

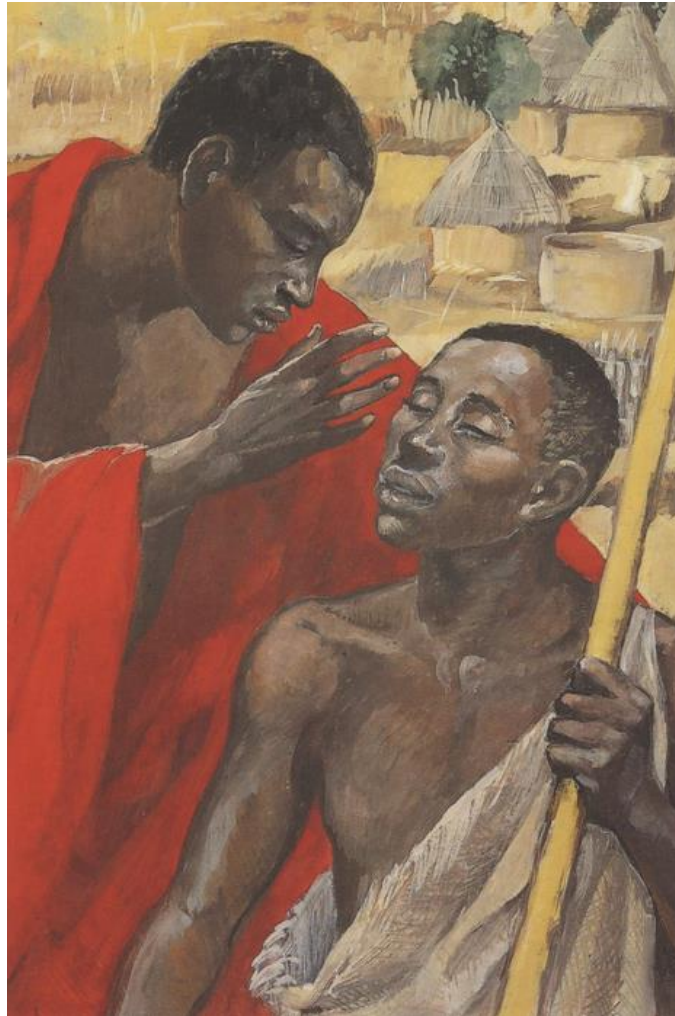


# Church of the Nativity, Hamilton

## Holy Eucharist

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 19<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 <sup>1</sup>

Let us pray.

Creator and Healer,  
you work your Sabbath will in the chaos of our life:  
teach us the insight that gives true judgement  
and praises you wherever you are found,  
making miracles from spit and mud;  
through Jesus Christ, the Son of earth,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

# Unfolding the Scriptures

1<sup>st</sup> Reading

God directs Samuel to anoint a new king, David, in place of Saul.

The LORD said to Samuel, 'How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.'

Samuel said, 'How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.' And the LORD said, 'Take a heifer with you, and say, "I have come to sacrifice to the LORD." Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.' Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, 'Do you come peaceably?' He said, 'Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.' And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, 'Surely the LORD's anointed is now before the LORD.' But the LORD said to Samuel, 'Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.' Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, 'Neither has the LORD chosen this one.' Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, 'Neither has the LORD chosen this one.'

Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, 'The LORD has not chosen any of these.' Samuel said to Jesse, 'Are all your sons here?' And he said, 'There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.' And Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.'

Jesse sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, 'Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.' Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

*1 Samuel 16. 1—13*

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

**Thanks be to God.**

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

**You make me lie down in green pastures  
and lead me beside still waters.**

You revive my soul

and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I shall fear no evil;**

for you are with me;

your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

**You spread a table before me  
in the presence of those who trouble me;**

you have anointed my head with oil,

and my cup is running over.

**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.**

The Christians of Ephesus are reminded that in baptism they cast aside pagan ways and became members of God's community.

For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light— for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, 'Sleeper, awake!

Rise from the dead,  
and Christ will shine on you.'

