



Church of the Nativity, Hamilton

Holy Eucharist

12 February 2023

The Sixth 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.

Stand Up and Bless the Lord ¹

**Stand up and bless the Lord, you people of God's choice;
stand up and bless the Lord of hosts with heart and soul and voice.**

**Though high above all praise, above all blessing high,
who would not fear God's holy name, and laud and magnify!**

**O for the living flame from God's own altar brought,
to touch our lips, our minds inspire, and wing to heaven our thought!**

**God is our strength and song, who makes salvation ours;
then be God's love in Christ proclaimed with all our ransomed powers.**

**Stand up and bless the Lord; the Lord your God adore;
stand up and bless the glorious name henceforth 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 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.**

Let us pray.

Living One, in whose freedom creation was born as gift:
free us from the need to possess, define and silence others,
so that we might rejoice
in the strangeness of your beauty revealed in flesh and blood;
through Jesus Christ, our reconciliation,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever.

Amen.

Unfolding the Scriptures

1st Reading

Sirach urges the people to choose between life and death.

If you choose, you can keep the commandments,
and to act faithfully is a matter of your own choice.
He has placed before you fire and water;
stretch out your hand for whichever you choose.
Before each person are life and death,
and whichever one chooses will be given.
For great is the wisdom of the Lord;
he is mighty in power and sees everything;
his eyes are on those who fear him,
and he knows every human action.
He has not commanded anyone to be wicked,
and he has not given anyone permission to sin.

Sirach 15.15—20

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

Happy are they whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord!
Happy are they who observe your decrees and seek you with all their hearts;
who never do any wrong, but always walk in your ways.
You laid down your commandments, that we should fully keep them.

Oh, that my ways were made so direct that I might keep your statutes!
Then I should not be put to shame, when I regard all your commandments.

I will thank you with an unfeigned heart,
when I have learned your righteous judgements.
I will keep your statutes; do not utterly forsake me.

2nd Reading

The Corinthians are reminded that God gives the growth.

And so, brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, for you are still of the flesh. For as long as there is jealousy and quarrelling among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving according to human inclinations? For when one says, 'I belong to Paul', and another, 'I belong to Apollos', are you not merely human?

What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages

according to the labour of each. For we are God's servants, working together;
you are God's field, God's building.

