



Church of the Nativity, Hamilton

First Sunday of Advent

28 November 2021

Called to Life — Compelled to Love



The parish of the Church of the Nativity is located on territory that has been stewarded and cared for several Indigenous peoples including the Neutrals, the Mississauga, the Anishnabe, and the Haudenosaunee. With them, we are members of the Dish with One Spoon wampum, and we will strive to live up to our responsibility as treaty members. As we respect the history, spirituality, and culture of the nations of this place, we also honour the heritage and gifts of Métis people.

May our actions be guided by our commitment to reconciliation.

All are welcome in the worship and fellowship of the Church of the Nativity.
May you find grace and hope in this service. All who seek Christ in their lives are welcome to share in the Eucharist.

COVID-19 Precautions

Our in-person services continue to be offered under the guidelines and directions from the Diocese of Niagara and Public Health as we strive to worship and protect the health of all who attend. To help us, we ask that those attending in-person keep their masks covering their mouth, nose, and chin throughout your time in the building; that they limit what surfaces they touch; and that they not leave your seats except as directed, and maintain two metres of physical distance between themselves and others when they do move.

Streaming

Our 10:00am services are streamed to YouTube. We try to minimize individuals' appearances on camera. The beginning of the streaming will be marked with by an announcement, and then the service will continue as follows.

Gathering

Prelude

Music is offered to provide a time for quiet prayer and preparation.

A bell is rung, and the service begins.

Welcome

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
be with you all.

And also with you.

The congregation is welcomed, and the service briefly explained.

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God,
who alone does wonders, who lifts up the lowly,
who fills the hungry with good things.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin,
trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God for whom we wait,
in the presence of one another,
we confess our sin before you.
We fail in believing that your good news is for us.
We falter in our call to tend your creation.
We find our sense of self in material wealth.
We fear those different from ourselves.
We forget that we are your children
and turn away from your love.
Forgive us, Blessed One,
and assure us again of your saving grace. Amen.

Almighty God have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in eternal life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Hymn #91 People, Look East! The Time is Near

People, look east! The time is near
of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the guest is on the way.

Furrows, be glad! Though earth is bare,
one more seed is planted there:
give up your strength the seed to nourish,
that in course the flower may flourish.
Love, the bird is on the way.

The Collect of the Day

Let us pray.

God of justice and peace,
from the heavens you rain down mercy and kindness.
Raise our heads in expectation,
so that we may yearn for the coming day of the Lord
and stand without blame before your Son, Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns for ever and ever.
Amen.

Holy Scripture

1st Reading

Jeremiah 33.14—16

The Psalm

Psalm 25.1—10 *Ad te, Domine, levavi*

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;
my God, I put my trust in you;
let me not be humiliated,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.

Let none who look to you be put to shame;
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.
Show me your ways, O Lord, and teach me your paths.

Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my
salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.
Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.

Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;
remember me according to your love and for the sake of your
goodness, O Lord.
Gracious and upright are you, O Lord;
therefore you teach sinners in your way.

You guide the humble in doing right
and teach your way to the lowly.
O Lord, all your paths are love and faithfulness
to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.

The Gospel

The acclamation is sung

**Prepare the way of the Lord,
prepare the way of the Lord,
and all people will see the salvation of our God.**

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Saint Luke.
Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Luke 21.25—36

The Gospel of Christ.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

**Prepare the way of the Lord,
prepare the way of the Lord,
and all people will see the salvation of our God.**

Homily

Affirmation of Faith

Do you believe and trust in God the Source of all being and life,
the one for whom we exist?

We believe and trust in God the Source of all being.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature,
died for us and rose again?

We believe and trust in God the Son.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God and
makes Christ known in the world?

We believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith.

**We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

The Prayers of the People

Response

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you!
And also with you.

Celebration of the Holy Eucharist

Hymn #88 Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Prayer over the Gifts

God of our waiting and watching,
we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives
to the service of all your people.
Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal,
through Christ Jesus,
our pathway and our peace.
Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

May God be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to
you,
almighty and merciful God,
through our Saviour Jesus Christ.

You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,
through whom you will also make all things new

in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup,
gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:
**Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup
we remember your Word dwelling among us,
full of grace and truth.
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.
We look with hope for his coming.
Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.
Come among us.
Bless this meal.
May your Word take flesh in us.
Awaken your people.
Fill us with your light.
Bring the gift of peace on earth.
Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel,
Word of God incarnate,
Power of the Most High,
one God, now and forever.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit,
let us pray as Jesus teaches us
in the language and version of our comfort:

Our Father

**in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin
against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the
power, and the glory are
yours, now and for ever.
Amen.**

**who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who
trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

We keep silent and pray for a short time.

The Breaking of the Bread

God of promise,
you prepare a banquet for us
in your reign of justice and peace.
Happy are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb.

Communion

Come all people: this is Christ's table to which all are invited.

Come, for all is ready.

Thanks be to God!

All who are unable to be physically present to receive the eucharist may wish to pray one of the following prayers of reception for spiritual communion.

I worship and adore you, Lord Jesus Christ, present in bread and wine, and present in your people, who are gathered in spirit. In this moment I join with them to receive you in my heart, and in our community. May you, enthroned on the altar, be now enthroned in my heart; may you, present in bread and wine, feed and renew my soul; may you, who gives yourself to us again, fill us with grace, and heavenly blessing. Even as I am fed, may my hunger for you and for your reign of justice and peace increase, that I may, with your Spirit, work for that day when your kingdom shall come on earth as it is heaven. Amen.

or

Come Lord Jesus and make in my heart your dwelling place and home. I seek to love you with all my heart, mind, soul and strength, and so, through your presence in bread and wine I receive you afresh and praise you for you are my God. As you fill me, so may my love for you and for all your people, rise and overflow, that with joy and thanksgiving I may serve you in the world you love. Amen.

or

Jesus, I believe that you are present with us in the sacrament of bread and wine. I love you and I desire your presence afresh in my life. Since I cannot now receive the bread and wine of the altar, come spiritually into my heart. I embrace you and unite myself to you; never let me be separated from you. Amen.

Prayer after Communion

Most High God,
you have come among us at this table.
By the Spirit's power,
form us to be bearers of your word,
sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all,
through Christ Jesus,
our host and our guest.
Amen.

Glory to God,
**whose power, working in us,
can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.**
Glory to God from generation to generation,
in the Church and in Christ Jesus,
for ever and ever. Amen.

Parish Announcements

Blessing

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit,
through Christ Jesus for whom we wait.
Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace; Christ is near!
Thanks be to God!

Postlude