*Ephesians 5. 8—14*

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.** ♪

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, ‘Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?’ Jesus answered, ‘Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am

in the world, I am the light of the world.’ When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, saying to him, ‘Go, wash in the pool of Siloam’ (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, ‘Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?’ Some were saying, ‘It is he.’ Others were saying, ‘No, but it is someone like him.’ He kept saying, ‘I am the man.’ But they kept asking him, ‘Then how were your eyes opened?’ He answered, ‘The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, “Go to Siloam and wash.” Then I went and washed and received my sight.’ They said to him, ‘Where is he?’ He said, ‘I do not know.’

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, ‘He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.’ Some of the Pharisees said, ‘This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.’ But others said, ‘How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?’ And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, ‘What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.’ He said, ‘He is a prophet.’

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, ‘Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?’ His parents answered, ‘We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.’ His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, ‘He is of age; ask him.’

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, ‘Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.’ He answered, ‘I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.’ They said to him, ‘What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?’ He answered them, ‘I have told you already, and you would not

listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?’ Then they reviled him, saying, ‘You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.’ The man answered, ‘Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.’ They answered him, ‘You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?’ And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, ‘Do you believe in the Son of Man?’ He answered, ‘And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.’ Jesus said to him, ‘You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.’ He said, ‘Lord, I believe.’ And he worshipped him. Jesus said, ‘I came into this world for judgement so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.’ Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, ‘Surely we are not blind, are we?’ Jesus said to them, ‘If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, “We see”, your sin remains.

*John 9.1—41*

The Gospel of Christ.

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

Homily

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 Hymn # 397

**Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness <sup>4</sup>**

**Praise the one who breaks the darkness with a liberating light.  
Praise the one who frees the prisoners, turning blindness into sight.  
Praise the one who preached the gospel, healing every dread disease,  
calming storms and feeding thousands with the very bread of peace.**

**Praise the one who blessed the children with a strong yet gentle word.  
Praise the one who drove out demons with a piercing, two-edged sword.  
Praise the one who brings cool water to the desert's burning sand.  
From this well comes living water, quenching thirst in every land.**

**Let us praise the one true love incarnate: Christ, who suffered in our place.  
Jesus died and rose for many that we may know God by grace.  
Let us sing for joy and gladness, seeing what our God has done.  
Praise the one redeeming glory, praise the One who makes us one.**

*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>5</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>6</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.  
 Blessed 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.  
 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.

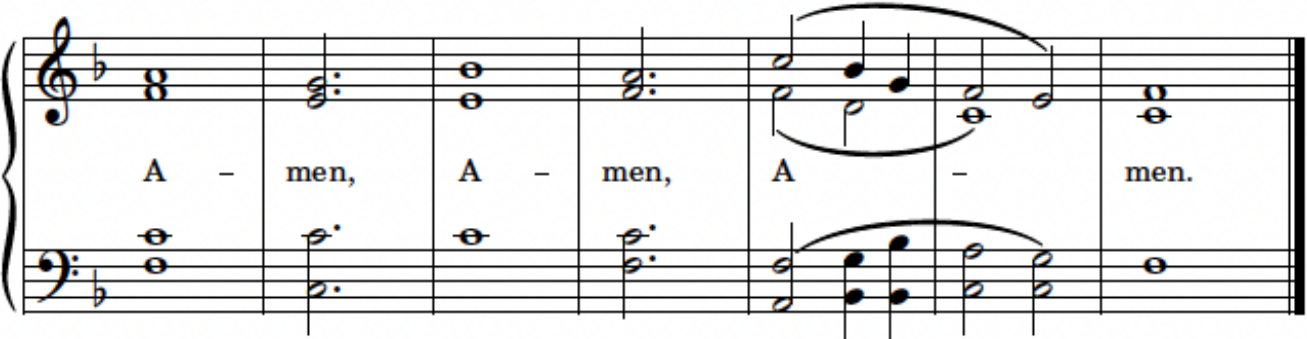
Made one with Jesus,  
we offer you these gifts and with them ourselves,  
a single, holy, living sacrifice.

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>7</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>8</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.

