



Church of the Nativity, Hamilton

Holy Eucharist

The 20th Sunday after Pentecost

15 October 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.

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.

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.

God of Aaron, Miriam, and Moses,
you stayed the hand of your wrath
when we fell into idolatry and discord;
and when we forgot our deliverance,
your love for us remained unchanging.
Transform us and our world into a place of justice, love, and peace.
Welcome us to your wedding feast
where all are invited to be gathered in;
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

1st Reading

A reading from the book of Exodus.

When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered around Aaron and said to him, ‘Come, make gods for us, who shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.’ Aaron said to them, ‘Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me.’ So all the people took off the gold rings from their ears, and brought them to Aaron. He took the gold from them, formed it in a mould, and cast an image of a calf; and they said, ‘These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!’ When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation and said, ‘Tomorrow shall be a festival to the LORD.’ They rose early the next day, and offered burnt-offerings and brought sacrifices of well-being; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to revel.

The LORD said to Moses, ‘Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshipped it and sacrificed to it, and said, “These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!” ’ The LORD said to Moses, ‘I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation.’

But Moses implored the LORD his God, and said, ‘O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, “It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth”? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, “I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it for ever.” ’ And the LORD changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

Exodus 32.1—14

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

Alleluia! Give thanks to the Lord who is good,
whose mercy endures for ever.

**Who can declare your mighty acts, O Lord,
or show forth all your praise?**

Happy are those who act with justice
and always do what is right!

**Remember me, O Lord,
with the favour you have for your people,
and visit me with your saving help;**

that I may see the prosperity of your elect
and be glad with the gladness of your people,
that I may glory with your inheritance.

**We have sinned as our ancestors did;
we have done wrong and dealt wickedly.**

Israel made a bull-calf at Horeb
and worshipped a molten image;
**and so they exchanged their Glory
for the image of an ox that feeds on grass.**

They forgot you, their saviour,
who had done great things in Egypt,
**wonderful deeds in the land of Ham,
and fearful things at the Red Sea.**

So you would have destroyed them,
had not Moses your chosen stood before you in the breach,
to turn away your wrath from consuming them.

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

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

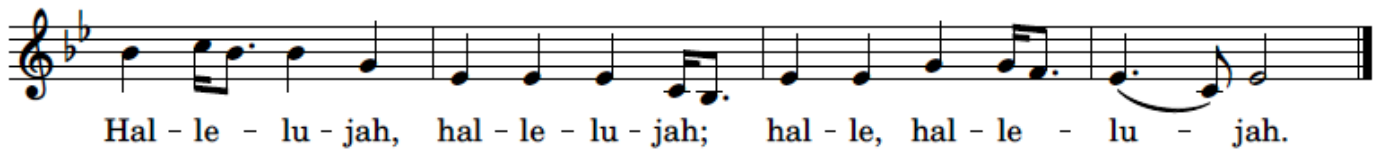
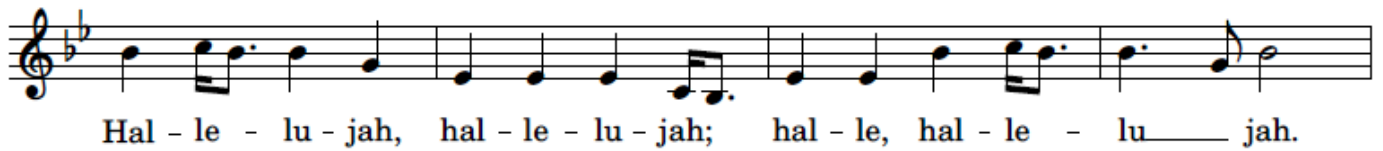
Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Philippians 4.1—9

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.** ♪

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ‘The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, “Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.” But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, maltreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, “The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.” Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

‘But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, “Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?” And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, “Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the

outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” For many are called, but few are chosen.’

Matthew 22.1—14

The Gospel of Christ.

♪ Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ. ♪

Homily

Affirmation of Faith ⁴

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.

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 Song

Teach Us to Love Your Word, Lord

Refrain:

**Teach us to love your word, Lord;
let it cleanse us through and through.
As we open our hearts to obey you,
break us, remake us anew.**

**Your people were slaves in Egypt;
your mighty word set them free.
Calling them into a new land,
you led them safe through the sea. *Refrain...***

**When we were yet not a people,
your word gathered us in.
You made of us a new nation
to praise you in wonder and love. *Refrain...***

**Teach us to walk in your way, Lord.
Your kindness to us sets us free,
turns us to love one another,
sharing your mercy and peace. *Refrain...***

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 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 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.

Worthy of all praise are you,

God of Moses, Miriam, and Aaron,

for you made humankind in your image;

male and female you created us,

in your likeness, to reveal your glory.

