

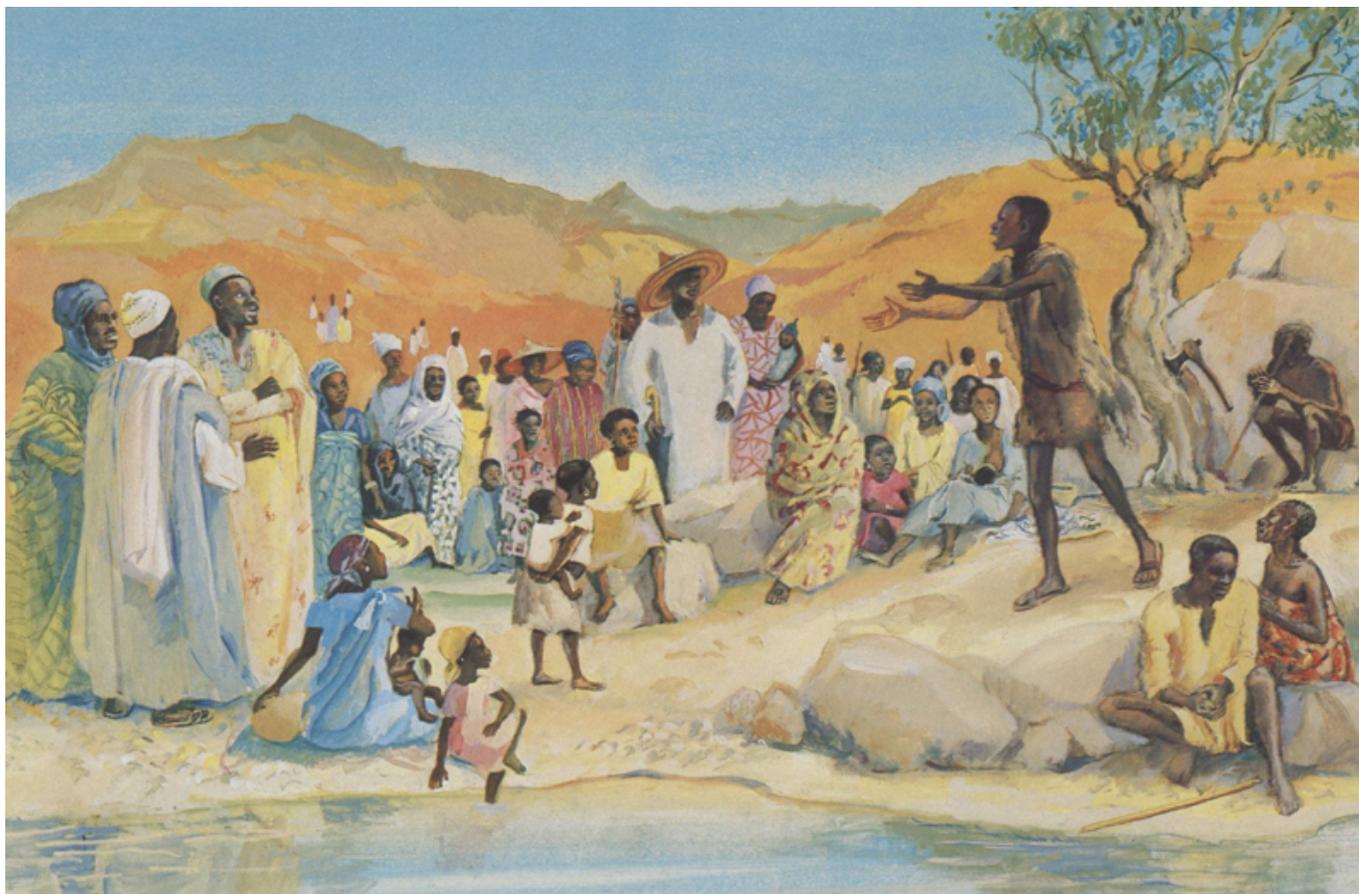


Church of the Nativity, Hamilton

Holy Eucharist

4 December 2022

2nd Sunday of Advent



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.