**He leadeth me: O blessed thought!  
O words with heavenly comfort fraught!  
Whate'er I do, where'er I be,  
still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.**

*Refrain:*

**He leadeth me, he leadeth me;  
by his own hand he leadeth me:  
his faithful follower I would be,  
for by his hand he leadeth me.**

**Sometimes mid scenes of deepest gloom,  
sometimes where Eden's flowers bloom,  
by waters calm, o'er troubled sea,  
still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me. *Refrain...***

**Lord, I would clasp thy hand in mine,  
nor ever murmur nor repine;  
content, whatever lot I see,  
since 'tis my God that leadeth me. *Refrain...***

**And when my task on earth is done,  
when, by thy grace, the victory's won,  
e'en death's cold wave I will not flee,  
since God through Jordan leadeth me. *Refrain...***

## Prayer after Communion <sup>10</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>11</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 <sup>12</sup>

Let us bow down before the Lord.

Look down in mercy, Lord,  
on your people who kneel before you;  
and grant that those whom you have nourished  
by your Word and Sacraments  
may bring forth fruit worthy of repentance;  
through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**Awake! Awake! Fling Off the Night** <sup>13</sup>

**Awake! Awake! Fling off the night,  
for God has sent a glorious light,  
and we who live in Christ's new day  
must works of darkness put away.**

**Awake and sing, with praises strong,  
in psalm and hymn and spirit song.  
Let love our words and works renew  
with all that's good and right and true.**

**Let in the light; all sin expose  
to Christ, whose life no darkness knows.  
Before the cross expectant kneel;  
that Christ may judge, and judging, heal.**

**Then rise as children of the light.  
Be neither proud, nor hide from sight.  
Be careful how you live, and wise  
to sift the truth from cunning lies.**

**Through Christ give thanks to God, and say  
to other sleepers on the way:  
"Awake, and rise up from the dead  
that Christ may shine on you instead!"**

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. Jude, Oakville;

wider: Anne, our metropolitan archbishop;

Linda, our primate;

the Anglican Church of Southern Africa;

The Mothers' Union,

here at the Nativity and throughout the world;

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

Maureen;

Hugh & Georgia;

Sean, Sylvia, Grace, Gwyneth & George;

### ***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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The Right Reverend Susan Bell  
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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: JESUS MAFA. Jesus cures the man born blind, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=48383> [retrieved March 14, 2023]. Original source: <http://www.librairie-emmanuel.fr> (contact page: <https://www.librairie-emmanuel.fr/contact>).

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<sup>1</sup> From *Prayers for an Inclusive Church* quoted in *Alternative Collects for Years A, B, & C of the Revised Common Lectionary and Seasonal Prayers over the Gifts and after Communion*. Liturgy Task Force. Faith, Worship, and Ministry Committee of the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada.

<sup>2</sup> *A Liturgical Psalter: General Synod 2016 Edition*. Anglican Church of Canada.

<sup>3</sup> Church of England, *Common Worship*. Affirmation E9. cf *Philippians* 2.6—11

<sup>4</sup> Text: Rusty Edwards (1955—). © 1987 Hope Publishing. Music: *A Repository of Sacred Music: Part Second*, Harrisburg, 1813. Used under OneLicense A-604280.

<sup>5</sup> *Sundays and Seasons*.

<sup>6</sup> *The Scottish Liturgy* 1982. Scottish Episcopal Church. 1982, rev. 2022.

<sup>7</sup> *Book of Alternative Services*, alt.

<sup>8</sup> Selected from the prayers provided for this use in “A Celebration of the Holy Eucharist with Spiritual Communion,” Diocese of Niagara, 2020.

<sup>9</sup> Text: J.H. Gillmore (1834—1918). Music *Singing Pilgrim* (1866). Used under OneLicense A-604280.

<sup>10</sup> *Sundays and Seasons*.

<sup>11</sup> *Book of Alternative Services*.

<sup>12</sup> *The Book of Occasional Services* 2003. 2004, Church Publishing Fund. The Episcopal Church.

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