



# Church of the Nativity, Hamilton

## Holy Eucharist

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

7 August 2022



*Called to Life — Compelled to Love*



The territory where the Church of the Nativity resides is has been long-tended by many Indigenous peoples including the Neutrals, the Mississauga, the Anishinaabe, 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 and respect the history, spirituality, and culture of the nations of this place and 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.

*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. Details about our Green Stage precautions can be found at <https://worshipwithnativity.org/what-do-worship-services-look-like-now/>

*Streaming:* Our principal services are streamed to YouTube. We try to minimize individuals' appearances on camera. The beginning of the streaming is marked with an announcement, and then the service will continue as follows.

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

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

Processional Hymn #394

**Eternal, Unchanging<sup>1</sup>**

**Eternal, Unchanging, we sing to your praise;  
your mercies are endless, and righteous your ways;  
your servants proclaim the renown of your name,  
You rule in omnipotence, ever the same.**

**Again we rejoice in the world you have made,  
your mighty creation in beauty arrayed;  
we thank you for life and we praise you for joy,  
for love and for hope that no power can destroy.**

**We praise you for Jesus, our Master and Lord,  
the might of his Spirit, the truth of his Word,  
his comfort in sorrow, his patience in pain,  
the faith sure and steadfast that Jesus shall reign.**

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.**

Let us pray.

Watchful God,

kindle a new flame in our complacent hearts

and take from our hands the burden of worthless things,

so that we may be ready to receive a greater gift:

the love of Jesus Christ, our Servant King,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

# Holy Scripture

1<sup>st</sup> Reading

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, ‘as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.’

All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

*Hebrews 11.1—3, 8—16*

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

**Thanks be to God.**

The Lord, the God of gods,  
has spoken and has called the earth  
from the rising of the sun to its setting.

**Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty,  
God reveals the divine glory.**

Our God will come and will not keep silence;  
before whom there is a consuming flame,  
and round about whom a raging storm.

**God calls the heavens and the earth from above  
to witness the judgement of this people.**

“Gather before me my loyal followers, those who have made a covenant with  
me and sealed it with sacrifice.”

**Let the heavens declare the rightness of the divine cause;  
for God, God alone, is judge.**

“Hear, O my people, and I will speak:  
O Israel, I will bear witness against you;  
for I am God, your God.

**I do not accuse you because of your sacrifices;  
your offerings are always before me.**

Consider this well, you who forget God,  
lest I rend you and there be none to deliver you.

**Whoever offers me the sacrifice of thanksgiving honours me;  
but to those who keep in my way will I show the salvation of God.”**

*The acclamation is sung*



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.** ♪

Jesus said, 'Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

'Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed are those slaves

whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

‘But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.’

*Luke 12.32—40*

The Gospel of Christ.

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

Homily

Affirming our Faith<sup>4</sup>

Let us confess our faith, as we say,

**We trust in God, who has created and is creating;  
who came to us in Jesus, the word made flesh,  
to reconcile and make new;  
who works in us and others by the Holy Spirit.**

**We believe we are called to be God’s people:  
to celebrate God’s presence,  
to live with respect in creation,  
to love and serve others,  
to seek justice and resist evil,  
to proclaim Jesus’ death and resurrection  
by word and deed.**

**We live in hope  
because in life, in death, in life beyond death,  
we are not alone: God is with us.  
Thanks be to God. Amen.**



## The Prayers of the People

✠ God of grace,  
✠ hear our prayer.

## Confession & Absolution<sup>5</sup>

Dear friends in Christ,  
God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy;  
welcoming sinners and inviting us to this table.  
Let us confess our sins,  
confident in God's forgiveness.