Hark, a Herald Voice Is Sounding¹

**Hark, a herald voice is sounding:
“Christ is nigh,” it seems to say.
“Cast away the dreams of darkness,
O ye children of the day!”**

**Wakened by the solemn warning,
let the earth-bound soul arise;
Christ, our sun, all sloth dispelling,
shines upon the morning skies.**

**Lo, the Lamb, so long expected,
comes with pardon down from heaven;
let us all, with deep repentance,
pray that we may be forgiven,**

**that when next he comes with glory,
and the world is wrapped in fear,
with his mercy he may shield us,
and with words of love draw near.**

**Honour, glory, might, and blessing
to the Father and the Son,
with the everlasting Spirit,
while eternal ages run.**

Welcome

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with you all.

And also with you.

Opening Acclamation

Pour down, O heavens, from above,
and let the skies rain down righteousness.

**Arise, shine; for your light comes,
and the glory of the Lord rises upon us.**

**Though night still covers the earth
and darkness covers the nations,
over us will the Lord arise,
over us will the glory of God appear.**

Pour down, O heavens, from above,
and let the skies rain down righteousness.

Confession & Absolution

Let us confess to our Loving God
the sin that keeps us from the fulness of life.

**We confess that we have filled our waiting
with distractions and busyness.**

**We have masked the silence with empty words
and we have failed to treasure the time we are given.**

God offers us peace and stillness
to dwell with her in mystery and love.

**We confess that we have dreamed selfish dreams,
filling our waiting with possessions and comforts
while neglecting those who wait in hunger and want.**

God offers us abundance
in the richness of community and generous living

**We confess that we have failed
to meet and serve the coming Christ,
who waits for us in friend and stranger.
We have been impatient and angry,
and we have been blind to the Christ who waits with us.**

God offers to embrace us
as we embrace her life in the world.

We wait for you, knowing our need for forgiveness.

God, who is infinite in mercy, forgives us.
Through her grace she sustains us in our waiting and watching.
Amen.

Let us pray.

God of justice,
clear our lives of hatred and despair
and sow in us seeds of joy and peace;
so that shoots of hope may spring forth in us
as we await the coming of the Christ,
who with you and the Holy Spirit,
lives and reigns, one God,
now and for ever.

Amen.

Holy Scripture

1st Reading

The prophet Isaiah describes the peaceful kingdom of the coming ruler.

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.
The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Isaiah 11. 1 - 10

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the king's son;
**that he may rule your people righteously
and those living in poverty with justice;**

that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,
and the little hills bring righteousness.

**He shall defend the needy among the people,
rescuing the poor and crushing the oppressor.**

He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure,
from one generation to another.

**He shall come down like rain upon the mown field,
like showers that water the earth.**

In his time shall the righteous flourish;
there shall be abundance of peace
till the moon shall be no more.

**Blessed are you, Lord God, the God of Israel,
for you alone do wondrous deeds!**

Blessed be your glorious name for ever
**and may all the earth be filled with your glory.
Amen. Amen.**

Paul rejoices in the encouragement that comes from the instructions of scripture.

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy.

As it is written,

‘Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,
and sing praises to your name’;

and again he says,

‘Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people’;

and again,

‘Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,
and let all the peoples praise him’;

and again Isaiah says,

‘The root of Jesse shall come,
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;
in him the Gentiles shall hope.’

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15.4 - 13

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

The acclamation is sung

Pre - pare the way of the Lord,
 pre - pare the way of the Lord,
 and all peo - ple will see
 the sal - va - tion of our God. Pre

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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

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

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.’

This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, ‘The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way of the Lord,
 make his paths straight.”’

Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all

Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, ‘You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, “We have Abraham as our ancestor”; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

‘I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.’

Matthew 3.1—12

The Gospel of Christ.

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

Homily

We say together in faith

**Holy, holy, holy
is the Lord God almighty,
who was, and is, and is to come.**

We believe in God the Father,
who created all things:
for by his will they were created and have their being.

