



Church of the Nativity, Hamilton

Holy Eucharist

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 14th, 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.

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee ¹

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
hearts unfold like flowers before thee,
opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
drive the dark of doubt away;
giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.

All thy works with joy surround thee,
earth and heaven reflect thy rays,
stars and angels sing around thee,
center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain
call us to rejoice in thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blest,
well-spring of the joy of living,
ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father and our Mother,
all who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other,
lift us to the joy divine.

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.

Three-fold God of love,

you invite us to abide in you.

May we follow the Spirit of truth,

so that through us your commanding love

may speak to the heart of the world;

through Jesus Christ our Lord,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

Unfolding the Scriptures

1st Reading

In Athens, Paul explains Christ's resurrection in terms the Athenians can understand.

Then Paul stood in front of the Arēopagus and said, 'Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, "To an unknown god." What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed

anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us.

For “In him we live and move and have our being”; as even some of your own poets have said,
“For we too are his offspring.”

Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.’

Acts 17. 22 – 31

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

Bless our God, you peoples;
make the voice of God's praise to be heard;
**who holds our souls in life,
and will not allow our feet to slip.**

For you, O God, have proved us;
you have tried us just as silver is tried.
**You brought us into the snare;
you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.**

You let enemies ride over our heads;
we went through fire and water;
but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.
**I will enter your house with burnt-offerings
and will pay you my vows,**

which I promised with my lips
and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.
**I will offer you sacrifices
of fat beasts with the smoke of rams;
I will give you oxen and goats.**

Come and listen, all you who fear God,
and I will tell you what the Lord has done for me,
**The One to whom I called out with my mouth
and whose praise was on my tongue.**

If I had found evil in my heart,
the Lord would not have heard me;
**But in truth God has heard me
and has attended to the voice of my prayer.**

Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer,
nor withheld steadfast love from me.

Peter reminds us to defend with a clear conscience our hope in Christ.

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defence to anyone who demands from you an account of the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence.

Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil.

For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight people, were saved through water.

And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

1 Peter 3. 13 – 22

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 ‘If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

‘I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.

They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.’

John 14.15—29

The Gospel of Christ.

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

Homily

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

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

Feasting at the Table

Offertory Song # 28⁴

Would You Bless Our Homes and Families

Would you bless our homes and families,
Source of life who calls us here;
in our world of stress and tension
teach us love that conquers fear.
Help us learn to love each other
with a love that constant stays;
teach us when we face our troubles,
love's expressed in many ways.

When our way is undemanding,
let us use the time that's ours
to delight in simple pleasures,
sharing joys in gentle hours.
When our way is anxious walking
and a heavy path we plod,
teach us trust in one another
and in you, our gracious God.

From the homes in which we're nurtured
with the love that shapes us there,
teach us, God, to claim as family
every one whose life we share.
And through all that life may offer,
may we in your love remain;
may the love we share in families
be alive to praise your name.

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

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.

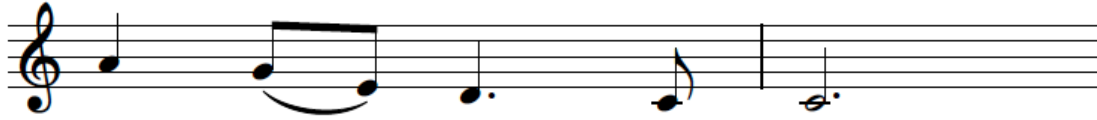
It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,
almighty and merciful God,
for the glorious resurrection of our Saviour Jesus Christ,
the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin;
who in dying has destroyed death,
and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

