



Church of the Nativity, Hamilton

Sunday Prayers

3rd Sunday after Epiphany
23 January 2022



Called to Life — Compelled to Love



Welcome & Territorial Acknowledgement

The Prelude

The Gathering

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.

Venite

May Christ the daystar dawn in our hearts
and triumph over the shades of night.

**May Christ the daystar dawn in our hearts
and triumph over the shades of night.**

O come, let us sing to the Lord; •
Let us shout with joy to the rock of our salvation.

**May Christ the daystar dawn in our hearts
and triumph over the shades of night.**

Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving •
and sing to the Lord with psalms of triumph.
For you, Lord, are a great God • and a great king above all gods.

**May Christ the daystar dawn in our hearts
and triumph over the shades of night.**

O come let us bow down and worship; •
let us kneel before the Lord our maker.
For the Lord is our God; •
we are the Lord's people, the flock that God shepherds.

**May Christ the daystar dawn in our hearts
and triumph over the shades of night.**

**Glory to God, Source of all being, Eternal Word and Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever.**

Amen.

**May Christ the daystar dawn in our hearts
and triumph over the shades of night.**

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God,
who creates us, redeems us, and calls us by name.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another.

Merciful God,

**we confess that we have sinned against you
and your beloved children.**

**We have turned our faces away from your glory
when it did not appear as we expected.**

**We have rejected your word
when it made us confront ourselves.**

**We have failed to show hospitality
to those you called us to welcome.**

**Accept our repentance for the things we have done
and the things we have left undone.**

For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.

**Forgive us and lead us, that we may bathe
in the glory of your Son born among us,
and reflect your love for all creation.**

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.

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us;
let us pray with one heart and mind.

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,
so may the light of your presence, O God,
set our hearts on fire with love for you;
now and for ever.

Amen.

The Psalm

The heavens proclaim the glory of God, •
and the vault of the sky reveals God's handiwork.

**One day speaks to another, •
and night shares its knowledge with night,**

and this without speech or language; •
their voices are not heard.

**But their sound goes out into all lands; •
their words to the ends of the earth.**

In them God has pitched a tent for the sun, •
which comes out like a bridegroom, like an athlete eager to run a race.

**Its rising is at one end of the sky; it runs its course to the other, •
and there is nothing that is hidden from its heat.**

The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul; •
the instruction of the Lord is sure, and gives wisdom to the simple.

**The precepts of the Lord are right, and rejoice the heart; •
the commandment of the Lord is pure and gives light to the eyes.**

The fear of the Lord is clean, and endures for ever; •
the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous every one.

**They are more to be desired than gold, even much fine gold, •
sweeter also than honey, pure honey from the comb.**

By them is your servant taught, •
and for keeping them there is great reward.

**Who can discern unwitting sins? •
O cleanse me from my secret faults.**

Keep your servant also from presumptuous sins,
lest they get the better of me; •
then shall I be clean, and innocent of great offence.

**Let the words of my mouth and the thoughts of my heart
be acceptable in your sight, •
O Lord my strength and my redeemer.**

**Glory to God,
Source of all being, Eternal Word and Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

The First Reading

A reading from the book of Nehemiah.

All the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding.

This was on the first day of the seventh month. He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law.

And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, 'Amen, Amen', lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshipped the Lord with their faces to the ground. So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, 'This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep.' For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, 'Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.'

Nehemiah 8.1—3, 5—6, 8—10

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel

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.

Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.’

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, ‘Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.’

Luke 4.14—21

The gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The Reflection

Hymn of the Day

All Beautiful the March of Days

**All beautiful the march of days, as seasons come and go;
the hand that shaped the rose has wrought the crystal of the snow,
hath sent the hoary frost of heaven, the flowing waters sealed,
and laid a silent loveliness on hill and wood and field.**

**O'er white expanses, sparkling pure, the radiant morns unfold;
the solemn splendours of the night burn brighter through the cold;
life mounts in every throbbing vein, love deepens round the hearth,
and clearer sounds the angel hymn, "Good will and peace on earth."**

**O thou, from whose unfathomed law the year in beauty flows,
thyself the vision passing by in crystal and in rose;
day unto day doth utter speech, and night to night proclaim
in ever changing words of light the wonder of thy name.**

The Prayers of the People

The Spirit of the Lord is poured out upon us in abundance; so we are bold to pray for the church, the world, and all that God has made.

Versicle and Response:

V God of grace,
R hear our prayer.

Since we have such great hope in your promises, O God, we lift these and all of our prayers to you in confidence and faith; through Jesus Christ our Saviour.
Amen.

Let us gather our prayers and praise into one,
and 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.**

**Our Father,
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.**

The Collect

In you, O Lord our God,
we find our joy,
for through your law and your prophets
you formed a people in mercy and freedom,
in justice and righteousness.
Pour your Spirit on us today,
that we who are Christ's body
may bear the good news of your ancient promises
to all who seek you;
through the same Jesus the Christ,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

The Blessing

... and the blessing of God ...
always.

Amen.

The Dismissal

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

The Postlude



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Wardens

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