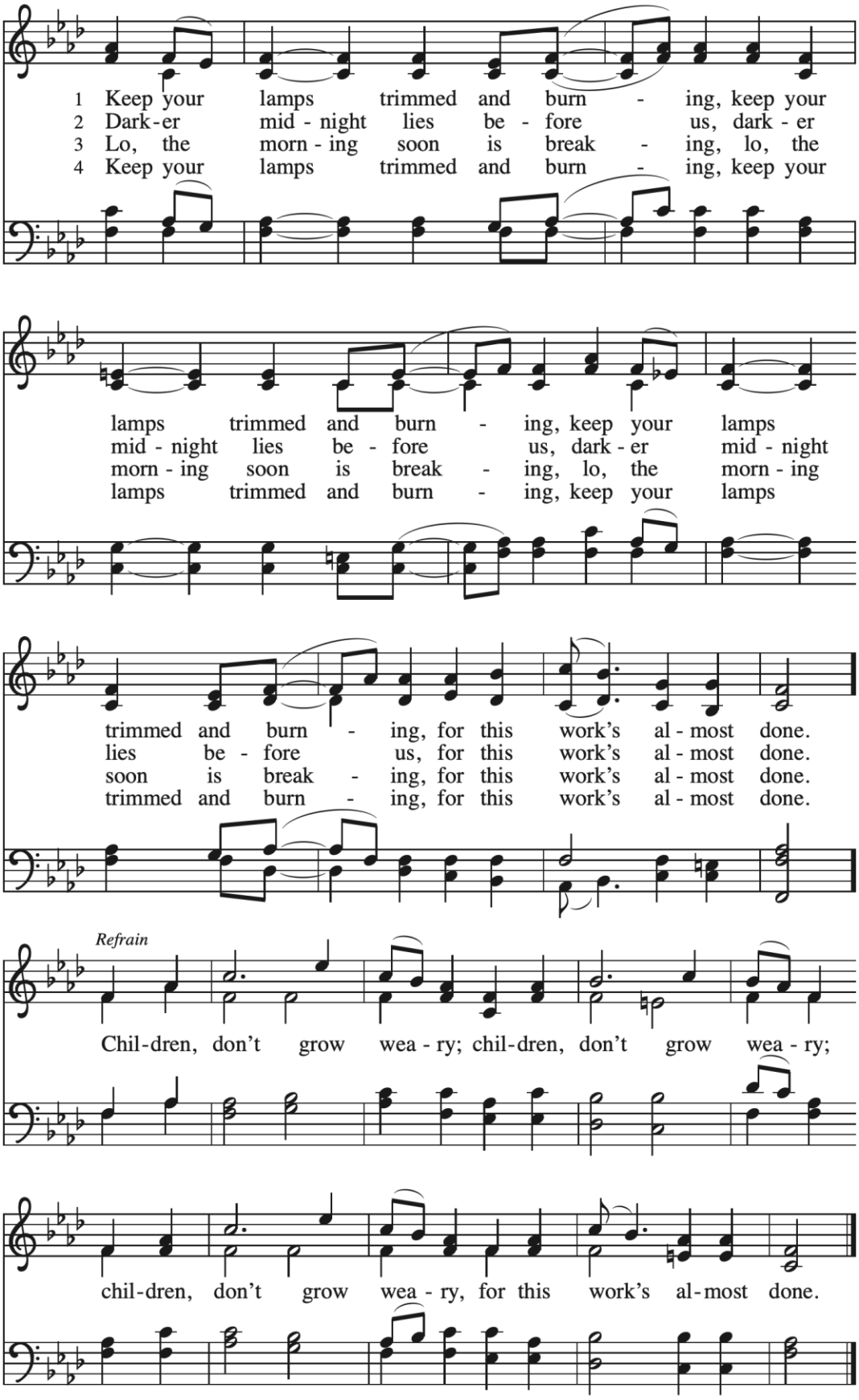
[7]Restore us, O | God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.

[17]Let your hand be upon the one at | your right hand,
the one you have made so strong | for yourself.

[18]And so will we never turn a- | way from you;
give us life, that we may call up- | on your name.

