



# Church of the Nativity, Hamilton

## Holy Eucharist

The 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

24 September 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.

*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.*

**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 thine eyes and seek his face.  
Life with its way before us lies;  
Christ is the path, and Christ the prize.**

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

**Faint not nor fear, his arms are near;  
he changeth not, and thou art dear.  
Only believe, and thou shalt see  
that Christ is all in all to thee.**

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.**

Let us pray.

O God,  
from your providing hand  
even the dissatisfied and grumbling  
receive what they need for their lives.

Teach us your ways of justice  
and lead us to practice your generosity,  
so that we may live a life worthy  
of the gospel made known through your Son Jesus Christ, our Saviour,  
who lives and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

## Unfolding the Scriptures

1<sup>st</sup> Reading

A reading from the book of Exodus.

The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, 'If only we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.'

Then the LORD said to Moses, 'I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days.' So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, 'In the evening you shall know that it was the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your complaining against the LORD. For what are we, that you complain against us?' And Moses said, 'When the LORD gives you meat to eat

in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the LORD has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the LORD.’

Then Moses said to Aaron, ‘Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, “Draw near to the LORD, for he has heard your complaining.”’ And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked towards the wilderness, and the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud. The LORD spoke to Moses and said, ‘I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, “At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.”’

In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, ‘What is it?’ For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, ‘It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat.

*Exodus 16.2—15*

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Psalm 105.1—6, 37—45*<sup>3</sup>

*Confitemini Domino*

Give thanks to the Lord and call upon the divine name;  
make known the deeds of the Lord among the peoples.

**Sing to the Lord, sing praises,  
and speak of all the marvellous works of the Lord.**

Glory in the holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.  
**Search for the strength of the Lord; continually seek the face of God.**

Remember the marvels the Lord has done,  
the wonders and the judgements of the mouth of the Lord,

**O offspring of Abraham the servant of God,  
O children of Jacob the chosen of the Lord.**

You led out your people with silver and gold;  
in all their tribes there was not one that stumbled.

**Egypt was glad of their going, because they were afraid of them.**

You spread out a cloud for a covering  
and a fire to give light in the night season.

**They asked, and quails appeared,  
and you satisfied them with bread from heaven.**

You opened the rock, and water flowed, so the river ran in the dry places.  
**For you, O God, remembered your holy word and Abraham your servant.**

So you led forth your people with gladness, your chosen with shouts of joy.  
**You gave your people the lands of the nations,  
and they took the fruit of others' toil,**

that they might keep your statutes and observe your laws.

**Alleluia!**

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading

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

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labour for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For

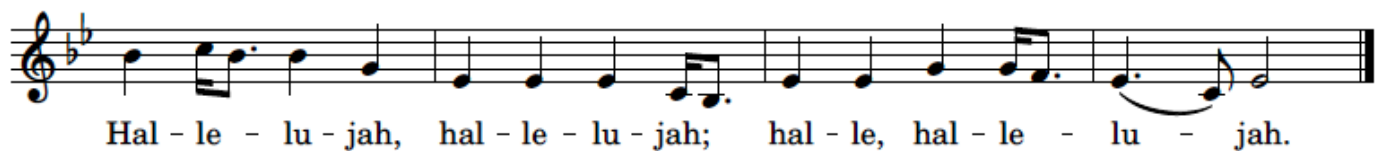
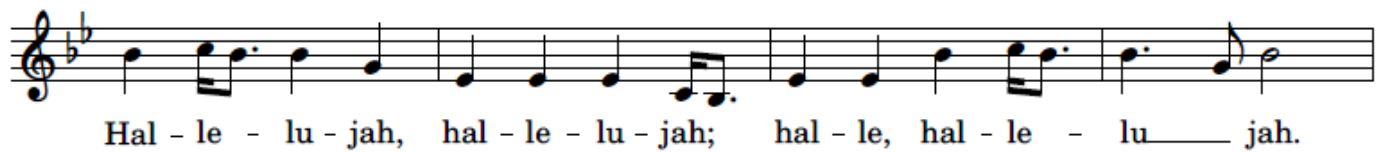
them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well— since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

*Philippians 1.21—30*

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

**Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel



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, 'For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the market-place; and he said to them, "You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right." So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, "Why are you standing here idle all day?" They said to him, "Because no one has hired us." He said to

them, “You also go into the vineyard.” When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, “Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.” When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, “These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.” But he replied to one of them, “Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?” So the last will be first, and the first will be last.’

