



# Church of the Nativity, Hamilton

## Holy Eucharist

The Second Sunday in Lent

March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023



**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.*

Blessed be the Holy Trinity,  
one God, who forgives all our sin,  
**whose mercy endures for ever.**  
**Amen.**

Almighty God,  
**all hearts are open to you.**  
**No secrets are hidden from you.**  
**Purify us with the fire of your Holy Spirit**  
**that we may love and worship you faithfully,**  
**through Jesus Christ our Lord.**  
**Amen.**

Let us admit to God the sin which always confronts us.

Merciful God,  
**we have sinned in thought, word, and deed:**  
**we are truly sorry,**  
**and repent and turn to you.**  
**Renew our lives by your Spirit**  
**in the image of Jesus Christ our Saviour,**  
**to the glory of your holy name.**  
**Amen.**

Almighty God have mercy on you,  
forgive you and set you free from sin,  
and keep you in eternal life.  
**Amen.**

## Welcome

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,  
be with you all.

**And also with you**

## The Collect

Let us pray.

God of amazing compassion, lover of our wayward race,  
you bring to birth a pilgrim people,  
and call us to be a blessing for ourselves and all the world.  
We pray for grace to take your generous gift  
and step with courage on this holy path,  
confident in the radiant life that is your plan for us,  
made known and given in Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God for ever and ever

**Amen.**

# Unfolding the Scriptures

1<sup>st</sup> Reading

Abram believes and responds to God's call.

Now the LORD said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'

So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

*Genesis 12.1—4a*

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

**Thanks be to God.**

I lift up my eyes to the hills;  
from where is my help to come?  
**My help comes from the Lord,  
the maker of heaven and earth.**

The Lord will not let your foot be moved  
and the One who watches over you will not fall asleep.  
**Behold, the One who keeps watch over Israel  
shall neither slumber nor sleep.**

The Lord, the Lord, watches over you;  
the Lord is your shade at your side,  
**so that the sun shall not strike you by day,  
nor the moon by night.**

The Lord shall preserve you from all evil  
and shall keep you safe.  
**The Lord shall watch over your going out  
and your coming in,  
from this time forth for evermore.**

Using the example of Abraham, Paul describes how God's promise is realized through faith.

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? 'Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.'

Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham

(for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, 'I have made you the father of many nations')

in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

*Romans 4.1—5, 13—17*

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

**Thanks be to God.**



The acclamation is sung

In the Lord I'll be ev - er thank - ful,  
in the Lord I will re - joice!  
Look to God, do not be a - fraid;  
lift up your voic - es, the Lord is near;  
lift up our voic - es, the Lord is near. In the

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Saint John.

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

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, ‘Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.’ Jesus answered him, ‘Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.’ Nicodemus said to him,



‘How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?’ Jesus answered, ‘Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, “You must be born from above.” The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.’ Nicodemus said to him, ‘How can these things be?’ Jesus answered him, ‘Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?’

‘Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

‘For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

‘Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

*John 3.1—17*

The Gospel of Christ.

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

Homily

## Affirmation of Faith <sup>1</sup>

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

Though he was divine,  
Jesus did not cling to equality with God,  
but made himself nothing.

**Taking the form of a slave,  
he was born in human likeness.**

**He humbled himself  
and was obedient to death,  
even the death of the cross.**

**Therefore God has raised him on high,  
and given him the name above every name:  
that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,  
and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.**

**Amen.**

## The Prayers of the People

*V* Merciful God,  
*R* **receive our prayer.**

## The Peace

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

# Feasting at the Table

Offertory Song # 32

**Walls that Divide** <sup>2</sup>

**Though ancient walls may still stand proud  
and racial strife be fact,  
though boundaries may be lines of hate,  
proclaim God's saving act!**

*Refrain:* **Walls that divide are broken down;  
Christ is our unity!  
Chains that enslave are thrown aside;  
Christ is our liberty!**