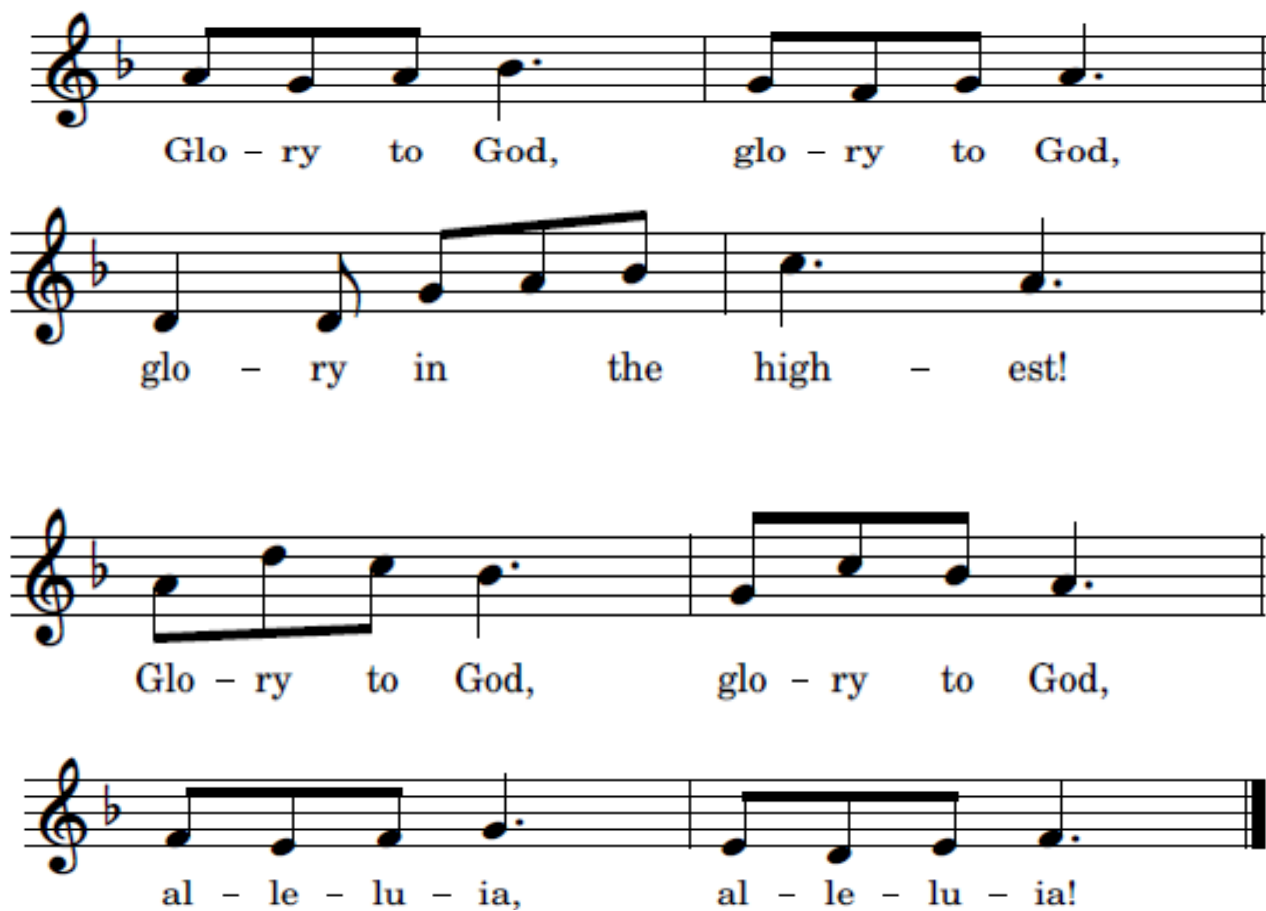
1 Corinthians 3.1—9

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel

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.** ♪

Jesus continued, saying, ‘You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, “You shall not murder”; and “whoever murders shall be liable to judgement.” But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgement; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, “You fool”, you will be liable to the hell of fire. So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

‘You have heard that it was said, “You shall not commit adultery.” But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell.

‘It was also said, “Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.” But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

‘Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, “You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.” But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let your word be “Yes, Yes” or “No, No”; anything more than this comes from the evil one.

Matthew 5.21—37

The Gospel of Christ.

♪ Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ. ♪

Homily

The Prayers of the People

✠ Merciful God,
✠ hear our prayer.

Confession and Absolution ⁴

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

Offertory Hymn # 487

Where Charity and Love Prevail ⁵

**Where charity and love prevail, there God is ever found;
brought here together by Christ's love, by love are we thus bound.**

**With grateful joy and holy fear his charity we learn;
let us with heart and mind and strength now love him in return.**

**Forgive we now each other's faults as we our faults confess;
and let us love each other well in Christian holiness.**

**Let strife among us be unknown; let all contention cease;
be his the glory that we seek, be ours his holy peace.**

**Let us recall that in our midst dwells God's begotten Son;
as members of his body joined, we are in him made one.**

**Love can exclude no race or creed if honoured be God's name;
our common life embraces all whose Father is the same.**

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.**

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.

Gracious God, you chose life when you established your creation,
when you called your people, and when you made a covenant with them.

You chose life when you came among us in Jesus to restore that

covenant and when, after we had chosen death, you raised him in glory.

You chose life when you empowered your disciples through your Holy Spirit
and when you gave birth to your church

so that we might give life to the world.

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.**

God of mercy, in your Son's broken body we see how much we mean to you,
and how much our faithlessness costs you.

Come among us in the power of your Holy Spirit,
that your people may be transformed by your hospitality
and sanctified by your grace,
and these gifts of bread and wine may become 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 uphold the most vulnerable and hear the cries of the lost.
Through this sacrament unite your divided people,
living and departed, faithful and unbelieving, merciful and mighty,
sorrowful and ashamed, able and disabled,
that you may through resurrection and coming kingdom
make one body out of so many broken bodies.

Restore your people in the image of your Son,
that they may be a community of compassion, forgiveness, and hope;
that your church may be full of your prophets,
and your prophets full of your grace,
until all tongues cease and tears are shed no more,
in the presence and communion of your Holy Trinity,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, ever one God.



