

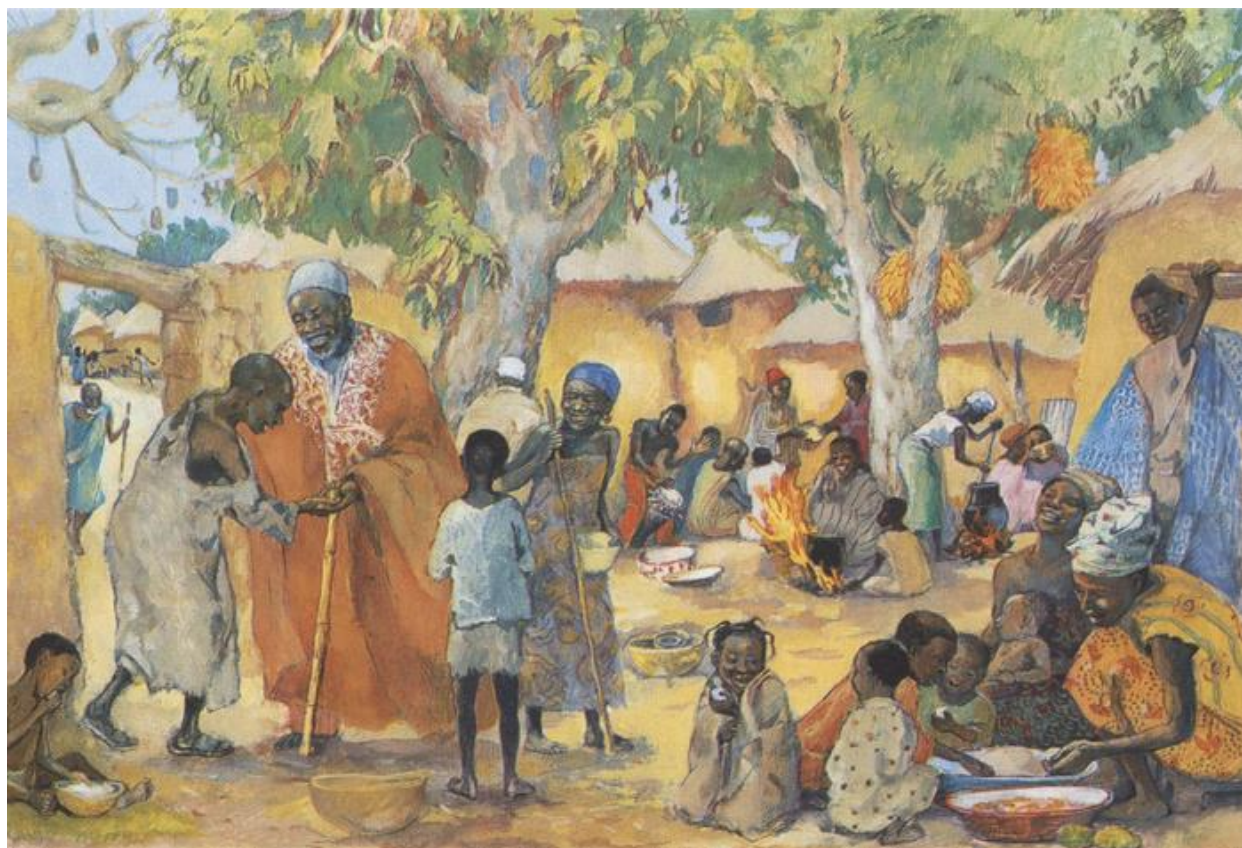


Church of the Nativity, Hamilton

Holy Eucharist

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

28 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.

Prelude

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

A bell is rung, and the service begins.

Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life ¹

Verses 1, 4—6

**Where cross the crowded ways of life,
where cries of tribe and race resound,
amid the noise of selfish strife,
O Christ, your word of love is found.**

**The cup of water given for you
still holds the freshness of your grace;
yet long these multitudes to view
the strong compassion of your face.**

**O Jesus, from the mountainside
make haste to heal these hearts of pain.
Among these restless throngs abide;
O tread the city's streets again,**

**till all the world shall learn your love,
and follow where your feet have trod;
till glorious from your heaven above
shall come the city of our God.**

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.