We believe in God the Son, who was slain:
**for with his blood,
he purchased us for God,
from every tribe and language,
from every people and nation.**

We believe in God the Holy Spirit:
**the Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come!'
Even so come, Lord Jesus!
Amen.**

The Prayers of the People

✠ God, in your mercy,
✠ **hear our prayer.**

The Peace

The peace of Christ be always with you!
And also with you.

Feasting at the Table

Offertory Hymn # 106

There's a Voice in the Wilderness Calling³

There's a voice in the wilderness crying, a call from the ways untrod:
prepare in the desert a highway, a highway for our God!
The valleys shall be exalted, the lofty hills brought low;
make straight all the crooked places, where the Lord our God may go!

O Zion, give voice to good tidings, ascend to the heights and sing!
Proclaim to a desolate people the coming of their King.
The works of pride all perish, like flowers they shall decay;
the power and pomp of nations shall pass like a dream away.

But your word, O God, is faithful, your arm, O Lord, is strong;
you stand in the midst of nations, and you will right the wrong.
You will feed your flock like a shepherd, and fold the lambs to your breast;
in pastures of peace you'll lead them, and give to the weary rest.

There's a voice in the wilderness crying, a call from the ways untrod:
prepare in the desert a highway, a highway for our God!
The valleys shall be exalted, the lofty hills brought low;
make straight all the crooked places, where the Lord our God may go!

Prayer over the Gifts ⁴

Eternal God, you make the desert bloom
and send springs of water to thirsty ground.
Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money,
and make us messengers of your mercy and love
for all in need of your healing and justice.
We ask this through Christ our Saviour.
Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving ⁵

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.

Worship and praise belong to you, God our maker.
Out of nothing, you called all worlds to be,
and still you draw the universe to its fulfilment.
Dawn and evening celebrate your glory
till time shall be no more.

In Christ your Son the life of heaven and earth were joined,
sealing the promise of a new creation,
given, yet still to come.

Taught by your Spirit, we who bear your threefold Likeness
look for the City of Peace in whose light we are transfigured
and the earth transformed.

As children of your redeeming purpose who await the coming of your Son,
we offer you our praise, with angels and archangels and the whole company
of heaven singing the hymn of your unending glory

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
 God of pow - er and might,
 hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry.
 Ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Blest is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.
 Ho - san - na in the high - est.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
 heaven and earth are full of your glory.
 Hosanna in the highest.
 Blest is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.
 Hosanna in the highest.**

Glory and thanksgiving be to you, most loving God.
Our hope is built on Jesus,
the first, the last, the living one.
Obedient, even to accepting death,
Jesus opened the gate of glory
and calls us now to share the life of heaven.

Before Jesus was given up to suffering and death,
alight with the vision of a feast
that heralded a kingdom yet to come,
at supper with his disciples he took bread
and offered you thanks.
He broke the bread,
and gave it to them, saying:
“Take, eat. This is my Body: it is broken for you.”

After supper, he took the cup, he offered you thanks,
and gave it to them saying: “Drink this, all of you.
This is my Blood of the new covenant;
it is poured out for you, and for all,
that sins may be forgiven.
Do this in remembrance of me.”

We now obey your Son’s command.
we remember his death,
we proclaim his resurrection,
we await his coming in glory;

Made one with him, we offer you these gifts
and with them ourselves, a single, holy, living sacrifice.

Hear us, most gracious God, and send your Holy Spirit
upon us and upon this bread and this wine,
that, overshadowed by his life-giving power,
they may be the Body and Blood of your Son,
and we may be kindled with the fire of your love

and renewed for the service of your reign.

Help us, who are baptised into the fellowship of Christ's Body to live and work to your praise and glory; may we grow together in unity and love until at last, in your new creation, we enter into our heritage in the company of the Virgin Mary, the apostles, and prophets, and of all our brothers and sisters living and departed.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be to you, Lord of all ages,



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 Bread⁶

God of promise,
you prepare a banquet for us in your reign of justice and peace.
**Happy are those who are called
to the supper of the Lamb.**

The gifts of God for the People of God.
Thanks be to God.

Communion

*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 communion⁷:*

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.

The Advent of our King⁸

The advent of our King
our thoughts must now employ;
Then let us meet him on the road
with songs of holy joy.

