



# Church of the Nativity, Hamilton

## Holy Eucharist

18 December 2022

4<sup>th</sup> 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.*

**On Jordan's Bank, the Baptist's Cry <sup>1</sup>**

**On Jordan's bank, the Baptist's cry  
announces that the Lord is nigh;  
awake and hearken, for he brings  
glad tidings of the King of kings.**

**Then cleansed be every breast from sin;  
make straight the way for God within.  
Prepare we in our hearts a home,  
where such a mighty guest may come.**

**For thou art our salvation, Lord,  
our refuge and our great reward;  
without thy grace we waste away,  
like flowers that wither and decay.**

**To heal the sick stretch out thine hand,  
and bid the fallen sinner stand;  
shine forth, and let thy light restore  
earth's own true loveliness once more.**

**All praise, eternal Son, to thee  
whose advent doth thy people free;  
whom with the Father we adore  
and Holy Ghost for evermore.**

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.

Shepherd of Israel,  
who by a dream guided your servant Joseph  
to embrace your promise of salvation:  
lead us in the way of grace and peace,  
so that we may bear your promise into the world;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

## Holy Scripture

### 1<sup>st</sup> Reading

Speaking through Isaiah, God tells Ahaz, King of Judah, to trust in God rather than in human counsel.

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. Then Isaiah said: ‘Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

*Isaiah 7.10 - 16*

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

Psalm 80.1—7. 17—19

*Qui regis Israel*

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;  
**shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.**

In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,  
stir up your strength and come to help us.

**Restore us, O God of hosts;  
show the light of your face,  
and we shall be saved.**

O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angered  
despite the prayers of your people?

**You have fed them with the bread of tears;  
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.**

You have made us the derision of our neighbours,  
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

**Restore us, O God of hosts;  
show the light of your face,  
and we shall be saved.**

Let your hand be upon the one at your side in honour,  
**the one you have made so strong for yourself.**

And so will we never turn away from you;  
give us life, that we may call upon your name.

**Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;  
show the light of your face,  
and we shall be saved.**

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading

Paul greets the church at Rome.

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

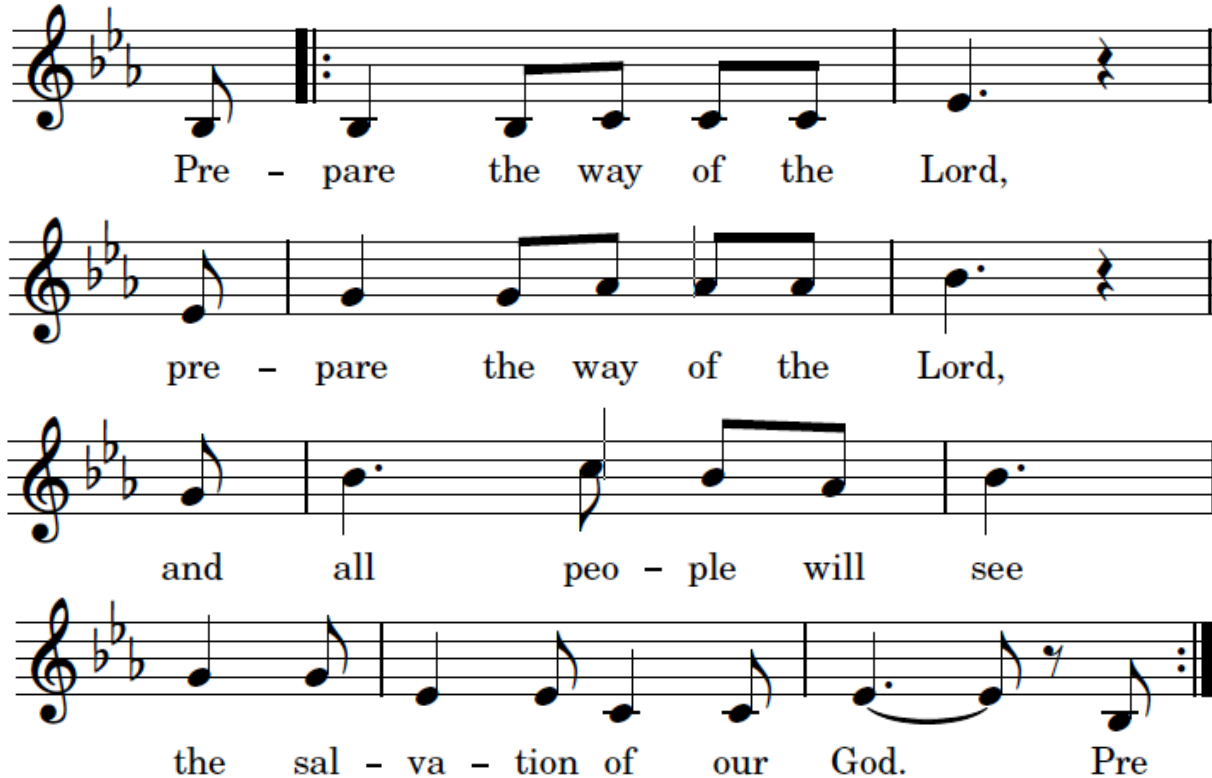
To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:  
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

*Romans 1.1 - 7*

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.** ♪

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly.

But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their



sins.’ All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

‘Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall name him Emmanuel’,

which means, ‘God is with us.’ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

*Matthew 1.18—25*

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

**All Earth is Waiting<sup>3</sup>**

All earth is waiting to see the Promised One,  
and open furrows await the seed of God.  
All the world, bound and struggling, seeks true liberty;  
it cries out for justice and searches for the truth.