Merciful God,  
**we confess that we have not followed your path  
but have chosen our own way.  
Instead of putting others before ourselves,  
we long to take the best seats at the table.  
When met by those in need,  
we have too often passed by on the other side.  
Set us again on the path of life.  
Save us from ourselves and free us to love our neighbours.  
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 Peace

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

# **Celebration of the Holy Eucharist**

Offertory Hymn #532

**What a Friend We Have in Jesus<sup>6</sup>**

**What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!  
O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear,  
all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer!**

**Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged; take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our every weakness; take it to the Lord in prayer!**

**Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?  
Christ the Saviour is our refuge; take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Do our friends despise, forsake us? Are we tempted to despair?  
Jesus' strength will shield our weakness, and we'll find new courage there.**

Prayer over the Gifts<sup>7</sup>

God of abundance: you have set before us a plentiful harvest.  
As we feast on your goodness,  
    strengthen us to labour in your field,  
    and equip us to bear fruit for the good of all,  
in the name of Jesus.  
**Amen.**

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.**

God of time and eternity, we give you thanks and praise,  
that you weave the fabric of your purpose  
with the warp of our faith and the weft of our faithlessness.

You meet us as you met Isaac and Jacob in the tents of our transience  
and prepare us as you prepared Abraham for the city of your joy.

We make ourselves strangers and foreigners to you,  
but you greet us in your Son;  
in his death and resurrection you bring us home  
to be the people of your possession.

And so we gladly thank you, with saints and angels,  
and all the company of heaven,  
singing the hymn of your unending praise.



Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est,  
ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bles-sed is the One who comes in the name of the  
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est,  
ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

Loving God, you call use your treasure,  
and you tell us that where your treasure is, there your heart is also.  
In Jesus you lodge your heart among us,  
and in this sharing of your holy meal  
you place that heart at the heart of our lives.  
Now send down your Holy Spirit,  
that we may become holy as you are holy,  
and that these gifts of bread and wine may be for us  
the body and blood of your Son 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 of 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.”

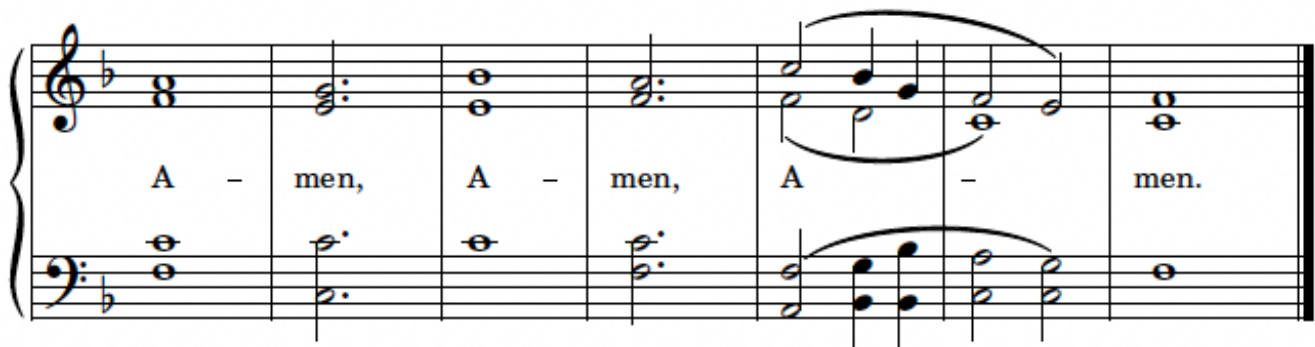
Great is the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

Revealing God, as we perceive your Son,  
in the power of your Spirit, to be present in this bread and wine,  
open our eyes to see your presence  
in the places and people wherein you make known your glory,  
so that when you come again on the last day,  
we shall recognize you by the company you keep,  
and you shall recognize us by the company we keep.  
Just as you have shown us that your heart is always with us,  
wherever our hearts stray,  
so now draw our hearts always to be where your heart is.  
As you have made us your treasure on earth,  
transform us and your whole creation into your treasure in heaven,  
until the day when all hearts are drawn to you  
in the harmony of your praise,  
ever one God, our saviour and our friend.



Amen. Amen. 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.

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<sup>9</sup>

Creator of all, you gave us golden fields of wheat,  
whose many grains we have gathered  
and made into this one bread.

