



# Church of the Nativity, Hamilton

## Holy Eucharist

5 February 2023

The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany



**WEB & LARGE PRINT EDITION**

*Called to Life — Compelled to Love*



The territory where the Church of the Nativity resides has long been 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.*

**Come Down, O Love Divine <sup>1</sup>**

**Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,  
and visit it with thine own ardour glowing;  
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,  
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.**

**O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn  
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;  
and let thy glorious light shine ever on my sight,  
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.**

**Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,  
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;  
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,  
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.**

**And so the yearning strong, with which the soul will long,  
shall far outpass the power of human telling;  
for none can guess its grace, till it become the place  
wherein the Holy Spirit finds a dwelling.**

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 <sup>2</sup>

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 <sup>3</sup>

Let us pray.

God of Israel, giver of love's law:  
liberate us from all that numbs compassion,  
so that we may find in your commands  
light undimmed and flavour undiminished;  
through Jesus Christ, fulfiller of the law,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**

# Holy Scripture

1<sup>st</sup> Reading

The prophet Isaiah describes the fast that honours God.

Shout out, do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion,  
to the house of Jacob their sins.

Yet day after day they seek me  
and delight to know my ways,  
as if they were a nation that practised righteousness  
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;  
they ask of me righteous judgements,  
they delight to draw near to God.

‘Why do we fast, but you do not see?

Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?’

Look, you serve your own interest on your fast-day,  
and oppress all your workers.

Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight  
and to strike with a wicked fist.

Such fasting as you do today  
will not make your voice heard on high.

Is such the fast that I choose,  
a day to humble oneself?

Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,  
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Will you call this a fast,  
a day acceptable to the LORD?

Is not this the fast that I choose:  
to loose the bonds of injustice,  
to undo the thongs of the yoke,  
to let the oppressed go free,

and to break every yoke?  
Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,  
and bring the homeless poor into your house;  
when you see the naked, to cover them,  
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?  
Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,  
and your healing shall spring up quickly;  
your vindicator shall go before you,  
the glory of the LORD shall be your rearguard.  
Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;  
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

*Isaiah 58.1—9a*

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



Alleluia! Happy are they who fear the Lord  
and have great delight in the divine commandments!

**Their descendants will be mighty in the land;  
the generation of the upright will be blessed.**

Wealth and riches will be in their house,  
and their righteousness will last for ever.

**Light shines in the darkness for the upright;  
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.**

It is good for them to be generous in lending  
and to manage their affairs with justice.

**For they will never be shaken;  
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.**

They will not be afraid of any evil rumours;  
their heart is right; they put their trust in the Lord.

**Their heart is established and will not shrink,  
until they see their desire upon their enemies.**

They have given freely to those living in poverty,  
and their righteousness stands fast for ever;

**they will hold up their head with honour.**

Paul teaches the followers of the Way in Corinth that God's wisdom is revealed through the Spirit.