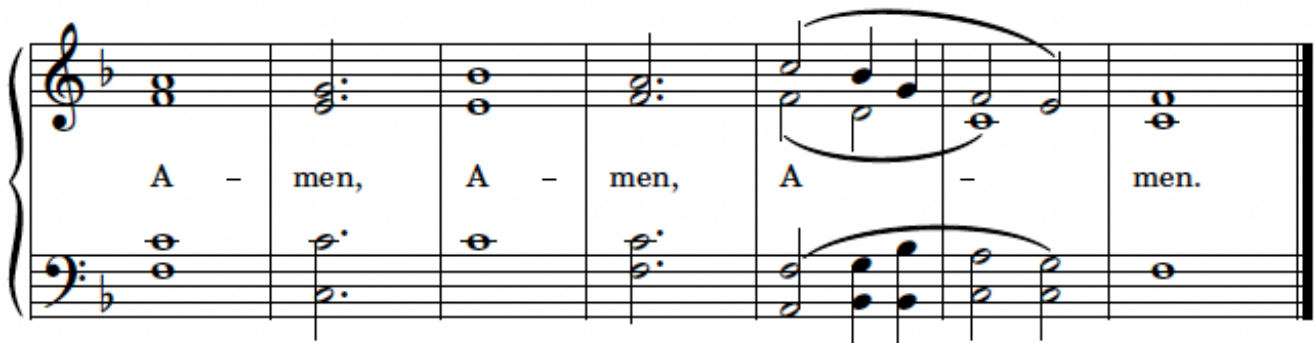
O God, you are Bread: feed us with yourself.

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 Bread⁷

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.

And Now, O Father, Mindful of the Love ⁹

And now, O Father, mindful of the love
that bought us, once for all, on Calvary's tree,
and having with us him that pleads above,
we here present, we here spread forth to thee
that only offering perfect in thine eyes,
the one true, pure, immortal sacrifice.

Look, Father, look on his anointed face,
and only look on us as found in him;
look not on our misusings of thy grace,
our prayer so languid, and our faith so dim.
For lo! Between our sins and their reward
we set the passion of thy Son our Lord.

And then for those, our dearest and our best,
by this prevailing presence we appeal:
O fold them closer to thy mercy's breast;
O do thine utmost for their souls' true weal;
from tainting mischief keep them pure and clear,
and crown thy gifts with strength to persevere.

And so we come: O draw us to thy feet,
most patient Saviour, who canst love us still;
and by this food, so awesome and so sweet,
deliver us from every touch of ill.
In thine own service make us glad and free,
and grant us never more to part with thee.

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.

Doxology ¹¹

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 # 527

How Firm a Foundation ¹²

**How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in his excellent Word!
What more can he say than to you he hath said,
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?**

**“Fear not, I am with thee, oh; be not dismayed!
For I am thy God and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.**

When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
the rivers of woe shall not thee overflow;
for I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless,
and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
my grace, all-sufficient, shall be thy supply;
the flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose
I will not—I will not desert to its foes;
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no never, no never forsake!"

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: St. John the Evangelist, Hamilton;

wider: Anne, our metropolitan archbishop;

Linda, our primate;

The Church of the Province of West Africa;

For those in our parish cycle of prayer:

Derek & Amanda;

Rose & Charles;

Gayle;

For the needs of the world:

For peace:

Ukraine, Sudan, South Sudan, 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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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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Wesley, Frank, 1923-2002. *The Holy Spirit*, from *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=59262> [retrieved April 25, 2023]. Original source: Estate of Frank Wesley, http://www.frankwesleyart.com/main_page.htm

¹ Text: Henry van Dyke (1852—1933), alt. Music: Ludwig van Beethoven (1772—1827); arr. Edward Hodges (1796—1867). Used under OneLicense A-604280.

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: Walter Farquharson (1936—), alt. Music: Ron Klusmeier (1946—). From *Songs for a Gospel People*. 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: William Bright (1824—1901), alt. Music: William Henry Monk (1823—89). Used under OneLicense A-604280.

¹⁰ *Sundays and Seasons*.

¹¹ Church of Wales.

¹² Text: John Rippon (1751—1836). Music: Welsh trad.; adapt. John Roberts of Henllan (1808—1876). Used under OneLicense A-604280.