

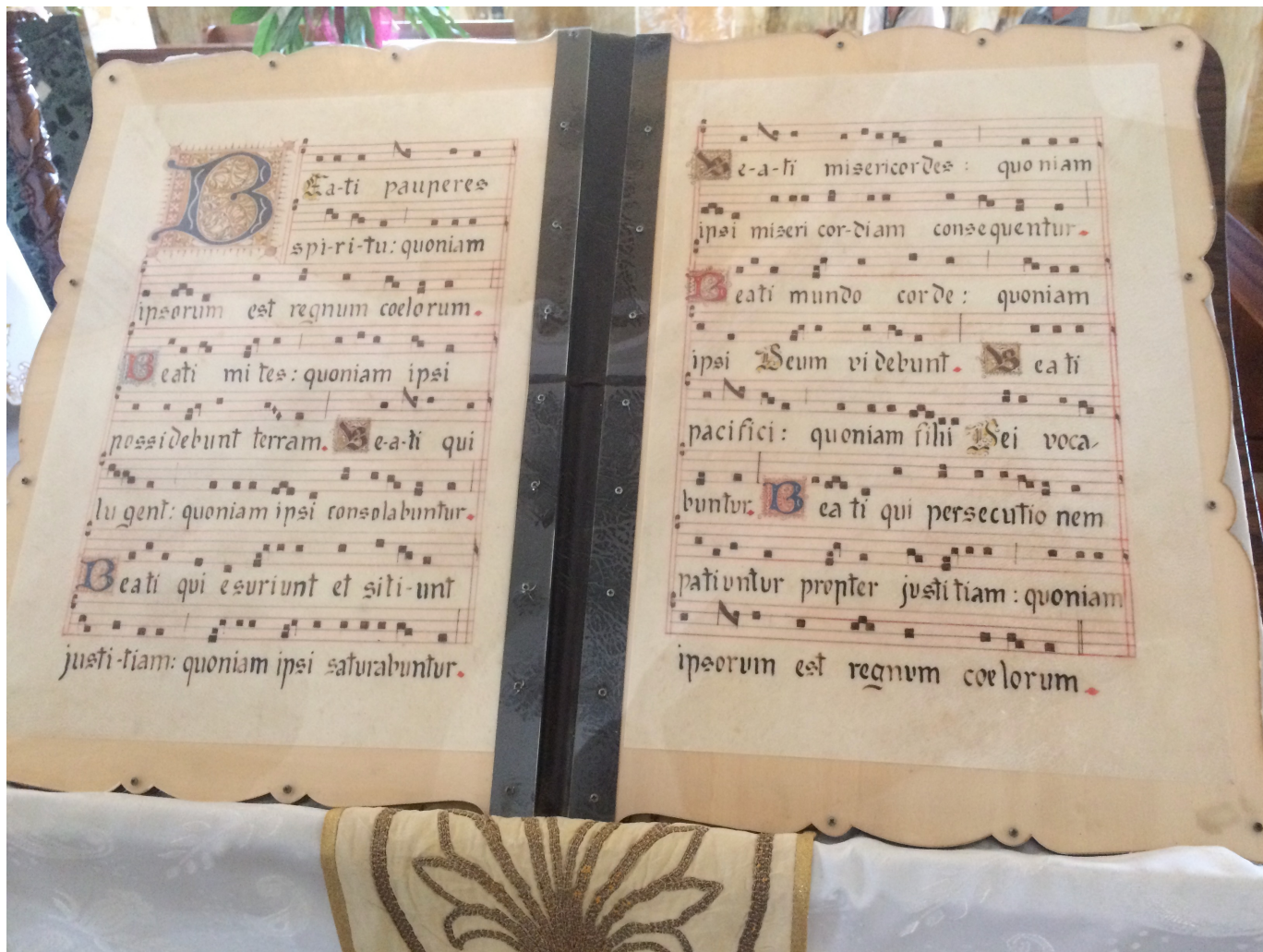


Church of the Nativity, Hamilton

Holy Eucharist

29 January 2023

The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany



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.

In the Cross of Christ I Glory ¹

**In the cross of Christ I glory,
towering o'er the wrecks of time;
all the light of sacred story
gathers round its head sublime.**

**When the woes of life o'ertake me,
hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
never shall the cross forsake us,
from it shines our peace and joy.**

**When the sun of bliss is beaming
light and love upon my way,
from the cross the radiance streaming
adds more lustre to the day.**

**Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure,
by the cross are sanctified;
peace is there that knows no measure,
joys that through all time abide.**

**In the cross of Christ I glory,
towering o'er the wrecks of time;
all the light of sacred story
gathers round its head sublime.**

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 ²

Perfect Light of revelation,
as you shone in the life of Jesus,
whose epiphany we celebrate,
so shine in us and through us,
that we may become beacons of truth and compassion,
enlightening all creation with deeds of justice and mercy.
Amen.