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

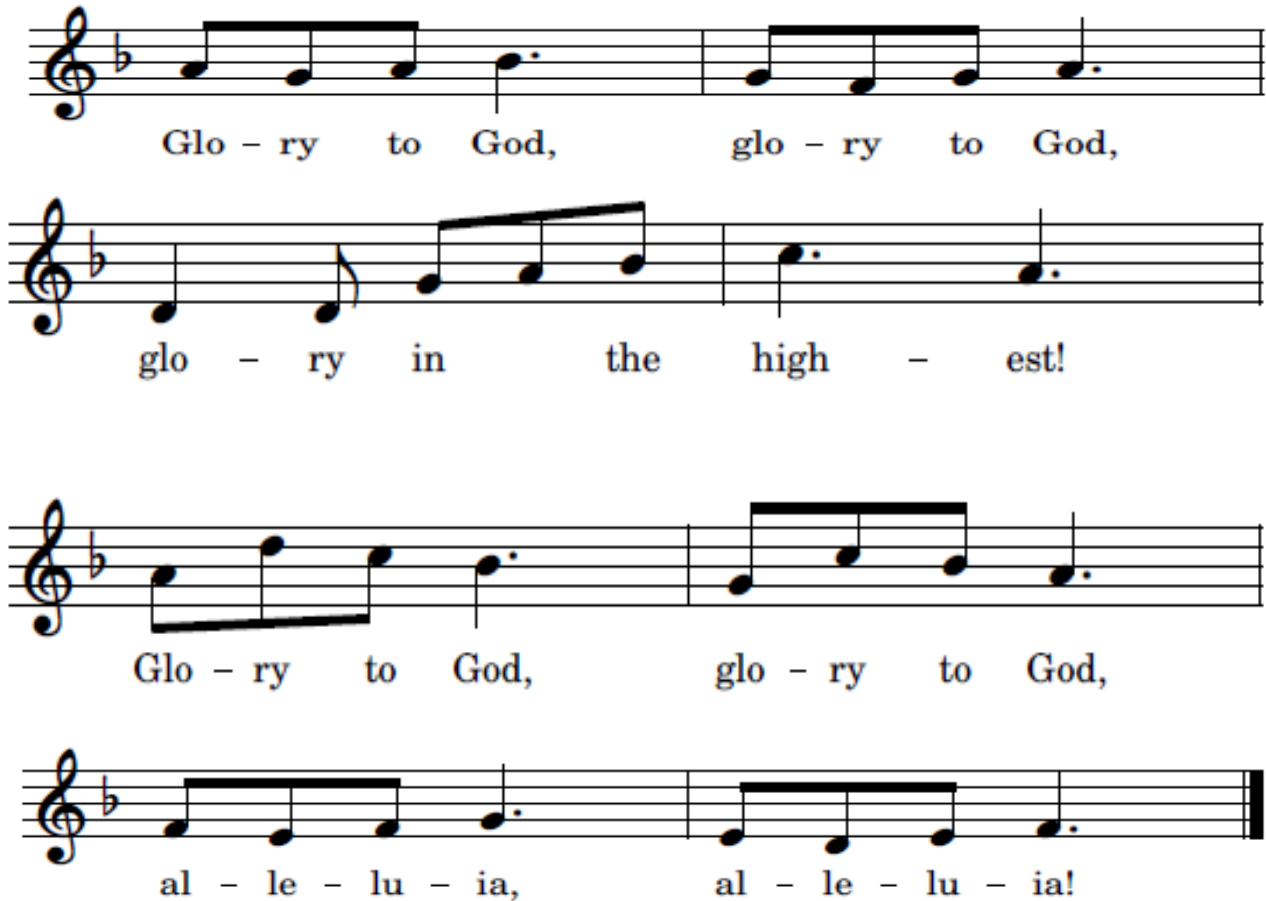
But, as it is written,  
'What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,  
nor the human heart conceived,  
what God has prepared for those who love him'—  
these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.

*1 Corinthians 2.1—16*

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.** ♪

Jesus continued, saying, 'You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine

before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

‘Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfil. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

*Matthew 5.13—20*

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

Processional Hymn # 502

**You Are Salt for the Earth** <sup>5</sup>

**You are salt for the earth, O people: salt for the kingdom of God!  
Share the flavour of life, O people: life in the kingdom of God.**

*Refrain:*

**Bring forth the kingdom of mercy,  
bring forth the kingdom of peace;  
bring forth the kingdom of justice,  
bring forth the city of God!**

**You are a light on the hill, O people: light for the city of God!  
Shine so holy and bright, O people: shine for the kingdom of God. *Refrain***

**You are a seed of the Word, O people: bring forth the kingdom of God!  
Seeds of mercy and seeds of justice grow in the kingdom of God. *Refrain***

**We are a bless and a pilgrim people bound for the kingdom of God!  
Love our journey and love our homeland: love is the kingdom of God. *Refrain***

Prayer over the Gifts <sup>6</sup>

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.**

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.**

Empowering God,

you established your creation like a watered garden,

and when your people's hopes lay in ruins

you answered their call

and removed the yoke from among them.

You guided them continually

and satisfied their needs in parched places.

In the death and resurrection of Christ

you repaired the breach between us

and you opened the way of peace for all your people.

And so we gladly thank you,

with angels and archangels,

and all the company of heaven,

singing the hymn of your 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.**



Eye has not seen nor ear heard, beckoning God,  
what you have prepared for those who love you.  
In Jesus you are the salt that preserves us with you forever, and you are the  
light that transforms the darkness of death.