When your chosen people lost faith

and cast a false image for themselves in the form of a golden calf,

you reminded them that they were created in your likeness.

In the fullness of time,

when we sought after lesser gods,

you cast yourself in human form, as one of us,

to reshape us in your divine image

through the cross of your Son and the power of the Holy Spirit,

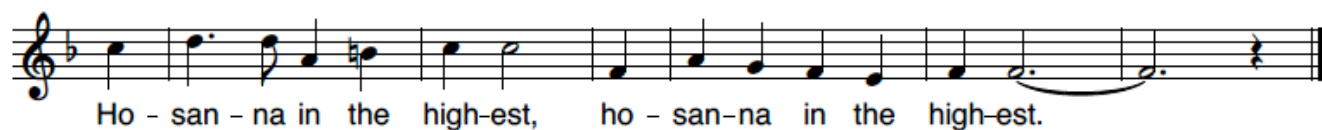
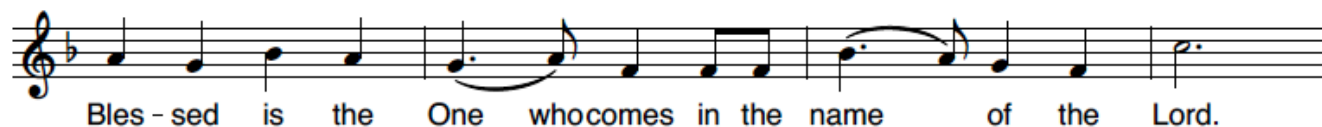
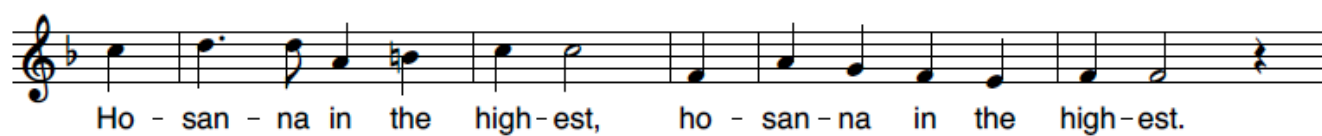
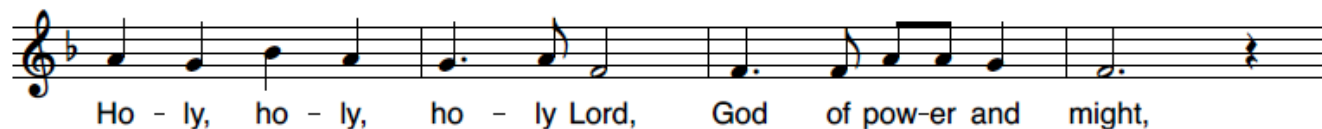
to make us holy as you are holy, reflecting your eternal glory.

And so with your people on earth

and all the company of heaven,

we join the unending hymn.





**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.**

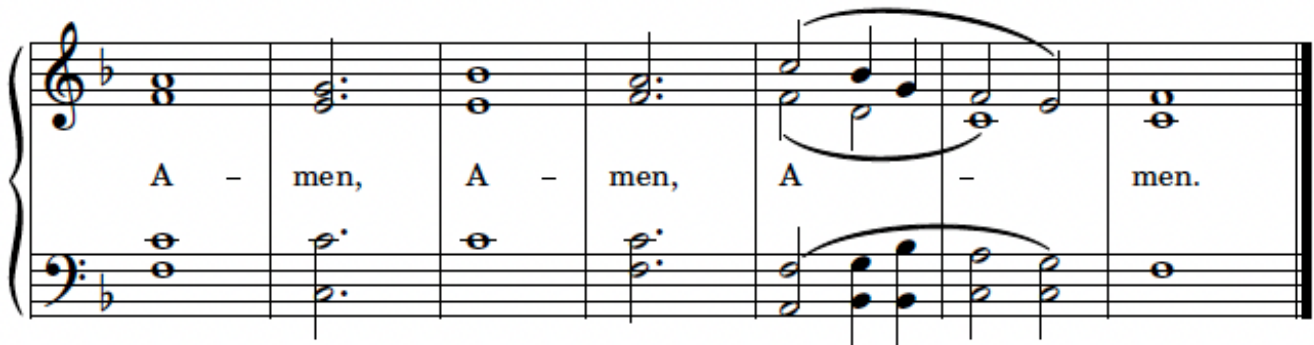
Feasting God,
as we share in this wedding banquet of Christ and your church,
draw heaven and earth together as one in you.
Send your Holy Spirit upon us
to clothe us in perfecting grace for joining the feast of saints.
Sanctify this bread and cup
to make them be for us the body and blood of our Lord 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.