A musical score for a piano accompaniment of the hymn 'Amen, Amen, Amen.' The score is written for a grand piano, with a treble and bass staff. The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor). The time signature is 8/8. The melody is in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics 'A - men, A - men, A - men.' are written below the treble staff. The score consists of six measures. The first two measures are marked with a repeat sign. The third measure is marked with a repeat sign. The fourth measure is marked with a repeat sign. The fifth measure is marked with a repeat sign. The sixth measure is marked with a repeat sign. The score ends with a double bar line.

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 ⁸

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 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.

Before I Take the Body of My Lord¹⁰

**Before I take the body of my Lord,
before I share his life in bread and wine,
I recognise the sorry things within—
these I lay down.**

**The words of hope I often failed to give,
the prayers of kindness buried by my pride,
the signs of care I argued out of sight,
these I lay down.**

**The narrowness of vision and of mind,
the need for other folk to serve my will,
and every word and silence meant to hurt,
these I lay down.**

**Of those around in whom I meet my Lord,
I ask their pardon and I grant them mine
that every contradiction to Christ's peace
might be laid down**

**Lord Jesus Christ, companion at this feast,
I empty now my heart and stretch my hands,
and ask to meet you here in bread and wine—
which you lay down**

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 # 551

My Faith Looks Up to Thee¹³

My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Calvary, Saviour divine.
Now hear me while I pray; take all my guilt away;
O let me from this day be wholly thine!

May thy rich grace impart strength to my fainting heart, my zeal inspire!
As thou hast died for me, O may my love to thee
pure, warm, and changeless be, a living fire.

While life's dark maze I tread, and griefs around me spread,
be thou my guide;
bid darkness turn to day, wipe sorrow's tears away,
nor let me ever stray from thee aside.

When ends life's transient dream, when death's cold, sullen stream
shall o'er me roll,
blest Saviour, then, in love, fear and distrust remove;
O bear me safe above, a ransomed soul!

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. Paul, Norval;
wider: Anne, our metropolitan archbishop;
Linda, our primate;
the Episcopal Church in the Philippines;

For those in our parish cycle of prayer:

Brian & Shirley;
Matthew, Lesley, & Owen;
James;

For the needs of the world:

for the women and children of Afghanistan;
for the earthquake response in Türkiye and Syria;

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 those killed due to the earthquake in Türkiye and Syria

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

Shrove Tuesday Lunch

February 21st at noon

Enjoy a fabulous lunch of pancakes, sauces & syrup, and sausage! Only \$7

Ash Wednesday Services

February 22nd at 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

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

Vestry

February 26th after the 10 o'clock service

We're gathering to receive the accounts for 2022, and elect and appoint wardens and Lay Representatives, as well as consider the budget for 2023. All are welcome, and anyone who is over 16, has been identifiably involved with the Church of the Nativity, and hasn't voted in another parish's vestry is eligible to vote.

Flowers

Would you like to give flowers for the altar? Whether in thanksgiving for a celebration, or in memory of a loved one, the flowers offer glory to God and enrich our common worship. If you'd like to know more, please speak with Patty Costen (our floral coordinator) or Laura in the office!

PWRDF – Türkiye and Syria

More than 5,000 people were killed and thousands more were injured and trapped beneath rubble in the aftermath of a massive 7.8 magnitude earthquake near the Turkish/Syrian border.

PWRDF has immediately allocated \$35, 000 to support those who have been impacted. Please keep all affected in your prayers. Donations can be made to support PWRDF's response online, by phone at 416-822.9083, or through a cheque either directly to PWRDF or via the parish (please make sure to indicate "Syrian Earthquake" in the memo field.



The Church of the Nativity

worshipwithnativity.org



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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 art work from Laura James, entitled “Sermon on the Mount.” She has given permission for the non-commercial use of this image with attribution; we are grateful to her for doing so!

¹ Text: James Montgomery (1771—1854), alt. Music: Aaron Williams (1731—76). Used under OneLicense A-604280.

² *Revised Common Lectionary Prayers*.

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

⁴ *Sundays and Seasons*

⁵ Text: Latin (9th century); tr. Omer Westendorf (1916—97), alt. Music: attrib. Lucius Chapin (1769—1842). 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 and Music: John L. Bell (1949—). © 1989 WGRG The Iona Community (Scotland). Used under OneLicense A-604280.

¹¹ *Sundays and Seasons*.

¹² *Book of Alternative Services*.

¹³ Text: Ray Palmer (1808—87). Music: Lowell Mason (1792—1872). Used under OneLicense A-604280.