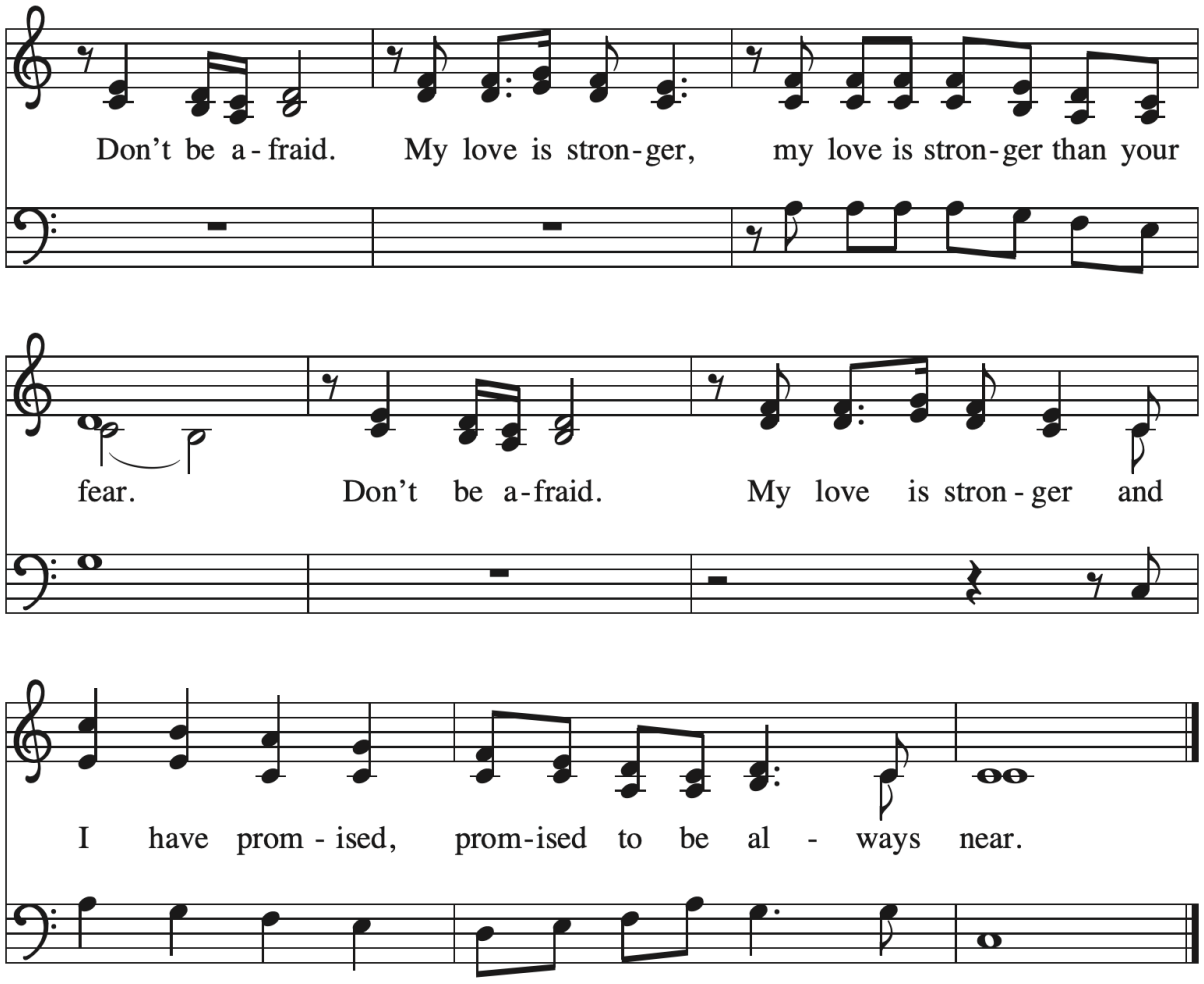
[19]Restore us, O LORD | God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.

Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning



Text: African American spiritual
Music: KEEP YOUR LAMPS, African American spiritual

Don’t Be Afraid



Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949, and Graham Maule, 1958–2019
Music: DON’T BE AFRAID, John L. Bell
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Leading Worship Today

Minister: Rev. Carey Meadows-Helmer

Diaconal Minister of Music: Deacon Scott Knarr

Communion Servers: Pat Giilck and Lynda Karn

Lector: Ivan George

Broadcast: Jamie Foley

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

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.

Worship Notes

In our prayers, Maureen, Joan and Terry, Jeanette, Anneke, Meaghan, Kevin, Gary and Judy.

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.

General Announcements

The 2027 Offering Envelope Boxes will be available for pick up starting Sunday November 29, 2026, outside the church office.

Upgraded Hearing Assist Receivers are now available for use in the Sanctuary. Four (4) new 2nd generation receivers will provide sound quality equal to or better than our original units. The controls are slightly different but equally easy to use. Please speak to a Broadcast Operator or Usher for assistance.

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

November 29: Children's Programming and Sharing During Worship from Marillac Place

November 29: Advent Carol Service at 7 pm

December 2: Advent Social

December 6: Children's Programming & Financial Town Hall

December 13: Children's Programming

December 18: Pageant / Dinner Evening 5-7 pm

December 24: German Christmas Eve Service at 5 pm

December 24: English Christmas Eve Service at 7:30 pm

December 25: Christmas Day Service at 9:30 am

December 31: New Year's Eve Service at 4:30 pm



Contact Information

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Facebook Instagram YouTube Donate

The St. Matthews Centre, our community hub, has a website which links all upcoming events.

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.

the ST. MATTHEWS CENTRE 54 BENTON

ST. MATTHEWS
presents

Advent Carol Service

To Thee All Angels Cry Aloud

featuring selections from

Handel's Dettingen Te Deum



Sunday, November 29, 2026 at 7 pm

Freewill Offering

ST. MATTHEWS CENTRE
54 BENTON
KITCHENER

St. Matthews Lutheran Church
54 Benton Street, Kitchener
stmattskw.com