



Church of the Nativity, Hamilton

Holy Eucharist

5th Sunday in Lent

3 April 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.

Creator God,
you prepare a new way in the wilderness
and your grace waters the desert.

Help us to recognize your hand working miracles beyond our imagining.
Open our hearts to be transformed by the new thing you are doing,
so that our lives may proclaim the extravagance of your love for all,
and its presence in Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Holy Scripture

1st Reading

[*Isaiah 43.16—21*](#)

Psalm 126 In convertendo

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
then were we like those who dream.

**Then was our mouth filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy.**

Then they said among the nations,
“The Lord has done great things for them.”

**The Lord has done great things for us,
and we are glad indeed.**

Restore our fortunes, O Lord,
like the watercourses of the Negev.

**Those who sowed with tears
will reap with songs of joy.**

Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

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.

[*John 12.1—8*](#)

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

Affirmation of Faith⁴

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

Celebration of the Holy Eucharist

Offertory Hymn #551 **My Faith Looks Up to Thee⁵**

**My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Calvary,
Saviour divine.**

**Now hear me while I pray; take all my guilt away.
O let me from this day be wholly thine!**

**May thy rich grace impart strength to my fainting heart,
my zeal inspire!**

**As thou hast died for me, O may my love to thee
pure, warm, and changeless be, a living fire!**

**While life's dark maze I tread, and griefs around me spread,
be thou my guide;
bid darkness turn to day, wipe sorrow's tears away,
nor let me ever stray from thee aside.**

**When ends life's transient dream, when death's cold, sullen stream
shall o'er me roll,
blest Savior, then, in love, fear and distrust remove;
O bear me safe above, a ransomed soul.**

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.

Extravagant God,
you poured out your life
in your covenant with your chosen people,
and you poured out your life-blood
in the ministry and death of your Son Jesus Christ.

You meet our meanness with your grace,
our scarcity with your abundance,
and our suspicion with your generous trust.

And so we give you thanks,
with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven,
singing the hymn of your unending 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.**

Sharing God,
in Jesus you attended a meal to celebrate Lazarus' resurrection,
and so we gather today to celebrate Jesus' resurrection,
in faith that even now you are preparing a feast
to celebrate our resurrection with you.

Sanctify us, that even as our flesh and blood decay,
our hearts made ready that we may meet you face to face.

Send down your Holy Spirit,
that this bread of sustenance and wine of 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.

Abundant God,
when we know the price of everything and the value of nothing,
may this meal remind us of the limitless joy you take in us.

When we are full of criticism of others and hatred of ourselves,
may this sacrifice show us the goodness you see in us all.

Bless all our touching,
that we may touch your gifts and one another
as if we were touching your body and your blood.

Bless all our desire,
that in every craving and longing
we may discover a deeper yearning for you.

Renew the hearts of all your people,

that your whole church, seeking together the justice of your kingdom,
may discover in the stranger the gifts that only come from you,
through whom, and with whom, and in whom
come all honour and glory,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

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.

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.

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.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.

Look with compassion, O Lord, upon this your people;
that, rightly observing this holy season,
they may learn to know you more fully,
and to serve you with a more perfect will;
through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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Forth in Thy Name, O Lord, I Go

**Forth in thy name, O Lord, I go,
my daily labor to pursue,
Thee, only thee, resolved to know
in all I think or speak or do.**

**The task thy wisdom hath assigned
O let me cheerfully fulfill,
in all my works thy presence find,
and prove thy good and perfect will.**

**Thee may I set at my right hand,
whose eyes my inmost substance see,
and labour on at thy command
and offer all my works to thee.**

**Give me to bear thy easy yoke,
and every moment watch and pray,
and still to things eternal look,
and hasten to thy glorious day;**

**for thee delightfully employ
whate'er thy bounteous grace hath given,
and run my course with even joy
and closely walk with thee to heaven.**

Dismissal

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

Postlude



The Church of the Nativity

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Mrs. Jan Collinson
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Wardens

Sources

Our cover image is by the artist, Ilyas Basim Khuri Bazzi Rahib, who was most likely a Coptic monk in Egypt in the late 17th century.

Bazzi Rahib, Ilyas Basim Khuri. Mary Anoints Christ's Feet, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=57332> [retrieved March 23, 2022]. Original source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Mary_Anoints_Jesus,_Ilyas_Basim_Khuri_Bazzi_Rahib.jpg.

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From a 1684 Arabic manuscript of the Gospels, copied in Egypt by Ilyas Basim Khuri Bazzi Rahib (likely a Coptic monk). In the collection of The Walters Art Museum, Baltimore, Md. (on page 51 of the .pdf copy of the document released by the museum under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 3.0 Unported license).

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 & Music: Ray Palmer (1808—87), c. 1830. Public Domain.

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: Charles Wesley (1707—88). Music: Orlando Gibbons (1583—1625). First published in *Hymns and Sacred Poems* (1749). Public Domain.