**So may your Church be gathered  
from the ends of the earth  
into your reign of justice and peace.**

## Communion<sup>10</sup>

This is the table, not merely of the church, but of Christ.  
It is made ready for those who love him,  
and for those who want to love him more.

So come,  
whether you have much faith or little;  
have tried to follow, or are afraid you've failed.

Come,  
because it is Christ's will that those who want to meet him  
might meet him here.

**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<sup>11</sup>:*

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 Communion<sup>12</sup>

Life-giving God, through this meal  
you have bandaged our wounds and fed us with your mercy.  
Now send us forth to live for others,  
both friend and stranger,  
that all may come to know your love.  
This we pray in the name of Jesus.  
**Amen.**

## Doxology<sup>13</sup>

Generous God,  
**you have fed us at your heavenly table.**  
**Kindle us with the fire of your Spirit**  
**that when the Lord comes again**  
**we may shine as lights before him,**  
**who is alive and reigns in glory for ever.**  
**Amen.**

## Parish Announcements

## A Leave-Taking

## Blessing

...

**Amen.**

**Look forward in faith; all time is in God's hand.  
Walk humbly with him and trust his future plan.  
God has wisely led his people by his power  
Look forward in hope, he gives us each new hour.**

**Look forward in faith, the world is in God's care.  
His purpose of love he calls on us to share.  
In our neighbours need the Lord is present still.  
He blesses the meek! The earth will know God's will.**

**Look forward in faith, God gives us life each day.  
Go onward with Christ; his Spirit guides our way.  
Now God lets us live within the sphere of grace.  
Trust ever in him – he rules o'er earth and space**

Dismissal

**Go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit!  
Thanks be to God!**

Postlude



# The Church of the Nativity

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*Rector*  
*Honorary Assistant*  
*Theological Intern*  
*Director of Music*  
*Parish Administrator*

Mrs. Jan Collinson  
Mr. David Eccles  
Mr. Doug Lampman

*Wardens*

## Sources

Our cover image is a picture of the 1889 painting “Starry Night” by the Dutch artist Vincent Van Gogh (1853—1890). This picture is in the public domain. Original source: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Van\\_Gogh\\_-\\_Starry\\_Night\\_-\\_Google\\_Art\\_Project.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Van_Gogh_-_Starry_Night_-_Google_Art_Project.jpg)

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<sup>1</sup> Music: (Tune: St. Denio), Melody: Welsh trad.; adapt. John Roberts of Henllan (180—76), *Caniadau y Cyssegr*, 1839. Text: R.B.Y. Scott (1899–1987), alt. © 1994 Waterloo Music Co. Ltd. Used under OneLicense A-604280.

<sup>2</sup> from *Prayers for an Inclusive Church* (2009) quoted in: *Alternative RCL Collects (Final 2019)*, Anglican Church of Canada.

<sup>3</sup> *A Liturgical Psalter*. (General Synod 2016 Edition) The Psalter of *The Book of Alternative Services* Emended for Contemporary Liturgical Use. Anglican Church of Canada.

<sup>4</sup> *Celebrate God’s Presence* (2000). United Church of Canada.

<sup>5</sup> Introduction and Absolution: *The Book of Alternative Services*. Confession: *Sundays and Seasons*.

<sup>6</sup> Music: (Tune: Friendship), Charles Crozat Converse (1832—1918). Music: Joseph Medlicott Scriven (1819—86), alt. Used under OneLicense A-604280.

<sup>7</sup> *Sundays and Seasons*.

<sup>8</sup> *Eucharistic Prayers*. Samuel Wells & Abigail Kocher.

<sup>9</sup> *Book of Alternative Services*, alt.

<sup>10</sup> St. Benedict’s Table, Winnipeg.

<sup>11</sup> Selected from the prayers provided for this use in “A Celebration of the Holy Eucharist with Spiritual Communion,” Diocese of Niagara, 2020.

<sup>12</sup> *Sundays and Seasons*.

<sup>13</sup> *An Order for the Holy Eucharist 2004*. Church in Wales.

<sup>14</sup> Text & Music: Andrew J. Scobie. Used under OneLicense A-604280.