



Church of the Nativity, Hamilton

Holy Eucharist

Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 30th, 2023



WEB 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.

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say ¹

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
“Come unto me and rest;
lay down, thou weary one,
lay down thy head upon my breast.”
I came to Jesus as I was,
so weary, worn, and sad;
I found in him a resting place,
and he has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
“Behold, I freely give
the living water; thirsty one,
stoop down and drink and live.”
I came to Jesus, and I drank
of that life-giving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
and now I live in him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
“I am this dark world’s light;
look unto me, thy morn shall rise,
and all thy day be bright.”
I looked to Jesus, and I found
in him my star, my sun;
and in that light of life I’ll walk
till traveling days are done.

Welcome

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!

May Christ's grace and peace be with you.

May Christ fill our hearts with joy.

The Collect ²

Let us pray.

Life abundant, God of grace,
you call us by name to live without fear:
in peace may we resist all who kill and despoil your people,
that their hearts might be turned to the only source of life;
through Jesus Christ, gateway,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

Unfolding the Scriptures

1st Reading

In the Acts of the Apostles we hear what daily life was like among the earliest followers of Christ.

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad

and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people.
And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Acts 2.42 — 47

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.

Peter exhorts us to follow Christ's example when we suffer for doing what is right.

For it is to your credit if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, where is the credit in that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

'He committed no sin,
and no deceit was found in his mouth.'

When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

1 Peter 2.19 — 25

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 John.

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

Jesus said, ‘Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.’ Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, ‘Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

John 10.1—10

The Gospel of Christ.

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

The Apostles' Creed

Let us confess the faith of our baptism,
as we say,
**I believe in God,
the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again
to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

The Prayers of the People

℟ Risen Lord,
℞ hear our prayer.

The peace of the Lord be always with you!
And also with you.

Feasting at the Table

Offertory Hymn # 244

We Walk by Faith, and Not by Sight ⁴

**We walk by faith and not by sight;
no gracious words we hear
from him who spoke as none e'er spoke;
but we believe him near.**

**We may not touch his hands and side,
nor follow where he trod;
but in his promise we rejoice,
and cry, "My Lord and God!"**

**Help then, O Lord, our unbelief;
and may our faith abound,
to call on you when you are near,
and seek where you are found:**

**that, when our life of faith is done,
in realms of clearer light
we may behold you as you are,
with full and endless sight.**

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

*The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God,
and in loving memory of Dr. Ruth Lashley and the Reverend Marshall Lashley,
a gift given by Valrie Lashley*

Prayer over the Gifts ⁵

Generous God, in this meal you offer your very self.
We give thanks for these gifts of the earth.
In the breaking of this bread reveal to us the Risen One.
In the pouring of this wine pour us out in service to the world;
through Jesus the Christ, our Saviour and Lord.
Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving ⁶

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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,
almighty and merciful God,
for the glorious resurrection of our Saviour Jesus Christ,
the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin;
who in dying has destroyed death,
and in rising has brought us to eternal life.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter
and all the witnesses of the resurrection,
with earth and sea and all their creatures,
and with angels and archangels,
cherubim and seraphim,

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:   

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

God of pow'r and might.

Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry,

Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Blest 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.

O God most mighty, O God most merciful, O God our rock and our salvation,
 hear us as we praise your holy Name,
 call us to your table,
 grant us your life.

When the world was a formless void, you formed order and beauty.
When Abraham and Sarah were barren, you sent them a child.
When the Israelites were enslaved, you led them to freedom.
Ruth faced starvation,
David fought Goliath,
the psalmists cried out for healing,
and full of compassion, you granted the people your life.

You entered our sorrows in Jesus our brother.
He was born among those living in poverty,
he lived under oppression,
he wept over the city.
With infinite love, he granted the people your life.

On the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, 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.

Remembering his death, we cry out Amen.

Amen!

Celebrating his resurrection, we shout Amen.

Amen!

Trusting his presence in every time and place, we plead Amen.

Amen!

O God, you are Breath: send your Spirit on this meal.
O God, you are Bread: feed us with yourself.
O God, you are Wine: warm our hearts and make us one.
O God, you are Fire: transform us with hope.

O God most majestic,
O God most motherly,
O God our strength and our song,
you show us a vision of a tree of life
with fruits for all and leaves that heal the nations.

Grant us such life,
the life of the Father to the Son,
the life of the Spirit of our risen Saviour,
life in you, now and forever.