The Collect ³

Let us pray.

God our deliverer,
you walk with the meek and those living in poverty,
the compassionate and those who mourn,
and you call us to walk humbly with you.
When we are foolish, be our wisdom;
when we are weak, be our strength;
that, as we learn to do justice and to love mercy,
your rule may come as blessing
through Jesus Christ our Saviour,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever.
Amen.

Holy Scripture

1st Reading

The prophet Micah teaches what God requires.

Hear what the LORD says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD,
and you enduring foundations of the earth;
for the LORD has a controversy with his people,
and he will contend with Israel.

‘O my people, what have I done to you?

In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

For I brought you up from the land of Egypt,
and redeemed you from the house of slavery;
and I sent before you Moses,
Aaron, and Miriam.

O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.’

‘With what shall I come before the LORD,
and bow myself before God on high?

Shall I come before him with burnt-offerings,
with calves a year old?

Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
with tens of thousands of rivers of oil?

Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?’

He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

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

Psalm 27.1, 4—9

Dominus illuminatio

Psalm 15

Domine, quis habitabit

Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle?
Who may abide upon your holy hill?
**Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right,
who speak the truth from their heart.**

There is no guile upon their tongue;
they do no evil to a friend;
they do not heap contempt upon a neighbour.
**In their sight the wicked are rejected,
but they honour those who fear the Lord.**

They have sworn to do no wrong
and do not take back their word.
**They do not give their money in hope of gain,
nor do they take a bribe against the innocent.
Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.**

Paul proclaims Christ crucified, the wisdom and power of God, to the people of Corinth.

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, 'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.'

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, 'Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.'

1 Corinthians 1.18-31

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

The acclamation is sung

Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God,
glo - ry in the high - est!
Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

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 Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

‘Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

‘Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

‘Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

‘Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

‘Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

‘Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

‘Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

‘Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

‘Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Matthew 5.1—12

The Gospel of Christ.

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

Homily

The Prayers of the People

✠ Merciful God,
℟ **hear our prayer.**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who makes all things new,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

Holy One,
**source of our renewal,
we confess that we are wrapped up in sin,
and cannot free ourselves.
We have not practiced your righteousness.
Our hearts have turned away from you.
For the sake of the world you so love,
forgive us,
that we may be reconciled to one another
for the glory of your holy name.**

Amen.

Almighty God have mercy upon you,
† pardon and deliver you from all your sin,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in eternal life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Peace

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

Feasting at the Table

I Want to Walk with Jesus Christ ⁵

I want to walk with Jesus Christ,
All the days I live of this life on earth,
To give to him complete control
Of body and of soul.

Refrain:

Follow him, follow him, yield your life to him,
he has conquered death, he is king of kings.
accept the joy which he gives to those
who yield their lives to him.

I want to learn to speak to him,
to pray to him, confess my sin,
To open my life and let him in,
For joy will then be mine. *Refrain*

I want to learn to speak to him,
my life must show that he lives in me.
My deeds, my thoughts, my words must speak
All of his love for me. *Refrain*

I want to learn to read his word,
For this is how I know the way
To live my life as pleases him,
In holiness and joy. *Refrain*

O Holy Spirit of the Lord,
Enter now into this heart of mine,
Take full control of my selfish will
And make me wholly thine. *Refrain*

Prayer over the Gifts ⁶

Liberating God,
you break the bonds of injustice and let the oppressed go free.
Receive these offerings in thanksgiving for all your works of merciful power,
and shape us as people of your justice and freedom.
You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Saviour.
Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving ⁷

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.

Blessed are you, Lord God, for you have been everything you call us to be.
You have been pure in heart,
for you called Israel to be your people in whom all would find a blessing.
You have been merciful,
for in your tender mercy you made the dawn from on high
to break upon your people,
to guide us in the ways of peace.
You have been a peacemaker,
for in Jesus you broke down the dividing wall of hostility.
And so we gladly thank you, with angels and archangels
and all the company of heaven, singing the hymn of you unending praise.





Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,



God of power and might,



heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Blessed 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,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. 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 companion, in Jesus you comfort those who mourn
and replenish those who hunger and thirst.

Fill your people now, by the power of your Holy Spirit,
that your children may be sanctified by your grace,
and these gifts of bread and wine may be for us
the body and blood of your Son 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.