*Matthew 20.1—16*

The Gospel of Christ.

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

Homily

Affirmation of Faith <sup>4</sup>

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 <sup>5</sup>

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 of the Lord be always with you!  
**And also with you.**

## **Feasting at the Table**

Offertory Hymn # 55

**O God of Bethel, by Whose Hand <sup>6</sup>**

**O God of Bethel, by whose hand thy people still are fed,  
who through this earthly pilgrimage thy multitudes hast led:**

**our vows, our prayers, we now present before thy throne of grace.  
God of our forebears, be the God of their succeeding race.**

**Through each perplexing path of life  
our wandering footsteps guide;  
give us each day our daily bread and raiment fit provide.**

**O spread thy covering wings around till all our wanderings cease  
and in the city of our God our souls arrive in peace.**

*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 <sup>7</sup>

God of power, God of plenty, all things belong to you.  
We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed.  
Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Saviour.  
**Amen.**

## The Great Thanksgiving <sup>8</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.**

We lift up our hearts to you, gracious God,  
because you made the dazzling creation out of nothing,  
yet made us to share eternity with you.

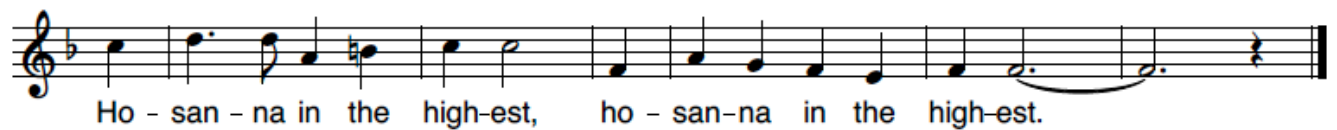
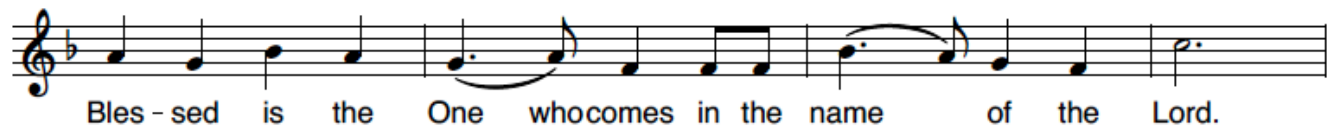
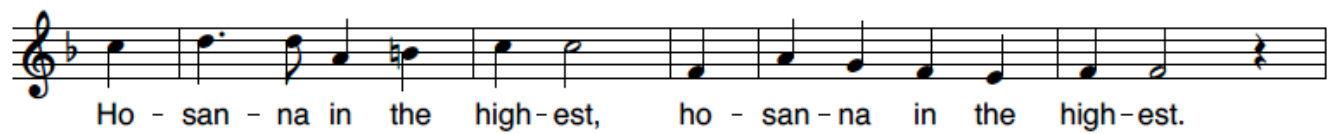
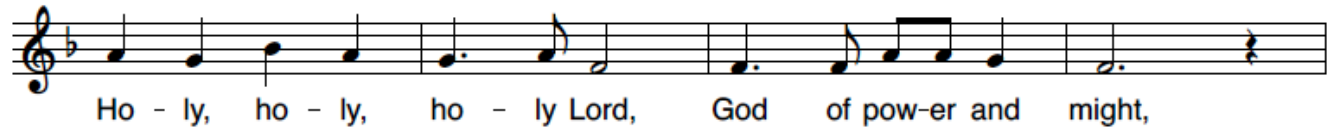
In covenant love you called your chosen people to an imagination  
as plentiful as the stars in the sky and the sands of the desert.