**When vested power stands firm entrenched  
and breaks another's back,  
when waste and want live side by side,  
it's gospel that we lack. *Refrain...***

**The truth we seek in varied scheme,  
the life that we pursue,  
unites us in a common quest  
for self and world made new. *Refrain...***

**The church divided seeks that grace,  
that newness we proclaim,  
a unity of serving love  
that lives praise to God's name. *Refrain...***

*If you wish to make a monetary gift, you can do so at any time by mailing a cheque to the church (1831 King Street East, Hamilton, ON L8K 1V8) or via e-transfer to [donations.nativity@gmail.com](mailto:donations.nativity@gmail.com)*

## Prayer over the Gifts <sup>3</sup>

God of good gifts,  
receive these and all our offerings  
as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel.  
Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal  
as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus,  
the wellspring of eternal life.  
**Amen.**

## The Great Thanksgiving <sup>4</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, maker of light and darkness.

Your wisdom draws beauty from chaos,  
brings a harvest out of sorrow  
and leads the exiles home.

In Christ your Son enemies are reconciled,  
debts forgiven,  
and strangers made welcome.

Your Spirit frees us to live as daughters and sons in our God's house.

We who by Christ's power follow the way of the Cross,  
sharing the joy of his obedience,  
now 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.  
 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.**

Glory and thanksgiving be to you, Holy One,  
 for Christ in whom the world is reconciled.

When Jesus was lifted on the Cross,  
 death was swallowed up in victory,  
 that life and light might reign.

Before Jesus was given up to suffering and death,  
 recalling the night of Israel's release,  
 the night in which the sons of Egypt died,  
 your Chosen One, himself the First-Born, freely offered his life.

At supper with his disciples Jesus took bread and offered you thanks.  
He broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup  
we remember our Lord's Passover from death to life  
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

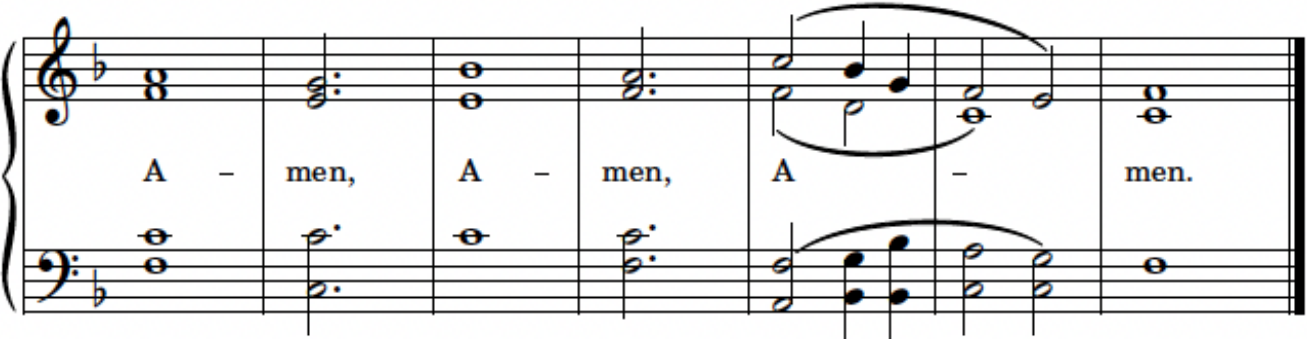
We now obey your Son's command,  
recalling his passion and death,  
his glorious resurrection and ascension;  
and we look for the coming of your reign.

Made one with Jesus,  
we offer you these gifts and with them ourselves,  
a single, holy, living sacrifice.

Hear us, gracious God,  
and send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and this wine,  
that, overshadowed by your 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 sisters and brothers, 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, world without end.



**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>5</sup>

We break this bread,  
**Communion in Christ's body once broken.**

Let your Church be the wheat which bears its fruit in dying.  
**If we have died with Christ, we shall live with Christ.  
If we hold firm, we shall reign with Christ.**

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>6</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.

