

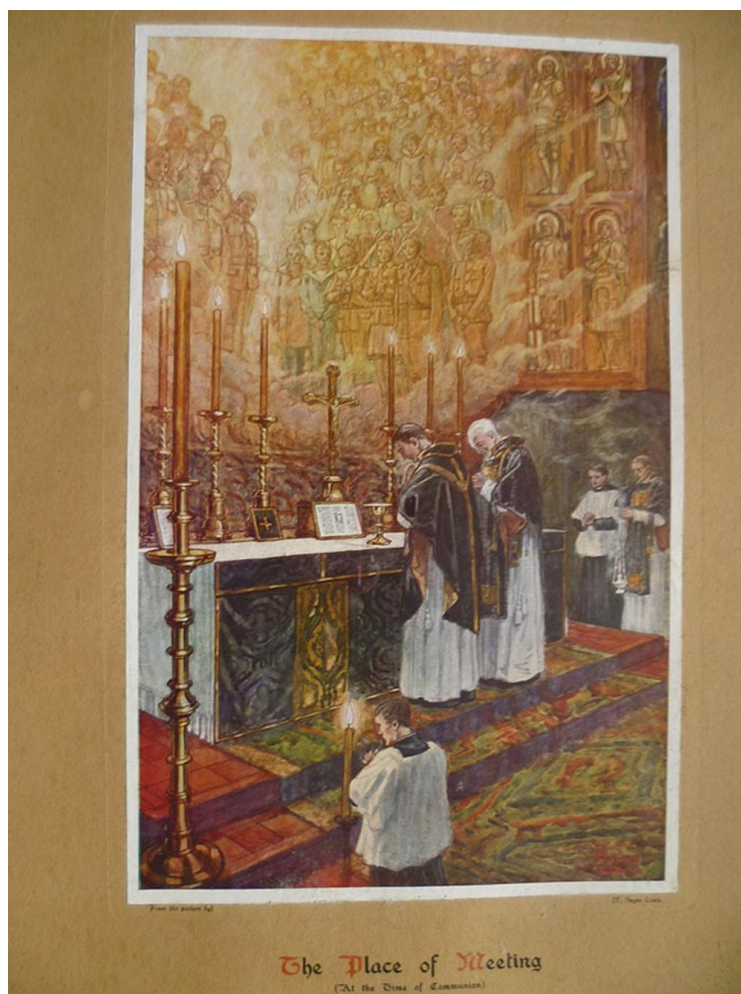


Church of the Nativity, Hamilton

Holy Eucharist

The 24th Sunday after Pentecost

12 November 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.

The Sentences

God is our refuge and strength; a very present help in trouble.

– Psalm 46.1

I lift up my eyes to the hills – from where is my help to come?
My help comes from the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth.

– Psalm 121.1—2

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning.

– Lamentations 3.21—23

Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

– Isaiah 40.31

What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

– Micah 6.8

The Gathering

We meet in the presence of God.

We commit ourselves to work in penitence and faith
for reconciliation between the nations,

that all people may, together, live in freedom, justice and peace.

We pray for all who in bereavement, disability and pain
continue to suffer the consequences of fighting and terror.

We remember with thanksgiving and sorrow those whose lives,
in world wars and conflicts past and present,
have been given and taken away.

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;
age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
we will remember them.

We will remember them.

The Pause

Last Post

Two Minutes of Silence

Reveille

Prayers of Commemoration and for Peace

Ever-living God,
we remember those whom you have gathered from the storm of war
into the peace of your presence;
may that same peace calm our fears,
bring justice to all peoples
and establish harmony among the nations,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

O God, it is your will to hold both heaven and earth in a single peace.
Let the design of your great love
shine on the waste of our wrath and sorrow,
and give peace to your Church,
peace among nations,
peace in our homes, and peace in our hearts;
through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us commit ourselves to responsible living and faithful service.

Will you strive for all that makes for peace?

We will.

Will you seek to heal the wounds of war?

We will.

Will you work for a just future for all humanity?

We will.

Merciful God,

we offer to you the fears in us that have not yet been cast out by love:
may we accept the hope you have placed in the hearts of all people,
and live lives of justice, courage and mercy;
through Jesus Christ our risen redeemer.

Amen.

God grant to the living grace,

to the departed rest,
to all people unity, peace and concord,
and to us and all God's servants, life eternal;
and the blessing of God almighty,
Source of all being, Eternal Word, and Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Choral Anthem

“Be Not Afraid”

Welcome

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

And also with you.

The Collect ¹

Let us pray.

Brighten your Church, O God,
with the promise of your kingdom,
and waken our hearts to its light.

Bid us hasten with faith undimmed
to greet the bridegroom's return and join the wedding feast.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ,
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 Joshua.

Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, 'Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many. I gave him Isaac;

'Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the

region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.’

Then the people answered, ‘Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God.’

But Joshua said to the people, ‘You cannot serve the LORD, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good.’ And the people said to Joshua, ‘No, we will serve the LORD!’ Then Joshua said to the people, ‘You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the LORD, to serve him.’ And they said, ‘We are witnesses.’ He said, ‘Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the LORD, the God of Israel.’

