Church of the Nativity, Hamilton

Holy Eucharist

The 6th Sunday after Pentecost

July 9th, 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.

Processional Hymn **# 425**

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

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 [2]

Let us pray.

Lord of heaven and earth,
whose Son came eating and drinking,
exposing the rivalry that tears the world apart:
may we share his feast and friendship
and lay our burdens in his liberating arms;
through Jesus Christ, Wisdom's Child,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.
Amen.

Unfolding the Scriptures

1st Reading

A reading from the book of Genesis.

So he said, 'I am Abraham's servant. The LORD has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. My master made me swear, saying, "You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son." 'I came today to the spring, and said, "O LORD, the God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, 'Please give me a little water from your jar to drink,' and who will say to me, 'Drink, and I will draw for your camels also'—let her be the woman whom the LORD has appointed for my master's son."

'Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water-jar on her shoulder; and she went down to the spring, and drew. I said to her, "Please let me drink." She quickly let down her jar from

her shoulder, and said, "Drink, and I will also water your camels." So I drank, and she also watered the camels. Then I asked her, "Whose daughter are you?" She said, "The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him." So I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her arms. Then I bowed my head and worshipped the LORD, and blessed the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son. Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left.' And they called Rebekah, and said to her, 'Will you go with this man?' She said, 'I will.' So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham's servant and his men. And they blessed Rebekah and said to her,

'May you, our sister, become
  thousands of myriads;
may your offspring gain possession
  of the gates of their foes.'

Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man; thus the servant took Rebekah, and went his way.

Now Isaac had come from Beer-lahai-roi, and was settled in the Negeb. Isaac went out in the evening to walk in the field; and looking up, he saw camels coming. And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel, and said to the servant, 'Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?' The servant said, 'It is my master.' So she took her veil and covered herself. And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

Genesis 24.34—38, 42—49, 58—67

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.
Thanks be to God.

Canticle

Song of Songs 2.8—13

The voice of my beloved!
Look, he comes, leaping upon the mountains,
bounding over the hills.

My beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag.
Look, there he stands behind our wall,
gazing in at the windows, looking through the lattice.
My beloved speaks and says to me:
'Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away;

for now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone.
The flowers appear on the earth;
the time of singing has come,
and the voice of the turtle-dove is heard in our land.

The fig tree puts forth its figs,
and the vines are in blossom;
they give forth fragrance.
Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.

2nd Reading

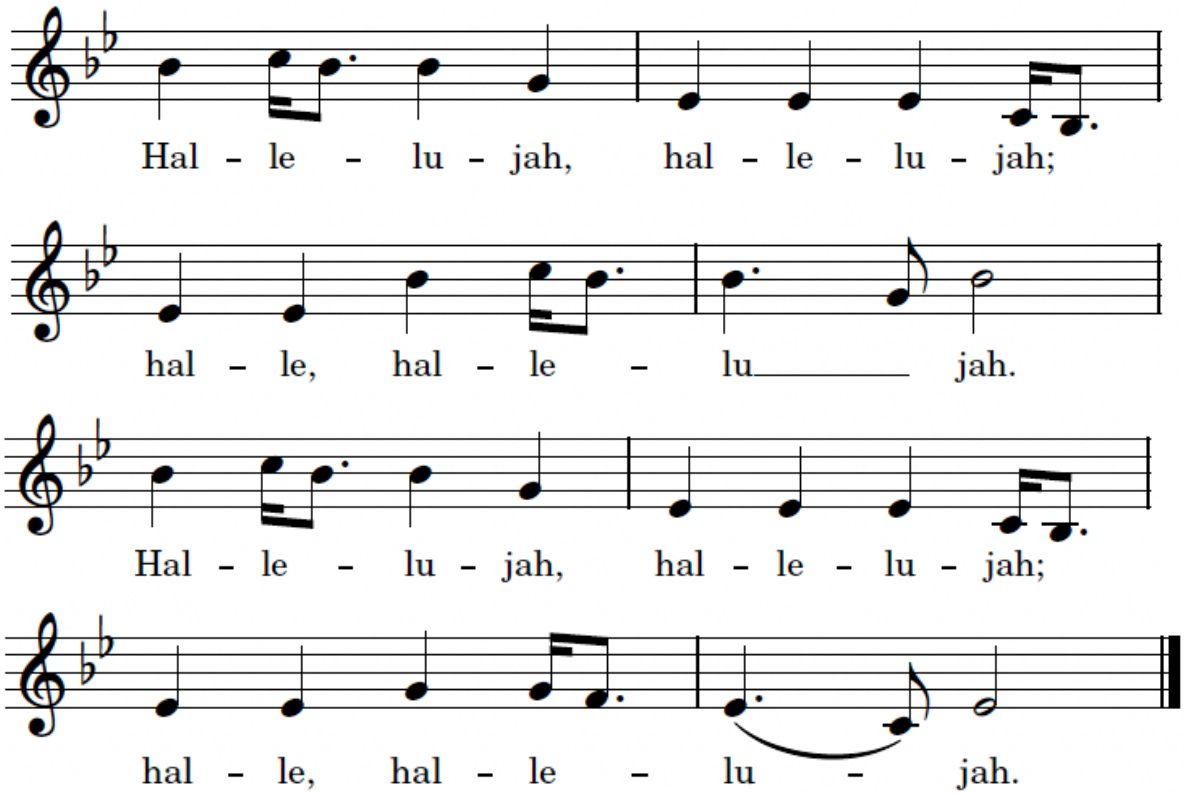
A reading from the letter to the followers of Jesus in Rome.