Lord Jesus, of You I Will Sing<sup>7</sup>

Lord Jesus, of you I will sing as I journey.  
I'll tell all my neighbours about you where ever I go.  
You alone give us life, give us peace, give us love.  
Lord Jesus, of you I will sing as I journey.

Lord Jesus, I'll praise you as long as I journey.  
May all of my joy be a faithful reflection of you.  
May the earth and the sea and the sky join my song.  
Lord Jesus, I'll praise you as long as I journey.

As long as I live, Jesus, make me your servant,  
to carry your cross and to share all your burdens and tears;  
for you saved me by giving your body and blood.  
As long as I live, Jesus, make me your servant.

I fear in the dark and the doubt of my journey;  
but courage will come with the sound of your steps by my side,  
and with all of the family you saved by your love,  
we'll sing to the dawn at the end of your journey.

## Prayer after Communion <sup>8</sup>

Embodied God,  
at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus.  
With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise,  
empower us to hear the needs of our neighbours  
and touch the world with your love.

**Amen.**

## Doxology <sup>9</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

## Solemn Prayer over the People

Let us bow down before the Lord.

Keep this your family, Lord, with your never-failing mercy,  
that relying solely on the help of your heavenly grace,  
they may be upheld by your divine protection;  
through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**Fight the Good Fight with All Thy Might <sup>10</sup>**

**Fight the good fight with all thy might,  
Christ is thy strength and Christ thy right;  
lay hold on life, and it shall be  
thy joy and crown eternally.**

**Run the straight race, through God's good grace,  
lift up your eyes and seek Christ's face.  
Life with its way before us lies;  
Christ is the way, and Christ the prize.**

**Cast care aside, lean on thy guide;  
God's boundless mercy will provide;  
trust, and the trusting soul shall prove  
Christ is its life, and Christ its love.**

**Faint not nor fear, God's arms are near;  
God changes not and thou art dear.  
Only believe, and thou shalt see  
that Christ is all in all to 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 the St. Aidan, Oakville;  
wider: Anne, our metropolitan archbishop;  
Linda, our primate;  
the Church of the Province of Southeast Asia;

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

Shirley;  
Carrie;  
Jason, Sandy, Quinn, & Carlyn;

### ***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**



# The Church of the Nativity

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*Rector*  
*Honorary Assistant*  
*Parish Deacon*  
*Director of Music*  
*Parish Administrator*

Mrs. Jan Collinson  
Mr. David Eccles  
Mr. Doug Lampman

*Wardens*



## Sources

Our cover image:

JESUS MAFA. Nicodemus, from *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=48385> [retrieved February 26, 2023]. Original source: <http://www.librairie-emmanuel.fr> (contact page: <https://www.librairie-emmanuel.fr/contact>).

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<sup>1</sup> Church of England, *Common Worship*. Affirmation Eg. cf *Philippians* 2.6—11

<sup>2</sup> Text: Michael Farquharson, 1974. Music: Ron Klusmeier, 1974. © WorshipArts. Used under OneLicense A-604280.

<sup>3</sup> *Sundays and Seasons*.

<sup>4</sup> *Eucharistic Prayers*. Samuel Wells & Abigail Kocher. 2016.

<sup>5</sup> *Book of Alternative Services*, alt.

<sup>6</sup> Selected from the prayers provided for this use in “A Celebration of the Holy Eucharist with Spiritual Communion,” Diocese of Niagara, 2020.

<sup>7</sup> Text: Les Petites Soeurs de Jésus; tr. Stephen Somerville. Music trad. Melody. © Fw. Editions de L’Epi, Paris, 1987. Used under OneLicense A-604280.

<sup>8</sup> *Sundays and Seasons*.

<sup>9</sup> *Book of Alternative Services*.

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