



# Church of the Nativity, Hamilton

## Holy Eucharist

Sunday before National Thanksgiving

9 October 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.*

**Now Thank We All Our God <sup>1</sup>**

**Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices,  
who wondrous things hath done, in whom this world rejoices;  
who from our mothers' arms hath blessed us on our way  
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.**

**O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,  
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,  
and nourish us with grace, and guide us when perplexed,  
and free us from all ills in this world and the next.**

**All praise and thanks to God eternal now be given,  
to Spirit and to Word, who reign in highest heaven:  
our ever faithful God, whom earth and heaven adore;  
for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.**

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.

Generous God,  
you brought us into the abundance of our inheritance.  
Grant us the faith to be people  
blossoming with honour and truth,  
so that we may produce bountifully  
the first-fruits of justice and compassion,  
which are pleasing in your sight;  
through Jesus the Christ,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
God for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

# Holy Scripture

1<sup>st</sup> Reading

The presentation of first fruits is described by the author of Deuteronomy.

When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name.

You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, ‘Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us.’

When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, you shall make this response before the LORD your God:

‘A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labour on us, we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression.

The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey.

So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me.’

You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.'

*Deuteronomy 26. 1 – 11*

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

**Thanks be to God.**

Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands;  
**serve the Lord with gladness**  
**and come into the divine presence with a song.**

Know this: the Lord, the Lord, is God;  
the One made us and to whom we belong;  
we are God's people, the sheep of God's pasture.

**Enter the gates of the Lord with thanksgiving;**  
**go into these courts with praise; \***  
**give thanks to God and call upon the name of the Lord.**

For the Lord is good, whose steadfast love is everlasting;  
and whose faithfulness endures from age to age.



Paul assures the church in Philippi that peace and joy are found in the Lord.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

*Philippians 4: 4 – 9*

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

**Thanks be to God.**



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 Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Saint John.

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

When they found him on the other side of the lake, they said to him, ‘Rabbi, when did you come here?’

Jesus answered them, ‘Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal.’

Then they said to him, ‘What must we do to perform the works of God?’

Jesus answered them, 'This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.'

So they said to him, 'What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, "He gave them bread from heaven to eat."'

Then Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.' They said to him, 'Sir, give us this bread always.'

Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.'

*John 6.25 – 35*

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.

God of mercy and forgiveness,  
**we confess that sin still has a hold on us.**  
**We have harmed your good creation.**  
**We have failed to do justice, love kindness,**  
**and walk humbly with you.**  
**Turn us in a new direction.**  
**Show us the path that leads to life.**  
**Be our refuge and strength on the journey,**  
**through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.**  
**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 # 258

## We Plough the Fields and Scatter <sup>6</sup>

We plough the fields and scatter the good seed on the land,  
but it is fed and watered by God's almighty hand;  
he sends the snow in winter, the warmth to swell the grain,  
the breezes and the sunshine, and soft refreshing rain.

*Refrain:* All good gifts around us  
are sent from heaven above;  
then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord  
for all his love.

He only is the maker of all things near and far;  
he paints the wayside flower, he lights the evening star.  
The winds and waves obey him; by him the birds are fed;  
much more to us, his children, he gives our daily bread. *Refrain*

We thank thee, then, O Father, for all things bright and good,  
the seed-time and the harvest, our life, our health, our food.  
Accept the gifts we offer for all thy love imparts,  
and, what thou most desirest, our humble, thankful hearts. *Refrain*

Gracious God,  
in your great love you richly provide for our needs.  
Make of these gifts a banquet of blessing,  
and make us ready to share with all in need;  
through Jesus Christ, who sets a table for all.  
**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.**

Hearts and minds and souls and voices  
we lift in praise to you,

Ruler of heaven and earth.

You made the earth

as a playground for us to enjoy your glory,  
and yet we consistently turn your abundance into scarcity,  
your elegance into our meanness,  
and your simplicity into our corruption.

In Noah you drew all the goodness of your creation into one ark,  
and in Moses you placed the law of love  
into the ark of your covenant.

In Christ you turned the wood of manger and cross  
into the ark of your salvation.

And so we rejoice to thank you,  
singing with all the company of heaven  
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.

God our rock,  
to trust in you is to build a house on solid ground  
that will never shift through wind and rain.  
You make and renew your church through your word of life.  
Send your Holy Spirit upon your people,  
that all who eat and drink in your name  
may behold you face to face and see that you are good.

