



THE NATIVITY

worshipwithnativity.org | [@nativityniagara](https://twitter.com/nativityniagara) | admin@worshipwithnativity.org

A Message from the Rector...



For 2021, I set myself a goal: I would practise every day. And while there were definitely days that I had to force myself to sit down with a guitar, more often than not, I found that the time flew by. I've sometimes made recordings of myself practising, and when I listen to the same piece a year later, I can hear real progress.

I also hear a lot of room for improvement. It's easier to hear the mistakes and infelicities than it is to hear the music I was playing. The radio host Ira Glass describes the challenge that we all go through, that there's a gap between our taste and our ability. And that there's only one way to close that gap: keep working. "you gotta know its normal and the most important thing you can do is do a lot of work."

The thing about that gap between our desire and our ability is that it's present in every creative endeavour. And even if 'artistic' is the last descriptor you'd choose for yourself—the very act of living is creative. After all, we aren't issued manuals for this life, right? We are all constantly engaged in improv, making it up as we go along, trying to do the best we can.

This gap can often feel present in how we live our faith. It can seem easier to look up to others and admire their faith, and think, I could never do that. Our faults and flaws and mistakes are easier for us to see in ourselves than are the ways we're improving along the way.

But God honours the trying. It doesn't matter that Jesus rebukes Peter, when Peter tells him not to speak about the cross. It doesn't matter that Peter denies Jesus three times before the cock crows. Who is the risen Lord excited to enjoy a fish barbecue with after the resurrection? Peter. God honours our effort, and there's only one way to improve.

After all, there's a joke among musicians:

Person: How do you perform so well?

Musician: Practice.

Person: It must be an innate gift...

Musician: It's practice.

Person: I can never understand why some people have talent like this.

It's magical and a mystery.

Musician: Practice.

We get better at living and loving when we're intentional about that work. We may only see improvements slowly, but we've got one incredible teacher and coach. And as Linus reminds Lucy, the gift and the meaning is in the doing. I didn't pick up guitar to become Christopher Parkening or David Bowie. I did it to make music, and I can lose myself in the joy of doing so. Of making subtle changes, and suddenly finding a piece easier to attempt. The good news of Easter is that we are given new life—precisely so that we can live! Jesus breathes the Holy Spirit into us, inspiring us and renewing us in God's love. And the work of living, the work of loving—really does get easier as we practice. And it really is a good and joyful thing to do.

Happy Easter!



A Message from the Wardens...

It's been great seeing more people feeling comfortable attending in-person services. Our capacity limits have eased, and you don't have to call ahead anymore—you can just come to church. And you can choose where to sit! We've kept the ribbons up on the north side of the church, so people who need to ensure physical distancing are able to do so; and we've taken them down from the south side to give more seating options. It's been great hearing everyone's voices as we sing a few more hymns, too.

Masks are still required to be worn by everyone while inside the building; we don't anticipate that changing anytime soon. Communion continues to be only in one kind—just receiving the bread. We've heard from a lot of parishioners how much they've enjoyed the weekly live-stream of our Sunday services to YouTube, and that will continue each week. You can always find the link to the stream and the order of service on our parish weblog at worshipwithnativity.org/blog/

We've completed a few much-needed building upgrades over the last few months. The emergency door from Addison Hall to the parking lot wasn't closing properly; it's now been replaced with a steel door and a much better insulated frame. We've also upgraded the several-decades old lighting in the Kitchen, the Halliday Room, and the hallways in the lower narthex—ensuring safety and lowering electrical bills!

We want to offer deep thanks to everyone involved in this year's palm project! It's great to be able to return to that ministry in person, even if it does mean keeping a careful eye out for the water-bottle-squirt-happy team members. There's nothing like working alongside others to really get to know people and forge deep relationships.

SAM welcomes in-person clients back in April. As with last fall, they're going to start out with a small number of in-person clients two days each week, and grow from there as public health circumstances allow. They will continue to meet via phone and online with their other clients.

As the weather warms, we're hoping to have our first in-person Parish Council meeting since the pandemic began—taking advantage of the Nativity Gardens' space, as weather allows. We're also hoping to be able to begin outdoor coffee hour time following the ten o'clock service later in the spring.

The Nativity continues to be able to be active in the ministries God has given us because of your generous support. Thank you for your continuing support!

Financial Snapshot to the end of February

	2022	2021
Total Revenue	\$13,137	\$9,270
Total Expenses	\$17,271	\$17,363
Net Income	(\$4,134)	(\$8,093)

Holy Week and Easter Services

Wednesday in Holy Week

10:00 am **Eucharist**

with anointing for healing



Maundy Thursday

7:00 pm **Holy Eucharist with Foot Washing
and Stripping of the Altar**

8:30–11:00 Gethsemane Watch in the Chapel

All are welcome to stay and to pray for as long as they wish in the chapel, where the eucharist is reserved until the next morning.



Good Friday

10:00 am **The Celebration of the Lord's Passion**

We hear and reflect on our Lord's Passion, venerate the Cross, and share in receiving the sacrament.

Holy Saturday

9:00 pm **The Easter Vigil (at the Cathedral)**

Anglicans from all around Hamilton-Haldimand join in the solemn Easter Vigil with the lighting of the new fire, music, and the joyous proclamation of the resurrection.

Easter Day

8:00 am **Holy Eucharist of Easter Day**

10:00 am **Festal Holy Eucharist of Easter Day**

No need to call ahead to reserve a seat! Please remember to wear a mask at all times inside the church building, and that entry is only through the main doors on King Street East.