Thus says the prophet to those of Israel:  
'A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel.'  
One whose name is 'God with us' our Saviour shall be;  
through whom hope will blossom  
once more within our hearts.

Mountains and valleys will have to be made plain;  
open new highways, new highways for our God,  
who is now coming closer, so come all and see,  
and open the doorways as wide as wide can be.

In lowly stable the Promised One appeared.  
Yet feel his presence throughout the earth today,  
for Christ lives in all Christians and is with us now;  
again, on arriving, Christ brings us liberty.

## Prayer over the Gifts <sup>4</sup>

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 <sup>5</sup>

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.”

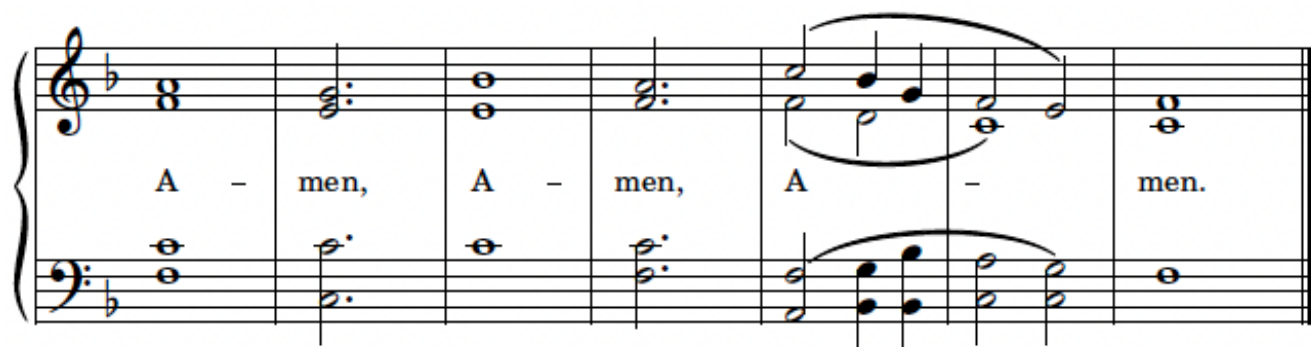
After supper, he took the cup, he offered you thanks,  
and gave it to them saying: “Drink this, all of you.  
This is my Blood of the new covenant;  
it is poured out for you, and for all,  
that sins may be forgiven.  
Do this in remembrance of me.”

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 <sup>6</sup>

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 communion<sup>7</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.

**“Your Kingdom Come”—On Bended Knee <sup>8</sup>**

**“Your kingdom come” – on bended knee  
the passing ages pray;  
and faithful souls have yearned to see  
on earth that kingdom’s day.**

**But the slow watches of the night  
not less to God belong,  
and for the everlasting right  
the silent stars are strong.**

**And lo, already on the hills  
the flags of dawn appear.  
Gird up your loins, ye prophet souls,  
proclaim the day is near:**

**the day in whose clear-shining light  
all wrong shall stand revealed,  
when justice shall be throned with might,  
and every heart be healed:**

**when knowledge, hand in hand with peace,  
shall walk the earth abroad --  
the day of perfect righteousness,  
the promised day of God.**

## Prayer after Communion <sup>9</sup>

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 <sup>10</sup>

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.**

**When the King Shall Come Again <sup>11</sup>**

**When the King shall come again, all his power revealing,  
splendour shall announce his reign, life and joy and healing,  
earth no longer in decay, hope no more frustrated.  
This is God's redemption day longingly awaited.**

**In the desert trees take root, fresh from his creation;  
plants and flowers and sweetest fruit join the celebration.  
Rivers spring up from the earth, barren lands adorning.  
Valleys, this is your new birth; mountains, greet the morning!**

**Strengthen feeble hands and knees, fainting hearts be cheerful!  
God, who comes for such as these, seeks and saves the fearful.  
Deaf ears, hear the silent tongues sing away their weeping;  
blind eyes, see the lifeless ones walking, running, leaping.**

**There God's highway shall be seen where no roaring lion,  
nothing evil or unclean walks the road to Zion.  
Ransomed people, homeward bound, all your praises voicing,  
see your Lord with glory crowned; share in his rejoicing!**

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 Korea;

### ***For those in our parish cycle of prayer:***

Marc & Lyn;  
Joan;  
David;

### ***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

**TODAY**

**December 18<sup>th</sup> 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

A quiet Christmas Day service.

(one service at 10 am)

## New Year's Day

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



# The Church of the Nativity

[worshipwithnativity.org](http://worshipwithnativity.org)



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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 an icon of the “Annunciation to St. Joseph” written by the iconographer Br. Claude Lane, O.S.B.

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<sup>1</sup> Text: Charles Coffin (1676–1749), trans. John Chandler (1806—76), alt. Music: “Winchester New” Music: Melody *Musicalisches Hand-buch*, Hamburg, 1690. Used under OneLicense A-604280.

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

<sup>3</sup> Text: Alberto Taulé (1972—), trans. Gertrude Suppe (1911—2007). Music: Alberto Taulé (1972—). Used under OneLicense A-604280.

<sup>4</sup> *Sundays and Seasons*.

<sup>5</sup> *The Scottish Liturgy* 1982. The Scottish Episcopal Church.

<sup>6</sup> *Book of Alternative Services*, alt.

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

<sup>8</sup> Music: *Hymns and Sacred Poems*, Dublin (1749). Text: Frederick L. Hosmer (1840—1929), alt.. Used under OneLicense A-604280.

<sup>9</sup> *Sundays and Seasons*.

<sup>10</sup> *Book of Alternative Services*.

<sup>11</sup> Text: Christopher Idle (1938—). Music: Melody *Piae Cantiones*, 1582. Used under OneLicense A-604280.