Inviting God,

laying open your table to those without status or power,
and setting a place for the foreign and the unwanted:
overturn our tables of power
and teach us to receive bread from strange and wounded hands;
through Jesus Christ, the one given for all,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Holy Scripture

1st Reading

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. Let marriage be held in honour by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled; for God will judge fornicators and adulterers. Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, 'I will never leave you or forsake you.' So we can say with confidence,

'The Lord is my helper;

I will not be afraid.

What can anyone do to me?'

Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever. Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

Hebrews 13.1—8, 15—16

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

Sing with joy to God our strength
and raise a loud shout to the God of Jacob.

I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt and said,
'Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it.'
**And yet my people did not hear my voice,
and Israel would not obey me.**

So I gave them over to the stubbornness of their hearts,
to follow their own devices.
**Oh, that my people would listen to me!
That Israel would walk in my ways!**

I should soon subdue their enemies
and turn my hand against their foes.
**Those who hate the Lord would cringe before me,
and their punishment would last for ever.**

But Israel would I feed with the finest wheat
and satisfy them with honey from the rock.”

The acclamation is sung

Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah;

hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah.

Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah;

hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in a single system, all in a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The notes are: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), Bb4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), D5 (quarter), E5 (quarter), F5 (quarter), G5 (quarter), F5 (quarter), E5 (quarter), D5 (quarter), C5 (quarter), Bb4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter). The lyrics 'Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah;' are written below the notes. The second staff continues with: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), Bb4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), D5 (quarter), E5 (quarter), F5 (quarter), G5 (quarter), F5 (quarter), E5 (quarter), D5 (quarter), C5 (quarter), Bb4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter). The lyrics 'hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah.' are written below. The third staff repeats the first staff's notes and lyrics. The fourth staff repeats the second staff's notes and lyrics, ending with a double bar line.

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.** ♪

On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely.

When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honour, he told them a parable. ‘When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honour, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, “Give this person your place”, and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you,

“Friend, move up higher”; then you will be honoured in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.’

He said also to the one who had invited him, ‘When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbours, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.’

Luke 14.1, 7—14

The Gospel of Christ.

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

Homily

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

V God of grace,
R hear our prayer.

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 #307

When Long Before Time ⁶

When long before time and the worlds were begun,
when there was no earth and no sky and no sun,
and all was deep silence and night reigned supreme,
and even our Maker had only a dream...

...the silence was broken when God sang the Song,
and light pierced the darkness and rhythm began,
and with its first birth-cries creation was born,
and creaturely voices sang praise to the morn.

The sounds of the creatures were one with their Lord's,
their harmonies sweet and befitting the Word;
the Singer was pleased as the earth sang the song;
the choir of the creatures re-echoed it long.

Though, down through the ages, the Song disappeared,
its harmonies broken and almost unheard,
the Singer comes to us to sing it again:
our God is with us in the world now as then.

The Light has returned as it came once before;
the Song of the Lord is our own song once more;
so let us all sing with one heart and one voice
the song of the Singer in whom we rejoice.

To you, God the Singer, our voices we raise;
to you, Song Incarnate, we give all our praise;
to you, Holy Spirit, our life and our breath,
be glory forever, through life and through death.

Prayer over the Gifts⁷

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.

The Great Thanksgiving⁸

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.

Exalted above all is your name, God of Jacob,
for you feed your people, not only for today,
but for eternity, with your food that truly satisfies.

When your people hungered,
you longed to feed them with finest wheat,
and through the grace of your servant Joseph
turned famine into abundant provision.

When you brought your children out of slavery,
you filled their mouths with good things
and led them to life in a land of plenty.

In the fullness of time,
your Son gave us a place of honour at the banquet of salvation,
which is more than we could ever deserve.

And so we rejoice with all who feed on him by faith with thanksgiving,
with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven,
as we join the unending hymn.



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.

Transforming God,
as you exalt the humble and humble the exalted,
pour your grace upon your church gathered to remember
the dying and rising of your Son.

Send your Spirit upon this bread and cup
that they 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 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.”