On his last evening with the disciples  
your Son took the broken body and spilt blood of the cross  
and turned them into the glory of resurrection.

Come among us now  
and turn the brokenness of our lives  
and the spiltness of your world  
into the wonder of your new life.

Take these gifts of bread and wine  
and make them 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.**

Inspiring God,  
you instill in us the wisdom of your Son's cross,  
and you send us the Spirit  
who searches the depths of your heart  
and the depths of ours.  
Shape your people in the image of your Son  
to be repairers of the breach;  
send us to be beside those who cry,  
among any who are afflicted,  
alongside all whose foundations lie in ruins.  
Bless your church  
that it may bear the marks of its risen and ascended Lord.  
Raise up saints to embody your truth in our midst,  
loose the bonds of injustice,  
undo the thongs of the yoke,  
and let the oppressed go free,  
until the day when you are all in all,  
one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.



**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>8</sup>

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!**

*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>9</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.

Communion Hymn

**Let Us Break Bread Together**<sup>10</sup>

**Let us break bread together on our knees,  
let us break bread together on our knees.  
When I fall down on my knees  
with my face to the rising sun,  
Oh, Lord, have mercy on me.**

**Let us drink wine together on our knees,  
let us drink wine together on our knees.  
When I fall down on my knees  
with my face to the rising sun,  
Oh, Lord, have mercy on me.**

**Let us praise God together on our knees,  
let us praise God together on our knees.  
When I fall down on my knees  
with my face to the rising sun,  
Oh, Lord, have mercy on me.**

Prayer after Communion<sup>11</sup>

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.**

Doxology<sup>12</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

Recessional Hymn # 393

**Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise<sup>13</sup>**

**Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.**

**Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,  
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;  
thy justice like mountains high soaring above  
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.**

**To all life thou givest, to both great and small;  
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;  
we blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,  
then wither and perish, but nought changeth thee.**

**Great Source of all glory and wisdom and light,  
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;  
all laud we would render: O help us to see  
'tis only the splendour of light hideth thee.**



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 Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea;

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

Marion;  
Karen;  
Bob;

### ***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 Clara Collins

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

**Vestry will be held February 26<sup>th</sup>,  
after the 10 o'clock service**



**We hope you'll plan to attend!**

Please submit any vestry reports to the office as soon as possible.

## Souper Bowl Sunday

Next week!  
February 12<sup>th</sup>!

Let's bring in enough soup  
to fill the State Farm  
Stadium in Glendale, AZ\*



## Shrove Tuesday Lunch

Enjoy a fabulous lunch  
—pancakes, sauces &  
syrup, and sausage!

## Ash Wednesday Services

February 22<sup>nd</sup>

10:00 am  
7:00 pm



The journey to Easter  
begins as we  
celebrate the  
Eucharist and renew  
our turning toward  
the resurrection!

\* where the football will happen. Its capacity is 63, 400 people—expandable to 73, 000 for ‘mega-events.’ So... 73,000 cans of soup? CAN we do it?



# The Church of the Nativity

worshipwithnativity.org



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The Reverend Canon David Linn  
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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 from the rector.

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

<sup>3</sup> From *Prayers for an Inclusive Church*, alt. quoted in *Alternative Collects*. Anglican Church of Canada.

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

<sup>5</sup> Text and Music: Marty Haugen (1950—). © 1986 GIA Publications. Used under OneLicense A-604280.

<sup>6</sup> *Sundays and Seasons*.

<sup>7</sup> *Eucharistic Prayers*. Samuel Wells & Abigail Kocher. 2016.

<sup>8</sup> *Book of Alternative Services*.

<sup>9</sup> Selected from the prayers provided for this use in “A Celebration of the Holy Eucharist with Spiritual Communion,” Diocese of Niagara, 2020.

<sup>10</sup> African American spiritual. Used under OneLicense A-604280.

<sup>11</sup> *Sundays and Seasons*.

<sup>12</sup> *Book of Alternative Services*.

<sup>13</sup> Text: Walter Chalmers Smith (1824--1908), alt. Music: Melody Welsh trad.; adapt. John Roberts of Hellan (1808—76), *Canadau y Cyssegr*, 1839. Used under OneLicense A-604280.