



Church of the Nativity, Hamilton

Holy Eucharist

11 December 2022

3rd Sunday of Advent



WEB EDITION

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.

People, Look East! The Time Is Near ¹

**People, look east! The time is near of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the guest, is on the way.**

**Furrows, be glad! Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there:
give up your strength the seed to nourish,
that in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the rose, is on the way.**

**Birds, though you long have ceased to build,
guard the nest that must be filled;
even the hour when wings are frozen
God for fledging time has chosen.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the bird, is on the way.**

**Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather,
bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the star, is on the way.**

**Angels, announce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming
with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Lord, is on the way.**

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.

The Collect

Let us pray.

God for whom we watch and wait,
you sent John the Baptist
to prepare the way of your Son:
give us courage to speak the truth,
to hunger for justice,
and to suffer for the cause of right,
with Jesus Christ our Lord;
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.
Amen.

Holy Scripture

1st Reading

The prophet Isaiah describes the joy of the redeemed as they return to Zion.

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.

Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
'Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;

the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;

the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people;
no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray.
No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.
And the ransomed of the LORD shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Isaiah 35. 1 - 10

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.
Thanks be to God.

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord;
my spirit rejoices in God my saviour, •
for you, Lord,
have looked with favour on your lowly servant
and from this day, all generations will call me blessed. •

You, O Most Mighty, have done great things for me
and holy is your name.

You have mercy on those who fear you •
from generation to generation.

You have shown the strength of your arm •
you have scattered the proud in their conceit.
You have cast down the mighty from their thrones •
and have lifted up the lowly.

You have filled the hungry with good things •
and the rich you have sent away empty.
You have come to the help of your people •
for you have remembered your promise of mercy,
the promise you made to our forbears •
to Abraham and his children forever.

James exhorts his readers to wait patiently for the Day of the Lord.

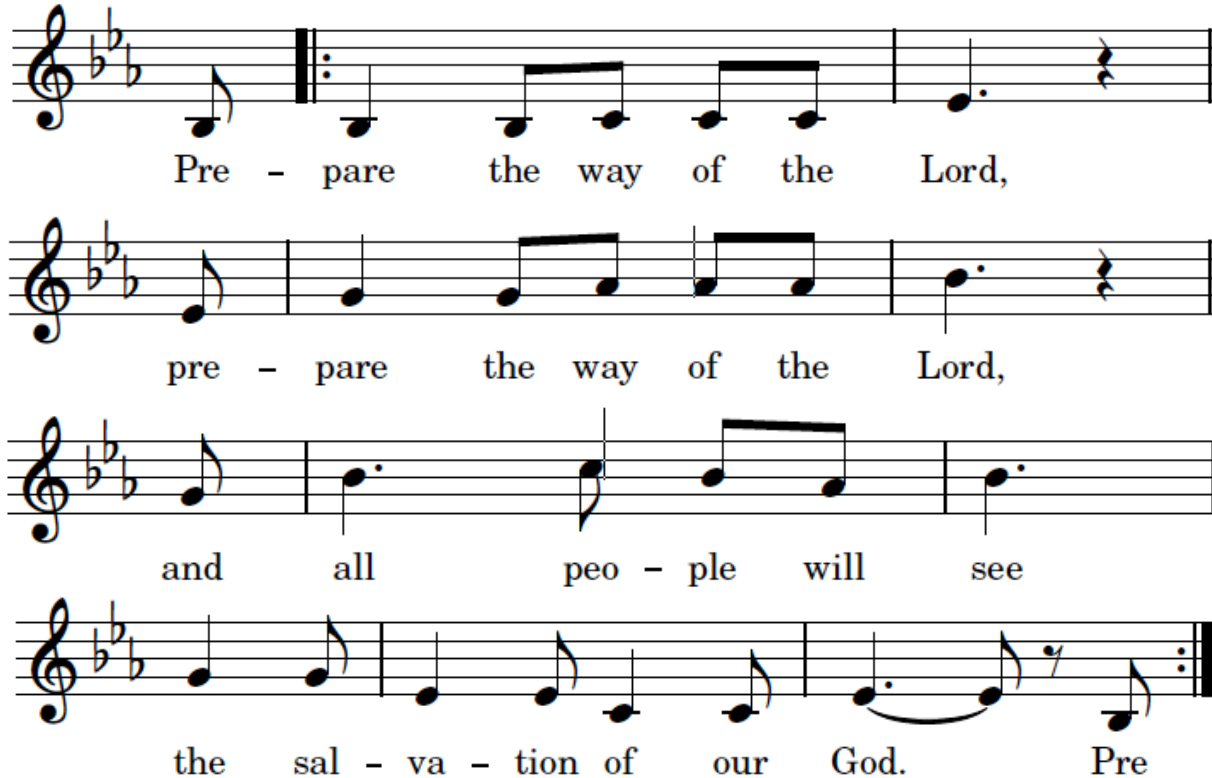
Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

James 5. 7 - 10

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

Thanks be to 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 Matthew.

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

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?'

Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.'

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those

who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.”

Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Matthew 11.2—11

The Gospel of Christ.

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

Homily

Affirmation of Faith ²

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 # 362

Tell Out, My Soul ³

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;
tender to me the promise of his word;
in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.**

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name!
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
his mercy sure, from age to age the same;
his holy name—the Lord, the mighty one.**

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!
Powers and dominions lay their glory by;
proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.**

**Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
to children's children and for evermore!**

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.”