The co-eternal Son
a maiden's offspring see;
a servant's form Christ putteth on,
to set his people free.

In glory from his throne
again will Christ descend,
and summon all who are his own
to joys that never end.

Our joyful praises sing
to Christ, who set us free;
Like tribute to the Father bring,
and Holy Ghost, to thee.

Prayer after Communion ⁹

Faithful God,
in this meal you have remembered your mercy,
bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ.
As we wait for the day
when all your promises will be fulfilled,
sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery.
Guide us toward your promised future,
coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Saviour and Lord.
Amen.

Doxology ¹⁰

Glory to God,
**whose power, working in us,
can do infinitely more
than we can ask or imagine.**
**Glory to God from generation to generation,
in the Church and in Christ Jesus,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Parish Announcements

Blessing

...
Amen.

We've a Story to Tell to the Nations¹¹

**We've a story to tell to the nations,
that shall turn their hearts to the right;
a story of truth and sweetness,
a story of peace and light,**

Refrain:

**For the darkness shall turn to dawning,
and the dawning to noonday bright;
and Christ's great kingdom shall come on earth,
the kingdom of love and light.**

**We've a song to be sung to the nations,
That shall lift their hearts to the Lord,
A song that shall conquer evil,
And shatter the spear and sword. *Refrain...***

**We've a message to give to the nations,
That the Lord who reigneth above
Hath sent us His Son to save us,
And show us that God is love. *Refrain...***

**We've a Saviour to show to the nations,
Who the path of sorrow has trod,
That all of the world's great peoples
Might come to the truth of God. *Refrain...***

Dismissal

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

Postlude

Your Daily Prayers are Requested:

For the Church:

our Bishop: Susan
our diocese: all the people of the Diocese of Niagara;
cycle: the parish of St. Elizabeth, Burlington;
wider: Anne, our metropolitan archbishop;
Linda, our primate;
the worldwide Anglican Communion, and in its cycle
the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East;

For those in our parish cycle of prayer:

Brad & Julie;
Adele;
Anne, Caitlin & Bailey;

For the needs of the world:

For peace:

Ukraine, South Sudan, Yemen, and all places of conflict

For those we know in need of healing

For those who have died, and those who mourn:

**Thank you for your daily prayers
for the people, worship, fellowship, and ministries
of the Church of the Nativity**



The Church of the Nativity

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The Reverend Canon David Linn
The Reverend Deacon Larry Collinson
Mr. Peter Harding
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Bishop of Niagara
Rector
Honorary Assistant
Parish Deacon
Director of Music
Parish Administrator

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

Wardens

Sources

Our cover image is “Swords into Ploughshares” by the Catholic artist Peter Koenig. Mr. Koenig has granted permission for the non-commercial use of this image with attribution. www.pwkoenig.co.uk/

¹ Text: *Latin Vox Clare* 10th cent., tr. Edward Caswall (1814—78), alt. Music: William Henry Monk (1823—89).

² *Common Worship*. Affirmation E11. Church of England. cf. Revelation 4.8,11;5.9;22.17,20

³ Text: Isaiah 40.3-11, para. James Lewis Milligan (1876—1961), alt. Music: Henry Hugh Bancroft (1904—88). Used under OneLicense A-604280.

⁴ *Sundays and Seasons*.

⁵ *The Scottish Liturgy* 1982. The Scottish Episcopal Church.

⁶ *Book of Alternative Services*, alt.

⁷ Selected from the prayers provided for this use in “A Celebration of the Holy Eucharist with Spiritual Communion,” Diocese of Niagara, 2020.

⁸ Music: John Day (1522—84), *Psalmes*, 1562. Text: Edward Osler (1798—1863); rev. *Hymns for Today’s Church*. © 1982 Hope Publishing. Used under OneLicense A-604280.

⁹ *Sundays and Seasons*.

¹⁰ *Book of Alternative Services*.

¹¹ Text: Harry Emerson Fosdick (1878—1969), alt. Music: (Tune: Cwm Rhondda) John Hughes (1873—1932). Used under OneLicense A-604280.