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Romans 7.15—25[a]

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.
Thanks be to God.



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 said, 'But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the market-places and calling to one another,
"We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not mourn."
For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, "He has a demon"; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, "Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax-collectors and sinners!" Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.'

At that time Jesus said, 'I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and

have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'

Matthew 11.16—19, 25—30

The Gospel of Christ.

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

Homily

Affirmation of Faith [3]

Let us affirm the faith we share.

We trust in God, who has created and is creating;
who came to us in Jesus, the word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new;
who works in us and others by the Holy Spirit.

We believe we are called to be God's people:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in creation, to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus' death and resurrection
by word and deed.

We live in hope because in life,
in death,
in life beyond death,
we are not alone:
God is with us.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

℣ God, in your love,
℟ **hear our prayer.**

Confession & Absolution [4]

Dear friends in Christ,
God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy,
welcoming sinners and inviting us to this table.
Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

Steadfast and faithful God,
you have revealed the ways of justice,
yet we fail to follow you.
We are overwhelmed
by the world's violence and suffering.
We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others.
For the harm we have caused,
known and unknown, forgive us.
For the unjust demands we place on others
and your creation, forgive us.
For the ways we turn away
from you and our neighbour, forgive us.
Lead us back to you and set us on the right path;
in the name of Jesus Christ, our Saviour. Amen.

Almighty God have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in eternal life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Peace

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

Feasting at the Table

Offertory Hymn # **354**

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing [5]

Come, thou Fount of every blessing,
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious measure,
sung by flaming tongues above;
O the vast, the boundless treasure
of my God's unchanging love.

Here I make faith's affirmation:
thus far by thy help I've come,
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be!
Let thy goodness, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
prone to leave the God I love;
take my heart, O take and seal it,
seal it for thy courts above.

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 [6]

God of field and forest, sea and sky,
you are the giver of all good things.
Sustain us with these gifts of your creation,
and multiply your graciousness in us,
that the world may be fed with your love,
through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.
Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving [7]