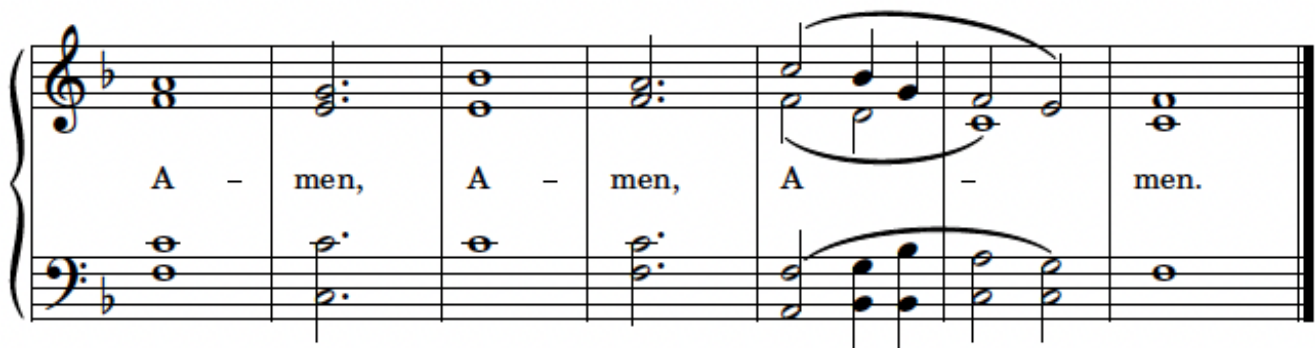
Great is the mystery of faith.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Inviting God,
as in your Son you beckon
the poor and the crippled and the blind and the lame,
visit your church where it is poor,
and make it reflect the wonder of your love;
renew your people where they are crippled,
that your power may be made perfect in weakness;
empower your children where they are blind,
that that may know you more truly;
and uphold your saints where they are lame,
that they may find friends gracious in support and strength
with whom they may never be afraid.
Make your church a place of hospitality,
that it may entertain angels unawares.
For in Christ you are the same yesterday, today, and for ever,
and in the power of your Spirit we shall never walk alone,
heavenly Father, radiant in glory.



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 Bread⁹

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.**

Communion¹⁰

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 communion¹¹:*

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 Communion¹²

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.

Doxology¹³

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

Blessing

...

Amen.

Recessional Hymn # 377

To the Name of Our Salvation ¹⁴

Verses 1, 3, &5

To the Name of our salvation, laud and honour let us pay,
which for many a generation hid in God's foreknowledge lay;
but with holy exultation we may sing aloud today.

'Tis the name that whoso preaches speaks like music to the ear;
who in prayer this name beseeches finds its comfort ever near;
who its perfect wisdom reaches, heavenly joy possesses here.

Therefore we in love adoring, this most blessed name revere,
holy Jesus, thee imploring so to write it in us here
that, hereafter heavenward soaring, we may sing with angels there.

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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The Right Reverend Susan Bell
The Reverend Canon Matthew Griffin
The Reverend Canon David Linn
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Rector
Honorary Assistant
Director of Music
Parish Administrator

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

Wardens

Sources

Our cover image is from the JESYS MAFA project by a Christian community in Cameroon. Each reading was selected, and adapted to dramatic interpretation. Photographs of the tableaux were made, and then transcribed to paintings. JESUS MAFA. The poor invited to the feast, from *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=48397> [retrieved August 2, 2022]. Original source: <http://www.librairie-emmanuel.fr> (contact page: <https://www.librairie-emmanuel.fr/contact>).

¹ Music: (Tune: Fulda/Walton), William Gardiner (1770—1853), *Sacred Melodies*, 1815. Text: Frank Mason North (1850—1935), alt. © The Sisterhood of St. John the Divine. Used under OneLicense A-604280.

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

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

⁴ *Celebrate God's Presence* (2000). United Church of Canada.

⁵ Introduction and Absolution: *The Book of Alternative Services*. Confession: *Sundays and Seasons*.

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

⁷ *Sundays and Seasons*.

⁸ *Eucharistic Prayers*. Samuel Wells & Abigail Kocher.

⁹ *Book of Alternative Services*, alt.

¹⁰ St. Benedict's Table, Winnipeg.

¹¹ Selected from the prayers provided for this use in "A Celebration of the Holy Eucharist with Spiritual Communion," Diocese of Niagara, 2020.

¹² *Sundays and Seasons*.

¹³ *An Order for the Holy Eucharist 2004*. Church in Wales.

¹⁴ Text: Latin (*Gloriosi salvatoris*, 15th c.); tr. John Mason Neale (1818—66, alt.). Music: Kaspar Ettt (1788—1847), *Cantica Sacra*, Munich, 1840. Used under OneLicense A-604280.