By that same Spirit,  
come down upon these gifts of bread and wine,  
that they may be for us the body and blood of your Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord;

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 all 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.**

Renewing God, after half a year of flood  
you brought the ark of hope to solid ground  
and gave your creation new birth.

Heal your stricken world today,  
that the groaning of the soil, the skies, and the seas  
may foretell the greater glory you have prepared  
for your time of eternal covenant grace.

As you justify your children by faith,  
uphold all who face injustice and neglect and cruelty.  
Hasten that day  
when your new heaven and new earth will engulf  
the distress and disappointment and destruction  
of your people,  
and you will be all in all,  
everlasting God,  
Source of all being, Eternal Word, and Holy Spirit.

A musical score for the hymn 'Amen. Amen. Amen.' The score is written for a piano and voice. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff for the voice and a bass clef staff for the piano accompaniment. The key signature is one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 8/8. The lyrics are 'A - men, A - men, A - men.' The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line with chords and a melodic line in the right hand that includes a prominent arpeggiated figure in the final measure.

Amen. Amen. Amen.

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.**

**Amen.**

*We keep silent and pray for a short time.*

**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**

The Breaking of the Bread<sup>9</sup>

'I am the bread of life,' says the Lord.  
'Whoever comes to me will never be hungry;  
whoever believes in me will never thirst.'  
**Taste and see that the Lord is good;  
happy are they who trust in God!**

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.

For the Fruit of All Creation <sup>12</sup>

For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.  
gifts bestowed on to every nation, thanks be to God.  
For the ploughing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping,  
future needs in earth's safekeeping, thanks be to God.

In the just reward of labour, God's will is done.  
In the help we give our neighbor, God's will is done.  
In our worldwide task of caring for the hungry and despairing,  
in the harvests we are sharing, God's will is done.

For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.  
For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.  
For the wonders that astound us, for the truths that still confound us,  
most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.



## Prayer after Communion<sup>13</sup>

God of the abundant table,  
you have refreshed our hearts in this meal  
with bread for the journey.  
Give us your grace on the road  
that we might serve our neighbours with joy;  
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## Doxology<sup>14</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

## Blessing

...  
**Amen.**

Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving  
to God the creator triumphantly raise,  
who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,  
who still guides us on to the end of our days.  
Love's banners are o'er us; God's light goes before us,  
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night,  
till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished  
as forward we travel from light into Light.

God's law still enforces the stars in their courses  
and causes the sun in its splendour to shine;  
the hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,  
the deeps of the ocean in praises combine.  
We too should be voicing our love and rejoicing;  
with glad adoration a song let us raise  
till all things now living unite in thanksgiving:  
"To God in the highest, hosanna and praise!" Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
Thanks be to God!

Postlude





# The Church of the Nativity

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*Director of Music*  
*Parish Administrator*

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

*Wardens*

## Sources

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<sup>1</sup> Music: (Tune: Nun Danket), Johann Crüger (1589—1649); harm. Felix Mendelssohn (1809—1847), *Lobegesang*, alt. Text: Martin Rinckart (1596—1649); trans. Catherine Winkworth (1827—78), alt. Used under OneLicense A-604280.

<sup>2</sup> from *Revised Common Lectionary Prayers*.

<sup>3</sup> from *A Liturgical Psalter* (General Synod 2016 Edition). The Psalter of *The Book of Alternative Services* emended for contemporary liturgical use by the Rev'd Dr. Richard Geoffrey Leggett on behalf of The Liturgy Task Force.

<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: Wir Pflügen), Johann Abraham Peter Schulz (1747—1800). Text: Matthias Claudius (1740—1815); trans. Jane Montgomery Campbell (1817—78). 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> Music: (Tune: Ar hyd y nos), Welsh trad.; harm. *The English Hymnal* (1906), alt. Text: Fred Pratt Green (1903—) © 1970 Hope Publishing Co. Used under OneLicense A-604280.

<sup>13</sup> *Sundays and Seasons*.

<sup>14</sup> *An Order for the Holy Eucharist 2004*. Church in Wales.

<sup>15</sup> Text: Katherine K. Davis (1892—1980), alt. © 1939 E.C. Schirmer Music. Co. Music: (Tune: The Ash Grove) Welsh trad.; harm. © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*. Used under OneLicense A-604280.