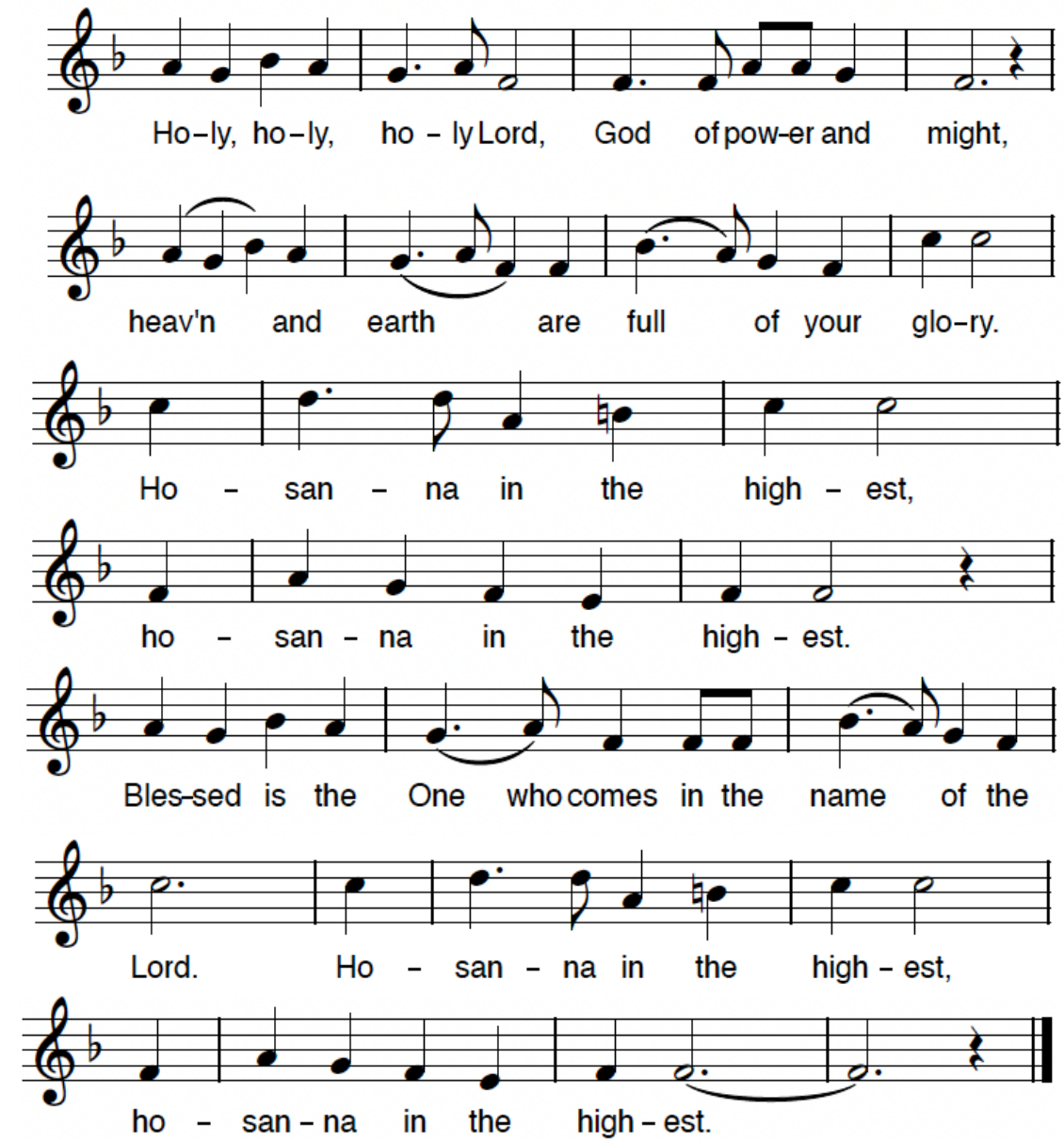
May God be with you.
And also with you.

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.

Ruler of heaven and earth,
we gladly lift our hearts to you in thanksgiving and praise,
because you have hidden your story of salvation
from the wise and the intelligent
and revealed it to infants.
You have disclosed your mercy to the outcast Hagar,
to the barren Sarah, to the shunned Rahab,
to the childless Hannah, and to the unmarried Mary.
In Jesus you became a child for us,
through whom we might discover the secrets of your glory.
Again and again you revealed your sacred purpose
through those your world despises, demeans, or ignores.
Finally you made your purpose known through your Son,
cursed by our sin as he hung on the cross.
And so we rejoice with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,

singing the song of your unending praise.



Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

Overflowing God, as you led your children
to meet their destinies at the well,
you became Christ the well of life
that replenishes us that we may never be thirsty again.
Fill your church with your abundant grace
that it may be a cup that runneth over with your mercy.

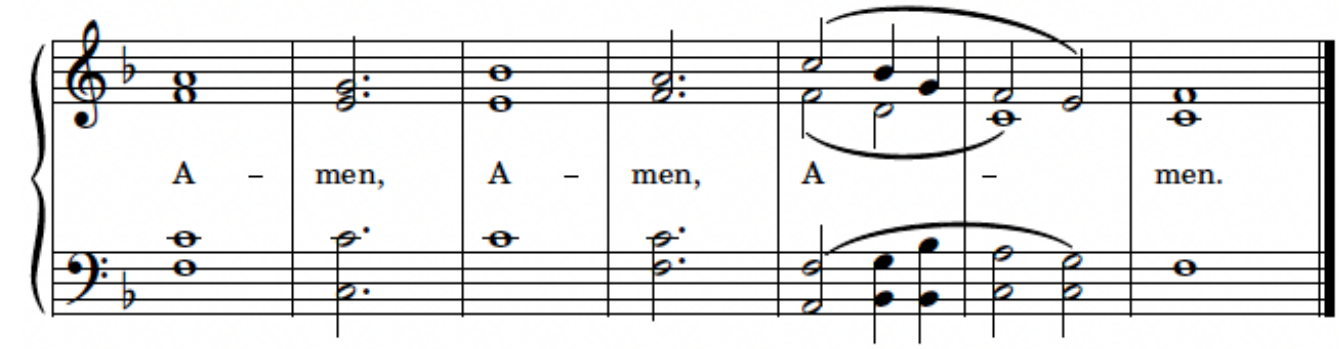
Send your Holy Spirit on this food and drink,
that they may be for us the body and blood of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord;
who, at supper with his disciples, took bread,
gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying, "Take, eat:
this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance 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 the weary and heavy laden,
God of the tired, those living in poverty,
the huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
God of the homeless and the tempest-tossed,
bring rest to all who labour today.
Set your gentle yoke upon them,
for you are gentle and humble in heart.
Be a shining golden light in the souls
of all who struggled in body, mind, or spirit,

with demons within or without,
with fears about the future or regrets about the past.
Through this communion with you
in union with Christ in the power of your Spirit,
write on our hearts a new law
that draws us to walk with you
across the storms of suffering,
the tremors of trepidation,
and the pangs of persecution.
And on the last day, bring us home to you forever.



