



Church of the Nativity, Hamilton

Holy Eucharist

2nd Sunday in Lent

13 March 2022



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 Anishnaabe, 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.

Silent Procession

In the name of God,
who makes a way in the wilderness, walks with us, and guides us in our pilgrimage.
Amen.

Almighty God,
all hearts are open to you. No secrets are hidden from you.
Purify us with the fire of your Holy Spirit
that we may love and worship you faithfully,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Confession and Absolution¹

Let us admit to God the sin which always confronts us.

Holy One,
we confess that we have wandered far from you:
we have not trusted your promises,
we have ignored your prophets in our own day,
we have squandered our inheritance of grace,
we have failed to recognize you in our midst.
Have mercy on us!
Forgive us and turn us again to you.
Teach us to follow in your ways,
assure us again of your love,
and help us to love our neighbour. Amen.

Almighty God have mercy on you,
forgive you and set you free from sin,
and keep you in eternal life.
Amen.

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 Collect²

Let us pray.

Hope beyond all human hope,
you promised descendants as numerous as the stars
to old Abraham and barren Sarah.

You promise light and salvation in the midst of darkness and despair,
and promise redemption to a world that will not listen.

Gather us to yourself in tenderness,
open our ears to listen to your word,
and teach us to live faithfully

as people confident of the fulfillment of your promises.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Holy Scripture

1st Reading

[Genesis 15.1—12, 17—18](#)

*Psalm 27**Dominus illuminatio*

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear? •
The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom then shall I be afraid?

**When the wicked close in on me to devour me, •
it is they, my enemies and my foes who stumble and fall.**

If an army should encamp against me, •
my heart shall not be afraid.

**If war should arise against me, •
even then I will not be dismayed.**

One thing I have asked of the Lord, which I long for: •
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,
**to gaze on your beauty, O Lord, •
and to seek you in your temple.**

For in the time of trouble you will give me shelter; •
you will hide me under the cover of your tent,
and set me high upon a rock.

**And now you have raised my head, •
above my enemies round about me.**

Therefore I will offer in your dwelling a sacrifice with great gladness; •
I will sing and give praise to you, O Lord.

**Hear my voice, O Lord, when I call; •
have mercy on me and answer me.**

Of you my heart has said, “Seek God’s face”; •
your face, Lord, I will seek.

**Do not hide your face from me, •
or reject your servant in anger.**

You have been my helper; do not cast me off, •
or forsake me, O God my saviour.

**Though my father and my mother forsake me, •
the Lord will take me up.**

Teach me your way, O Lord, •
and lead me by a level path, safe from those who lie in wait for me.

**Do not give me up to the will of my enemies: •
for liars, and those who breathe out malice,
have risen up to witness against me.**

I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord •
in the land of the living.

**Wait for the Lord; be strong and let your heart take courage: •
yes, wait I say for the Lord.**

The Gospel

The acclamation is sung

**In the Lord I'll be ever thankful,
in the Lord I will rejoice!
Look to God, do not be afraid;
lift up your voices, the Lord is near;
lift up your voices, the Lord is near.**

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 13.31—35](#)

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

**In the Lord I'll be ever thankful,
in the Lord I will rejoice!
Look to God, do not be afraid;
lift up your voices, the Lord is near;
lift up your voices, the Lord is near.**

Homily

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

Though he was divine,
**Jesus did not cling to equality with God,
but made himself nothing.**
Taking the form of a slave, he was born in human likeness.
**He humbled himself and was obedient to death,
even the death of the cross.**
**Therefore God has raised him on high,
and given him the name above every name:
that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**
Amen.

The Prayers of the People

✠ Merciful God,
✠ **receive our prayer.**

The Peace

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

Celebration of the Holy Eucharist

Offertory Hymn #337 God, Your Glorious Presence⁵

God, your glorious presence
draws us to adore you,
and with awe appear before you.
In your holy temple
all keep mystic silence,
prostrate lie with deepest reverence.
You alone God we own,
you our God and Saviour: praise your name for ever.

In God's glorious presence
hear the harps resounding!
See the hosts the throne surrounding!
“Holy, holy, holy,”
hear the hymn ascending,
angels, saints, their voices blending!
Bow your ear to us here:
hear, O Christ, the praises that your church now raises.

