



# Church of the Nativity, Hamilton

## Holy Eucharist

Simplified Service with COVID precautions

**Christmas Eve**

14 December 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 have been suspended due to the exponential growth of COVID-19 infections as the Omicron variant has proliferated. We will continue to live-stream services, following the stringent precautions and guidelines provided by the Diocese of Niagara and Public Health.

# Gathering

Prelude

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

*A bell is rung, and the service begins.*

Processional Carol

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem:  
come and behold him, born the King of angels.**

*Refrain:*

**O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

**God of God, Light of Light,  
lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
very God, begotten, not created: *Refrain***

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
glory to God, glory in the highest: *Refrain***

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.*

## Lighting of Advent Candles

Son of God, child of Mary,  
born in the stable at Bethlehem,  
**be born again in us this day**  
**that through our lives and worship**  
**the world may know the wonder of your love.**  
**Amen.**

## The Collect of the Day

Let us pray.

God of all ages, in the birth of Christ  
your boundless love for your people  
shattered the power of darkness.  
Be born in us with that same love and light,  
that our song may blend  
with all the choirs of heaven and earth  
to the glory of your holy name;  
through your Son, Jesus Christ,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
One God, for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**

## Holy Scripture

### 1<sup>st</sup> Reading

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
on them light has shined.  
You have multiplied the nation,  
you have increased its joy;

they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.  
For the yoke of their burden,  
and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.  
For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
and all the garments rolled in blood  
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.  
For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders;  
and he is named  
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
His authority shall grow continually,  
and there shall be endless peace  
for the throne of David and his kingdom.  
He will establish and uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time onwards and for evermore.  
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

*Isaiah 9.2—7*

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.  
**Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm

*Psalm 96          Cantate Domino*

O sing to the Lord a new song; •  
sing to the Lord, all the earth.  
**Sing, and give praise to God's name; •**  
**tell the glad news of salvation from day to day.**

Proclaim God's glory to the nations: •  
God's marvellous deeds to all the peoples.

**For you, O Lord, are great and highly to be praised, •  
more to be feared than all the gods.**

Glory and majesty attend you; •  
strength and beauty are in your sanctuary.

**Ascribe due honour to God's holy name: •  
bring offerings, and enter the courts of the Lord.**

Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; •  
let the whole earth stand in awe.

**Let the heavens rejoice, and the earth be glad; •  
let the sea roar, and all the creatures in it.**

**Let the fields be joyful and all that is in them.**

Then all the trees of the forest will shout with joy before the Lord. •

For you, O Lord, are coming to judge the earth:  
**with righteousness you will judge the world, •  
and the peoples with your truth.**

The Gospel

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

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

**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the

Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.’ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,  
‘Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favours!’

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.’ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

*Luke 2.1—20*

The Gospel of Christ.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Homily

Musical Interlude – Mr. Derek Smith

We proclaim the Church's faith in Jesus Christ.

**We believe and declare that our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Son of God, is both divine and human.**

God, of the being of the Father,  
the only Son from before time began;  
human from the being of his mother, born in the world;  
**fully God and fully human; human in both mind and body.**

As God he is equal to the Father,  
as human he is less than the Father.  
**Although he is both divine and human  
he is not two beings but one Christ.**

One, not by turning God into flesh,  
but by taking humanity into God;  
**truly one, not by mixing humanity with Godhead,  
but by being one person.**

For as mind and body form one human being  
so the one Christ is both divine and human.  
**The Word became flesh and lived among us;  
we have seen his glory,  
the glory of the only Son from the Father,  
full of grace and truth.**

The Prayers of the People

*Response*

Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**



## Confession and Absolution

In Christ, we are bold to name our sin and cry out for peace.