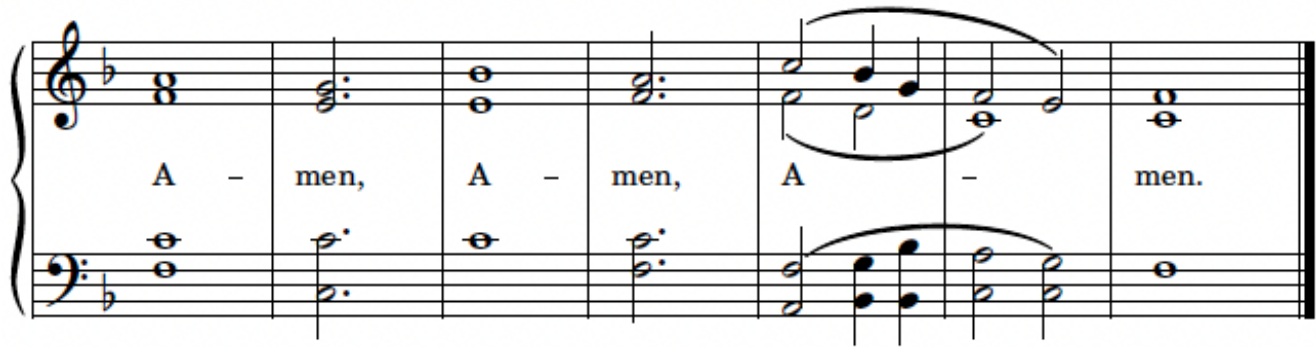
Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

God of glory, you promise that the meek will inherit the earth,
and that to the poor in spirit belongs the kingdom of heaven.

Visit now those who are persecuted for your righteousness
and reviled on account of your name.

Shape your church to reflect the image of those you call blessed,
and lead all whom you call blessed to find a home in your church,
that the church may be full of your prophets,
and your prophets may be full of your grace,
until all tongues cease and tears are shed no more,
in the presence and communion of you, O Holy Trinity,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, ever one God.



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.

We break the bread of life,
and that life is the light of the world.
**God here among us, light in the midst of us,
bring us to light and life.**

Come, all people:
this is Christ's table to which all are invited.
Come, for all is ready.
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 communion⁹:

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.

Communion Hymn # 439

Blest are the Pure in Heart¹⁰

**Blest are the pure in heart, for they shall see our God;
the secret of the Lord is theirs, their soul is Christ's abode.**

**The Lord, who left the heavens our life and peace to bring,
to dwell in lowliness with us, our pattern and our King,**

**still to the lowly soul his presence doth impart,
and for a dwelling and a throne chooseth the pure in heart.**

**Lord, we Your presence seek; may ours this blessing be:
give us a pure and lowly heart, a temple fit for thee.**

Prayer after Communion¹¹

Holy One,
we thank you for the healing
that springs forth abundantly from this table.
Renew our strength to do justice,
love kindness,
and journey humbly with you.
Amen.

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

Recessional Hymn # 467

Forth in thy Name, O Lord, I Go¹³

verses 1, 2, 5, 6

**Forth in thy name, O Lord, I go, my daily labour to pursue;
thee, only thee, resolved to know in all I think or speak or do.**

**The task thy wisdom hath assigned O let me cheerfully fulfil,
in all my works thy presence find, and prove thy good and perfect will.**

**Thee may I set at my right hand, whose eyes mine inmost substance see,
and labour on at thy command, and offer all my works to thee.**

**Give me to bear thy easy yoke, and every moment watch and pray,
and still to things eternal look, and hasten to thy glorious day;**

**for thee delightfully employ whate'er thy bounteous grace hath given;
and run my course with even joy, and closely walk with thee to heaven.**

Dismissal

Go forth in the name of Christ.
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. Stephen, Hornby;

wider: Anne, our metropolitan archbishop;

Linda, our primate;

the worldwide Anglican Communion, and in its cycle
the Church of Pakistan (United)

For those in our parish cycle of prayer:

Vanessa, Brian, & Owen;

Marjorie;

Hazel;

For the needs of the world:

for the women and children of Afghanistan;

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:

for the repose of the soul of Dorothea Sharp;

**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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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 a photograph of the plainchant musical setting for today's gospel, as displayed in the Church of the Beatitudes, located on the Mount of Beatitudes by the Sea of Galilee where Jesus is said to have taught the 'sermon on the mount.' The photograph is courtesy of the rector.

¹ Text: John Bowring (1792—1872). Music: John Stainer (1840—1901). Used under OneLicense A-604280.

² *Revised Common Lectionary Prayers.*

³ *Revised Common Lectionary Prayers.*

⁴ *Sundays and Seasons*

⁵ Text and Music: Clive Simmonds. © 1964. Used under OneLicense A-604280.

⁶ *Sundays and Seasons.*

⁷ *Eucharistic Prayers.* Samuel Wells & Abigail Kocher. 2016.

⁸ *Book of Alternative Services.*

⁹ Selected from the prayers provided for this use in "A Celebration of the Holy Eucharist with Spiritual Communion," Diocese of Niagara, 2020.

¹⁰ Text: st.1,4, John Keble (1792—1866), alt. st. 2-3, *Mitre Hymn Book*, 1836, alt. Music: Johann Balthasar König (1691—1758). Used under OneLicense A-604280.

¹¹ *Sundays and Seasons.*

¹² *Book of Alternative Services.*

¹³ Text: Charles Wesley (1707—88). Music: Orlando Gibbons (1583—1625). Used under OneLicense A-604280.