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,	**who art in heaven,**
hallowed be your name,	**hallowed be thy name,**
your kingdom come,	**thy kingdom come,**
your will be done,	**thy will be done,**
on earth as in heaven.	**on earth as it is in heaven.**
Give us today our daily bread.	**Give us this day our daily bread.**
Forgive us our sins	**And forgive us our trespasses**
as we forgive those	**as we forgive those**
who sin against us.	**who trespass against us.**
Save us from the time of trial,	**And lead us not into temptation,**
and deliver us from evil.	**but deliver us from evil.**
For the kingdom,	**For thine is the kingdom,**
the power, and the glory	**the power, and the glory,**
are yours, now and for ever.	**for ever and ever.**

Amen.

We keep silent and pray for a short time.

Creator of all,
you gave us golden fields of wheat,
whose many grains we have gathered and made into this one bread.
So may your Church be gathered
from the ends of the earth
into your reign of justice and peace.

All people are called to Christ's table.
Come, eat what is good.
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 [9]:

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.

Communion Hymn

Let Us Break Bread Together [10]

Let us break bread together on our knees.
Let us break bread together on our knees.

Refrain:

When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord have mercy on me.

Let us drink wine together on our knees.
Let us drink wine together on our knees. *Refrain…*

Let us praise God together on our knees.
Let us praise God together on our knees. *Refrain…*

Prayer after Communion [11]

We thank you, generous God,
for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table.
Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world,
through the one who is our dearest treasure,
Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.
Amen.

Doxology [12]

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 # **467**

Forth in Thy Name, O Lord, I Go [13]

Forth in thy name, O Lord, I go,
my daily labour to pursue;
thee, only thee, resolved to know
in all I think or speak or do.

The task thy wisdom hath assigned
O let me cheerfully fulfil,
in all my works thy presence find,
and prove thy good and perfect will.

Thee may I set at my right hand,
whose eyes mine inmost substance see,
and labour on at thy command,
and offer all my works to thee.

Give me to bear thy easy yoke,
and every moment watch and pray,
and still to things eternal look,
and hasten to thy glorious day;

for thee delightfully employ
whate'er thy bounteous grace hath given;
and run my course with even joy,
and closely walk with thee to heaven.

Dismissal

Go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit!

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: Christ Church, Niagara Falls;

wider: Anne, our metropolitan archbishop;

Linda, our primate;

The Anglican Church of Burundi

For those in our parish cycle of prayer:

Vanessa, Tom, Isla, Isaac & Eloise;
Marilyn;
Julie, Ken, Sam & Abby;

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	*Bishop of Niagara*
The Reverend Canon Matthew Griffin	*Rector*
The Reverend Canon David Linn	*Honorary Assistant*
The Reverend Deacon Larry Collinson	*Parish Deacon*
Mr. Peter Harding	*Director of Music*
Mrs. Laura Brintnell	*Parish Administrator*
Mrs. Jan Collinson	
Mr. David Eccles	*Wardens*

Sources

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[1] Text: Herbert van Dyke (1852—1933), alt. Music: Ludwig van Beethoven (1770—1827). Used under OneLicense A-604280.
[2] *Prayers for an Inclusive Church* (2008), alt. From *Alternative Collects* from the Anglican Church of Canada.
[3] *Celebrate God's Presence* (2000), The United Church of Canada.
[4] Invitation & Absolution: *Book of Alternative Services.* Confession: *Sundays and Seasons.*
[5] Text: Robert Robinson (1735—90), alt. Music: *A Repository of Sacred Music: Part Second.* Harrisburg, 1813. Used under OneLicense A-604280.
[6] *Sundays and Seasons.*
[7] *Eucharistic Prayers* (2006). Samuel Wells & Abigail Kocher.
[8] *Book of Alternative Services*, alt.
[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 & Music: Marty Haugen (1950—). © 1987 GIA Publications. Used under OneLicense A-604280.
[11] *Sundays and Seasons.*
[12] Church of Wales.
[13] Text: Charles Wesley (1707—1788). Music: Orlando Gibbons (1583—1625). Used under OneLicense A-604280.