Fount of endless blessing,
purify my spirit,
trusting only in your merit.
Like the holy angels
who behold your splendour,
may I ceaseless worship render.
Let your will ever still
rule your church terrestrial, as the hosts celestial.

Extravagant God,
you have blessed us with the fullness of creation.
Now we gather at your feast
where you offer us the food that satisfies.
Take and use what we offer here, come among us,
and feed us with the body and blood of Christ,
in whose name we pray
Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving⁶

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.

Maternal God, you long to gather your children
as a mother hen gathers her brood under her wings.
You have made the descendants of Abraham
as many as the stars in the sky and the sands in the desert;
and in your great mercy you have made us, too,
children of your blessed unbreakable covenant.
In Jesus you came among us in grace and truth;
in his death we showed the depth of our departure from your ways;
in his resurrection you demonstrate that nothing is impossible with you.
And so we gather at your table like angels at your throne,
joining the archangels as they continually sing anthems of heavenly praise.

**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.**

God our salvation, you have made us a people of your own possession,
and we become yours as you become ours
in the sharing of this meal of bread and cup.

Send down your Holy Spirit,
that these tokens of earthly sustenance and heavenly joy
may be for us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;
who, at supper with his disciples, took bread, gave you thanks,
broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying,
“Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.”

After supper he took the cup.
Again he gave you thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying,
“Drink this, all of you: this is my blood for the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

Great is the mystery of faith.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

God our stronghold,
as we walk this Lenten journey through the wilderness with you,
make this eternal food enough to feed us
through times of uncertainty and fear.

Soften in us the impulse of greed, that, as we share the bread of life,
we may continue to understand the word ‘enough.’

Shape our hearts to long for that day
when you gather your children to yourself,
and inspire us to make all who are created in your image
our companions at this and other tables,
until the day when all our hungers are satisfied
and every friendship is fulfilled
in the company of your Holy Trinity,
through whom, and with whom, and in whom
all honour and glory are yours, now and for ever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

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 this bread,
Communion in Christ's body once broken.

Let your Church be the wheat which bears its fruit in dying.
If we have died with Christ, we shall live with Christ.
If we hold firm, we shall reign with Christ.

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.⁷

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 Communion⁸

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen you and preserve you in eternal life.

Merciful God,
accompany our journey through these forty days.
**Renew us in the gift of baptism,
that we may provide for those who live in poverty,
pray for those in need,
fast from self-indulgence,
and find our treasure in the life of your Son,
Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.**

Parish Announcements

Solemn Prayer over the People⁹

Let us bow down before the Lord.

Keep this your family, Lord,
with your never-failing mercy,
that relying solely on the help of your heavenly grace,
they may be upheld by your divine protection;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

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Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

**Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes;
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.**

**Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains high soaring above
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.**

**Great Source of all glory and wisdom and light,
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
all laud we would render: O help us to see
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee.**

Dismissal

Go in peace. Jesus meets you on the way.
Thanks be to God!

Postlude



The Church of the Nativity

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Wardens

Sources

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Hochhalter, Cara B. “As a Hen Gathers,” from *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=58926> [retrieved March 9, 2022]. Original source: Cara B. Hochhalter, *A Challenging Peace in the Life and Stories of Jesus*, 2019.

¹ *Sundays and Seasons*.

² *Revised Common Lectionary Prayers*.

³ *A Liturgical Psalter*, Anglican Church of Canada

⁴ Philippians 2.6—11, *Common Worship*. Church of England

⁵ Text: Gerhard Tersteegen (1697-1769), trs. Frederick William Foster (1760-1835), John Miller (1756-1810), William Mercer (1811-1873). Tune: Arnsberg. Music: Joachim Neander (1650-80)

⁶ *Eucharistic Prayers*. Samuel Wells & Abigail Kocher.

⁷ Selected from the prayers provided for this use in “A Celebration of the Holy Eucharist with Spiritual Communion,” Diocese of Niagara, 2020.

⁸ *Sundays and Seasons*.

⁹ *Book of Occasional Services*. The Episcopal Church of the United States. Rev. 2018.

¹⁰ Text: Walter Chalmers Smith (1824-1908). Tune: St. Denio. Music: Welsh traditional, adapted John Roberts Henllan (1808—76), *Caniadau y Cyssegr* 1839.