Faithful God,
receive the supplications of your church
and bestow upon your children the peace that passes all understanding.
Empower your people to embody
whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just.
Inspire your sons and daughters to pursue
whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable.
Shape the life of your church around
whatever is excellent and worthy of praise.
Hasten the day when every heart and mind in union with Christ Jesus
shall rejoice in that perfect peace of your coming kingdom
and be made eternally new in your image,
Trinity of every grace, now and for ever.





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.
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.

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 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.

My Life Flows on in Endless Song¹⁰

**My life flows on in endless song,
above earth's lamentation.
I hear the real, though far off hymn
that hails a new creation.**

Refrain:

**No storm can shake my inmost calm,
while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since Love is Lord of heaven and earth,
how can I keep from singing?**

**Through all the tumult and the strife,
I hear that music ringing;
it sounds and echoes in my soul;
how can I keep from singing? *Refrain...***

**When tyrants tremble, sick with fear,
and hear their death knells ringing;
when friends rejoice both far and near,
how can I keep from singing? *Refrain...***

**What though the tempest 'round me roar,
I hear the truth it liveth.
What though the darkness 'round me close,
songs in the night it giveth. *Refrain...***

**The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,
a fountain ever springing.
All things are mine since I am his;
how can I keep from singing? *Refrain...***

Prayer after Communion¹¹

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.

Doxology¹²

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

Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing¹³

**Lord, dismiss us with your blessing;
fill our hearts with joy and peace;
let us each, your love possessing,
triumph in redeeming grace.
O refresh us, O refresh us,
travelling through this wilderness.**

**Thanks we give and adoration
for the gospel's joyful sound:
may the fruits of your salvation
in our hearts and lives abound;
may your presence, may your presence,
with us evermore be found.**

Dismissal

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

Thanks be to God!

Postlude

Announcements!

Deep thanks

to everyone who made donations of food that served as decorations at Thanksgiving—and then were delivered to St. Matthew's House.

St. Matthew's House was very appreciative, and the food will greatly help them support vulnerable seniors in the community!

NATIVITY MARKETPLACE

November 25th between 9 am and 2 pm

If you are a vendor or a crafter, or know someone who is, contact Laura in the office to secure a table for \$35 today!

admin@worshipwithnativity.org or 905-549-4335

COMMUNITY LUNCH

Come out on **Friday, October 20th**, from 12 – 1 pm for a Community Lunch with homemade soup and sandwiches. There is no cost for the lunch; any one interested in making a donation can give a free-will offering.





PENNY SALE

We are bringing back the Penny Sale this fall on:
Wednesday, November 1.

In order to make it a wonderful success as in the past, we hope you can help us in the following ways:

- donations of new articles such as
 - toys,
 - linens,
 - gift cards,
 - baby items,
 - household items,
 - toiletries, etc. are greatly appreciated!

- One of the items we offer up for raffle is a household basket. This is a large basket we fill with non-perishable food and household cleaning items, such as paper towels, Kleenex, detergent, etc.

All donations can be dropped off at the church office anytime.

Your Daily Prayers are Requested:

For the Church:

our Bishop: † Susan;
our diocese: all the people of the Diocese of Niagara;
diocesan cycle: St. James, Fergu;
wider: Anne, our metropolitan archbishop;
Linda, our primate;
the Anglican Church of Kenya;

For those in our parish cycle of prayer:

Mark, Leanne, Xavier, Shayleigh, Kyra,
Abbygayle, Alyxandra, & Brooklyn;
Frank;
Sharon;

For the needs of the world:

for the people of Libya and Morocco;

For peace:

for the people of Israel & Palestine;
for all fleeing genocide in Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh);
for an end to the conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia;
for 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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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

Our cover image is a depiction of the Golden Calf from *The Nuremburg Chronicle*—an illustrated encyclopedia of world history including biblical paraphrases. It was written by Hartmann Schedel and includes 1,809 woodcuts from the workshop of Michel Wolgemut. The work was finished in 1493, and was one of the first books to integrate illustrations with text.

¹ Text: Robert Robinson (1735—90), alt. Music: *A Repository of Sacred Music: Part Second*. Harrisburg, 1813. Used under OneLicense A-604280.

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

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

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

⁵ *Invitation & Absolution: Book of Alternative Services*. Confession: *Sundays and Seasons*.

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: St. 1—2, Robert Lowry (1826—99); st. 3, Doris Plenn. (st. 3 © 1957 Sanga Music Inc). Music: attrib. Robert Lowry (1826—99). Used under OneLicense A-604280.

¹¹ *Sundays and Seasons*.

¹² Church of Wales.

¹³ Text: attrib. John Fawcett (1740—1817). Music: Melody Sicilian, *The European Magazine and London Review*, 1792, alt. William Williams (1717—91); tr. Peter Williams (1723—96), alt. Used under OneLicense A-604280.