Holy God,  
**we confess our sin before you.**  
**We replace compassion with competition.**  
**We seek what is mighty while ignoring the meek.**  
**We are quick to anger but slow to forgive.**  
**We have not put on love in harmony with you.**  
**Wrap us in the grace of your powerful Word.**  
**Swaddle our hearts with your peace,**  
**that all we do, in word or deed,**  
**may reflect your love born among us.**  
**Amen.**

I bring you good news of great joy for all people:  
God has come among us  
in the child born of Mary, Christ the Lord.  
✠ In Christ your sins are forgiven  
and you are clothed in peace.  
**Amen.**

The Peace

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

## Celebration of the Holy Eucharist

### Prayer over the Gifts

Gracious God,  
your Word-made-flesh brings harmony to the earth.  
As we offer ourselves and these your gifts,  
prepare us to receive  
the grace and truth you offer at this table  
and renew in us the song of your salvation,  
in Jesus Christ our Saviour.  
**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.**

Worship and praise belong to you, Holy God,  
in every place and at all times.

You made us,  
all the people of the world,  
and everything that is.

You give us the daylight.  
Your Word lights up our minds.  
Jesus was born among us to be light in our darkness.  
Your Spirit lives in us  
so that we can look at the world with your eyes.

One day we will be with you in heaven,  
but already we laugh with the saints and angels,  
and sing their joyful song:



**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.**

Gracious God,  
you never forget us or turn away from us,  
even when we fail you.  
You sent your Son Jesus who gave his life for us.  
Jesus healed those who were sick,  
cared for those who lived in poverty,  
and cried with those who were sad.  
He forgave sinners and taught us to forgive.  
For all your love we give you thanks  
in the way that Jesus showed us.

On the night before Jesus died,  
while having supper with his friends,  
he took bread and offered you thanks.  
He broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying:  
“Take, eat. This is my Body: it is broken for you.”

After supper, Jesus took the cup, offered you thanks,  
and gave it to them saying:  
“Drink this, all of you.  
This is my Blood of the new covenant;  
it is poured out for you, and for all,  
that sins may be forgiven.  
Do this in remembrance of me.”

So, as we do what he told us, we open our hearts to him;  
**we remember how he died and rose again  
to live now in us.**

Together with him we offer you these gifts:  
**in them we give you ourselves.**

Send your Holy Spirit on us and on this bread and this wine, that they may be the  
Body and Blood of Christ,  
and that, sharing your life,  
we may travel in your company to our journey's end.

With all your people we give you thanks and praise  
through the Son and in the Spirit,  
now and for ever.



**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

We break the bread of life,  
and that life is the light of the world.

**God here among us,  
light in the midst of us,  
bring us to light and life.**

## Communion

Holy things for holy people:  
the gifts of God for the people of God.

**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.

Communion Carol

**Once in royal David's city  
stood a lowly cattle shed,  
where a mother laid her baby  
in a manger for his bed:  
Mary was that mother mild,  
Jesus Christ, her little child.**

**He came down to earth from heaven  
who is God and Lord of all,  
and his shelter was a stable,  
and his cradle was a stall;  
with the poor and mean and lowly,  
lived on earth our Savior holy.**

**Not in that poor, lowly stable  
with the oxen standing by  
we shall see him, but in heaven,  
set at God's right hand on high.  
Then like stars his children crowned,  
all in white, his praise will sound.**

## Prayer after Communion

We thank you, wondrous God,  
for Jesus, God with us,  
in these gifts of bread and wine.  
As we have shared this feast of love,  
strengthen us to share your love  
with all the world.  
In Jesus' name we pray.

**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.**

## Blessing

Grace from God's own heart,  
✠ peace from the Child in the manger,  
and strength from the Spirit of life  
be blessings for you today and for ever.  
**Amen.**

## Dismissal

Glory to God in the highest!  
**Peace to God's people on earth!**  
Alleluia! Go in peace; share the gift of Jesus!  
**Thanks be to God! Alleluia!**

**Silent night, holy night!  
All is calm, all is bright  
round yon virgin mother and child.  
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace.  
Sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight.  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia!  
Christ our Saviour is born!  
Christ our Saviour is born!**

**Silent night, holy night!  
Son of God, love's pure light  
radiant beams from thy holy face  
with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**





# The Church of the Nativity

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