Your Son Jesus transformed our hearts  
from the scarcity of mammon to the wondrous abundance of manna,  
and through the church you gather us to share in the holy feast  
where your grace abounds for all, forever.

His cross and resurrection turn the emptiness of sin  
into the fullness of everlasting life.

And so we join with angels and archangels  
and all the company of heaven,  
singing the hymn 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.**

We give you thanks and praise, Lord God,  
for in your Son Jesus you become the true bread from heaven,  
the manna sustaining us in every wilderness,  
the bread of abundant life that never runs out.  
Send down your Holy Spirit upon us now,  
that we might become living bread for your hungry world.  
Give us your very self in these gifts of bread and wine  
and make them for us the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ;  
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.

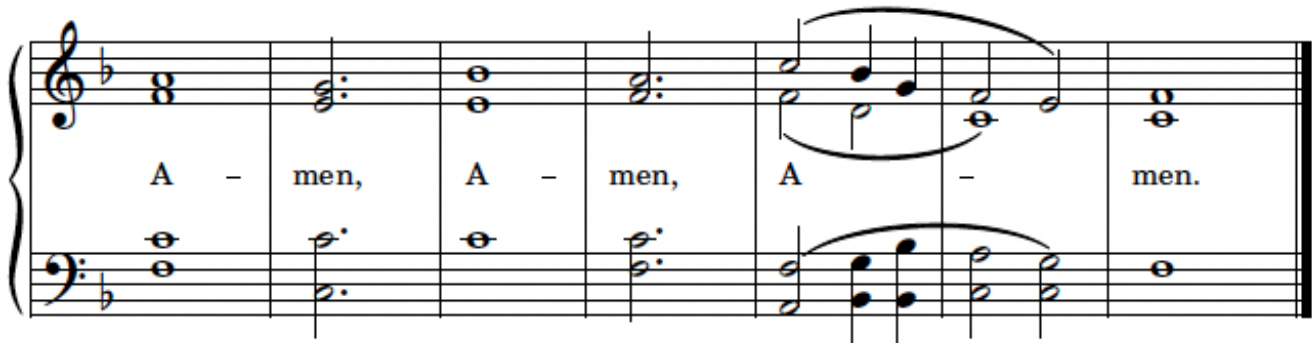
**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

Ever-bountiful God, listen to the hunger of your children  
and nourish their true life in you.  
Draw near to those who toil for daily wages  
and all who wonder where they will find daily bread.  
Bless any whose days are spent looking for work or waiting for hire.  
Give each of your children a place in your kingdom  
and fruitful work in your vineyard,  
not only for a passing day but for eternity.  
By your Holy Spirit in your holy church,  
make the labours of our hands tell the good news  
of your harvest of plenty,

and hasten the day when in one great sharing around your table  
with your people throughout the ages  
we shall taste and see that you are good.  
Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ,  
all honour and glory are yours,  
Almighty Father, 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.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.

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.

**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 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>9</sup>

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**We, being many, are one body,  
for we all share in the one bread.**

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 <sup>10</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, Enthroned in Heavenly Splendour <sup>11</sup>

Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendour,  
first begotten from the dead,  
thou alone, our strong defender,  
liftest up thy people's head.  
Alleluia, Jesus, true and living bread!

Here our humblest homage pay we,  
here in loving reverence bow;  
here for faith's discernment pray we,  
lest we fail to know thee now.  
Alleluia, thou art here, we ask not how.

Though the lowliest form doth veil thee  
as of old in Bethlehem,  
here as there thine angels hail thee,  
branch and flower of Jesse's stem.  
Alleluia, we in worship join with them.

Paschal Lamb, thine offering, finished  
once for all when thou wast slain,  
in its fullness undiminished  
shall forevermore remain,  
alleluia, cleansing us from every stain.

Life-imparting heavenly Manna,  
stricken Rock with streaming side,  
heaven and earth with loud hosanna  
worship thee, the Lamb who died,  
alleluia, risen, ascended, glorified!