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.

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.

**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.**

**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 ⁷

Lord, we died with you on the cross.
Now we are raised to new life.

We were buried in your tomb.
**Now we share in your resurrection.
Live in us, that we may live in you.**

Jesus Christ, risen from the dead,
gives everyone a place at the welcome table.
Alleluia! Come to the feast, for all is now ready.
Thanks be to God! Alleluia!

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 ⁸:

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.

The Lord's My Shepherd ⁹

**The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want:
he makes me down to lie
in pastures green; he leadeth me
the quiet waters by.**

**My soul he doth restore again,
and me to walk doth make
within the paths of righteousness,
even for his own name's sake.**

**Yea, though I walk through death's dark vale,
yet will I fear none ill;
for thou art with me, and thy rod
and staff me comfort still.**

**My table thou hast furnished
in presence of my foes;
my head thou dost with oil anoint,
and my cup overflows.**

**Goodness and mercy all my life
shall surely follow me,
and in God's house for evermore
my dwelling place shall be.**

Prayer after Communion ¹⁰

Gracious God, in you we live and move and have our being.
With your word and this meal of grace, you have nourished our life together.
Strengthen us to show your love and serve the world in Jesus' name.
Amen.

Generous God,
you have fed us at your heavenly table.
Kindle us with the fire of your Spirit
that when the Lord comes again
we may shine as lights before him,
who is alive and reigns in glory for ever.
Amen.

Parish Announcements

Blessing

Recessional Hymn # 231

That Eastertide with Joy Was Bright ¹²

That Eastertide with joy was bright;
the sun shone out with fairer light,
alleluia, alleluia!
when, to their longing eyes restored,
the apostles saw their risen Lord.
Alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

He bade them see his hands, his side,
where yet the glorious wounds abide;
alleluia, alleluia!
the tokens true which made it plain
their Lord indeed was risen again.
Alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

From every weapon death can wield
thine own redeemed forever shield:
alleluia, alleluia!

O Lord of all, with us abide
in this our joyful Eastertide.

Alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus, the king of gentleness,
do thou thyself our hearts possess,
alleluia, alleluia!

that we may give thee all our days
the tribute of our grateful praise.

Alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Dismissal

Alleluia! Go in peace! Serve the Risen One!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Postlude

Your Daily Prayers are Requested:

For the Church:

our Bishop: Susan
our diocese: all the people of the Diocese of Niagara;
cycle: the Church of the Ascension, Hamilton;
wider: Anne, our metropolitan archbishop;
Linda, our primate;
the Episcopal Church;

For those in our parish cycle of prayer:

Audrey;
Joyce;
Shirley;

For the needs of the world:

For peace:

Ukraine, Sudan, 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:

**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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bit.ly/NativityYT



1831 King St. East
Hamilton, ON L8K 1V8



(905) 549-4335



admin@worshipwithnativity.org

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

Wardens

Sources

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Koenig, Peter. I am the Gate, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=58511> [retrieved April 25, 2023]. Original source: Peter Winfried (Canisius) Koenig, <https://www.pwkoenig.co.uk/>.

¹ Text: Horatius Bonar (1808—89). To the tune KINGSFOLD. Music: Melody English trad.; coll. Lucy Broadwood (1858—1929).

² *Prayers for an Inclusive Church* (2009), alt. From *Alternative Collects* from the Anglican Church of Canada.

³ *A Liturgical Psalter: General Synod 2016 Edition*. Anglican Church of Canada.

⁴ Text: Donald Fishel (1950—). Music: Donald Fishel (1950—); arr. Betty Carr Pulkingham (1928—2019). © 1973 Word of God Music. Used under OneLicense A-604280.

⁵ *Sundays and Seasons*.

⁶ *Eucharistic Prayers*. Samuel Wells & Abigail Kocher.

⁷ *Book of Alternative Services*, alt.

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

⁹ Text: Psalm 23; para. Scottish Psalter, 1650. Music: Jessie Seymoud Irvine (1836—87). Used under OneLicense A-604280.

¹⁰ *Sundays and Seasons*.

¹¹ Church of Wales.

¹² Text: Latin (*Aurora lucis rutilat*, part 3, 5th c?); tr. John Mason Neale (1818—1866). Music: to the tune LASST UNS ERFREUEN, Melody: *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623. Used under OneLicense A-604280.