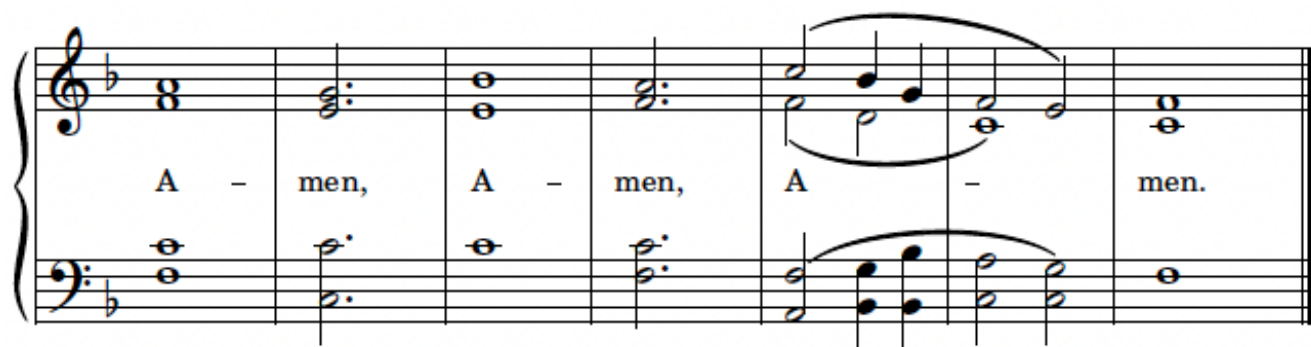
After supper, he took the cup, he offered you thanks,
and gave it to them saying: “Drink this, all of you.
This is my Blood of the new covenant;
it is poured out for you, and for all,
that sins may be forgiven.
Do this in remembrance of me.”

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.

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 ⁶

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.

Heavenly Message⁸

Heavenly message, brought by an angel,
coming to lift the hopes of the earth;
bringing to Mary humble and lowly,
God's invitation to give the Christ birth.

Refrain:

Mary we hail you, full of God's favour,
blessed are you, and blessed your son;
he will be called the child of the highest,
Saviour of all, the holy one.

Mary replied to Gabriel's message,
"I am the servant, maid of the Lord.
Let it be done just as you have spoken.
My soul rejoices in God's saving word." *Refrain*

In the beginning, when God had spoken,
through God's own Word all things came to be;
now by that Word, embodied through Mary,
God's glory blazes, that our eyes may see. *Refrain*

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.

Herald! Sound the Note of Judgement ¹¹

**Herald! Sound the note of judgment,
warning note of right and wrong,
turning us from sin and sadness,
till once more we sing the song.**

Refrain:

**Sound the trumpet! Tell the message!
Christ the Saviour King has come!**

**Herald! Sound the note of gladness!
Tell the news that Christ is here;
make a pathway through the desert
for the one who brings God near. *Refrain...***

**Herald! Sound the note of pardon!
Those repenting are forgiven;
God restores the wayward children,
and to all new life is given. *Refrain...***

**Herald! Sound the note of triumph!
Christ has come to share our life,
bringing God's own love and power,
granting victory in our strife. *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. John, Burlington;
wider: Anne, our metropolitan archbishop;
Linda, our primate;
the worldwide Anglican Communion, and in its cycle
the Anglican Church of Kenya;

For those in our parish cycle of prayer:

Clara;
Larry & Jan;
John & Patty;

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**

Church Calendars

Please call or see Laura to arrange to buy an Anglican Church of Canada calendar for 2023. The cost is \$5.



Songs and Stories December 18th at 3 pm

Bring your family, friends, and neighbours for this fabulous event! We'll sing familiar hymns, hear some Christmas stories and enjoy musical offerings from the choir and more!



Christmas Services



Christmas Eve at 4 pm

We'll unwrap the joys of Christmas!

Christmas Eve at 8 pm

The choir will lead us as we sing and rejoice!

Christmas Day
(one service at 10 am)

A quiet Christmas Day service.

New Year's Day

We'll have one service on January 1st, at 10 am.
On the eighth day of Christmas, we celebrate the
Naming of Jesus!



The Church of the Nativity

worshipwithnativity.org



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bit.ly/NativityYT



1831 King St. East
Hamilton, ON L8K 1V8



(905) 549-4335



admin@worshipwithnativity.org

The Right Reverend Susan Bell
The Reverend Canon Matthew Griffin
The Reverend Canon David Linn
The Reverend Deacon Larry Collinson
Mr. Peter Harding
Mrs. Laura Brintnell

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 “Mary Praying” by the artist Kimiko Sakai. The image was sourced from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=57131> [retrieved December 3, 2022]. Original source: Kimiko Sakai, <https://www.saatchiart.com/account/profile/297671>

¹ Text: Eleanor Farjeon (1881—1965), © David Higham Associates Ltd. Music: “Besançon” (French trad.). Used under OneLicense A-604280.

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

³ Text: Luke 1.46—56, para. Timothy Dudley-Smith (1926—). Music: Walter Greated (1877—1949). 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: “Pied-de-Port” (Basque trad.). Text: Paul Gibson (1932—2022). Used under OneLicense A-604280.

⁹ *Sundays and Seasons*.

¹⁰ *Book of Alternative Services*.

¹¹ Text: Moir A.J. Waters (1906--80), alt. Music: Joachim Neander (1650--80). Used under OneLicense A-604280.