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

Blessed be your name, O God,  
for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus,  
the joy and delight of our hearts.  
Strengthened by this food,  
send us to gather the world to your banquet,  
where none are left out and all are satisfied.  
In Jesus' name we pray.  
**Amen.**

## Doxology <sup>13</sup>

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

**Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah**<sup>14</sup>

**Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land.  
I am weak, but thou art mighty; hold me with thy powerful hand.  
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,  
feed me till I want no more, feed me till I want no more.**

**Open thou the crystal fountain whence the healing stream doth flow,  
let the fier and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.  
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,  
be thou still my strength and shield,  
be thou still my strength and shield.**

**When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside;  
death of death, and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side:  
songs of praises, songs of praises  
I will ever give to thee, I will ever give to thee.**

Dismissal

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

**Thanks be to God!**

Postlude

## **Pews Available**

**I've always wanted a pew in my house.**

**I sleep so well on them.**

**We have six pews available now—with six more to come next week. Interested?**

You may be thinking to yourself—“but I don't have room for a pew that's about 10 feet long!” Thanks to some gifted craftsfolk in our community, we can alter them to be shorter. So if you'd like one that's 3 feet long, or 4.5 feet long, or... we can make that happen. Be in touch with Laura in the office if you're interested, and act fast because they'll move at the speed of light, like lasers. (pew! pew!)

## **Blessing of the Animals                      October 1<sup>st</sup>, from 2—3**

Drop by the Nativity Gardens next Sunday between 2 and 3 o'clock with your beloved animal companions for them to be blessed!

(If the weather is bad, we'll be just inside the doors off the parking lot.)

## **Harvest Newsletters**

will be available next week—make sure to pick yours up after church!

## **Your Daily Prayers are Requested:**

### ***For the Church:***

our Bishop: † Susan;  
our diocese: all the people of the Diocese of Niagara;  
diocesan cycle: Grace Church, Arthur;  
wider: Anne, our metropolitan archbishop;  
Linda, our primate;  
the Church of Ireland;

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

Leanne & Bruce; Marcus; Linda.

### ***For the needs of the world:***

for the people of Libya and Morocco;

### ***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

worshipwithnativity.org

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*Mailing Address*    1831 King St. East  
Hamilton, ON L8K 1V8

*Telephone*    (905) 549-4335

*Email*    [admin@worshipwithnativity.org](mailto:admin@worshipwithnativity.org)

The Right Reverend Susan Bell  
The Reverend Canon Matthew Griffin  
The Reverend Canon David Linn  
The Reverend Deacon Larry Collinson  
Mrs. Dena Thomas  
Mr. Peter Harding  
Mrs. Laura Brintnell

*Bishop of Niagara*  
*Rector*  
*Honorary Assistant*  
*Parish Deacon*  
*Theological Intern*  
*Director of Music*  
*Parish Administrator*

Mrs. Jan Collinson  
Mr. David Eccles

*Wardens*

## Sources

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<sup>1</sup> Text: John Samuel Bewley Monsell (1811—75). Music: William Boyd (1847—1928). Used under OneLicense A-604280.

<sup>2</sup> *Prayers for an Inclusive Church*, qtd. in the Anglican Church of Canada’s *Alternative RCL Collects*.

<sup>3</sup> *A Liturgical Psalter* (2016). General Synod from the Anglican Church of Canada.

<sup>4</sup> *Celebrate God’s Presence* (2000), The United Church of Canada.

<sup>5</sup> *Invitation & Absolution: Book of Alternative Services. Confession: Sundays and Seasons*.

<sup>6</sup> Text: Philip Doddridge (1702—51) and John Logan (1748—88), alt.; Music: Johann Michael Haydn (1737—1806), alt. Used under OneLicense A-604280.

<sup>7</sup> *Sundays and Seasons*.

<sup>8</sup> *Eucharistic Prayers* (2006). Samuel Wells & Abigail Kocher.

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

<sup>10</sup> Selected from the prayers provided for this use in “A Celebration of the Holy Eucharist with Spiritual Communion,” Diocese of Niagara, 2020.

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<sup>12</sup> *Sundays and Seasons*.

<sup>13</sup> Church of Wales.

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