The people said to Joshua, ‘The LORD our God we will serve, and him we will obey.’ So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.

Joshua 24.1—3a, 14—25

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

Hear my teaching, O my people;
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.
**I will open my mouth in a parable;
I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.**

That which we have heard and known,
and what our ancestors have told us,
we will not hide from their children.
**We will recount to generations to come
the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the Lord,
who has done wonderful works.**

The Lord gave a decree to Jacob and established a law for Israel,
commanding them to teach their children;
**that the generations to come might know,
and the children yet unborn;
that they in their turn might tell it to their children;**
so that they might put their trust in God,
**and not forget those mighty deeds,
but keep the commandments.**

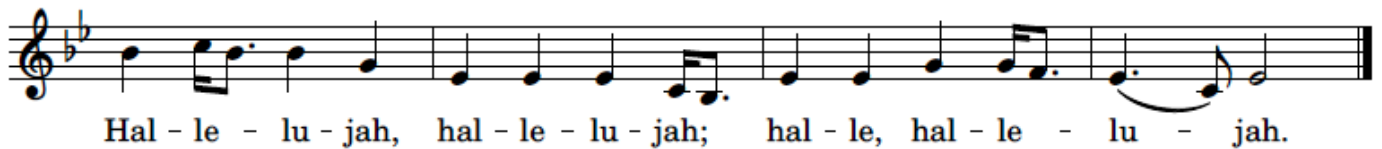
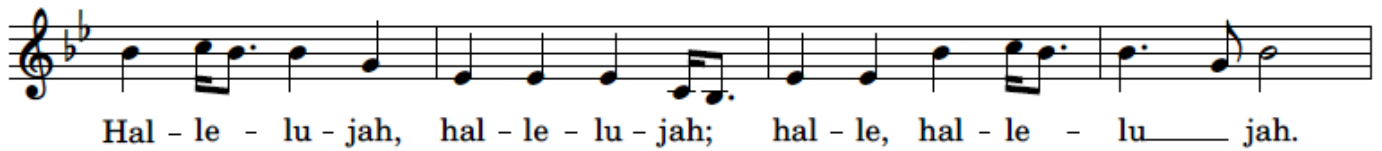
A reading from the letter to the followers of Jesus in Thessaloniki.

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord for ever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

1 Thessalonians 4.13—18

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, ‘Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, “Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.” Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, “Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.” But the wise replied, “No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.” And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, “Lord, lord, open to us.” But he replied, “Truly I tell you, I do not know you.” Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

Matthew 25.1—13

The Gospel of Christ.

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

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

V God of grace,
R 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.

Holy One,
we confess that we are not awake for you.
We are not faithful in using your gifts.
We forget the least of our siblings.
We do not see your beautiful image in one another.
We are infected by sin that divides your beloved community.
Open our hearts to your coming,
open our eyes to see you in our neighbor,
open our hands to serve your creation.
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
Walls that Divide ⁵

**Though ancient walls may still stand proud
and racial strife be fact,
though boundaries may be lines of hate,
proclaim God's saving act!**

Refrain: **Walls that divide are broken down; Christ is our unity!
Chains that enslave are thrown aside; Christ is our liberty!**

**When vested power stands firm entrenched
and breaks another's back,
when waste and want live side by side,
it's Gospel that we lack. *Refrain...***

**The truth we seek in varied scheme,
the life that we pursue,
unites us in a common quest
of self and world made new. *Refrain...***

**The church divided seeks that grace,
that newness we proclaim,
a unity of serving love
that lives praise to God's name. *Refrain...***

**This broken world seeks lasting health
and vital unity—
God's people in the Christ made new
cast off all slavery! *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

God of all goodness,
generations have turned to you,
gathered around your table,
and shared your abundant blessings.
Number us among them that,
as we gather these gifts from your abundance,
and give thanks for your rich blessings,
we may feast upon your very self
and care for all that you have made,
through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant.
Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving ⁷

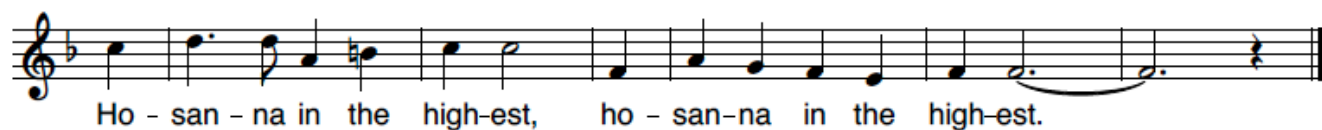
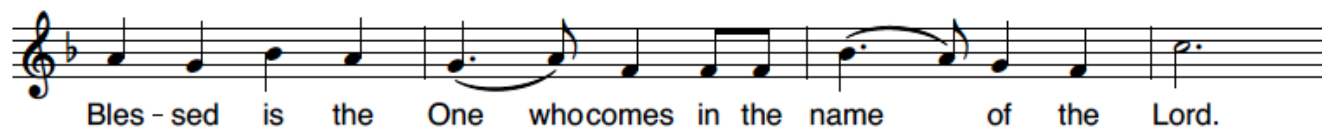
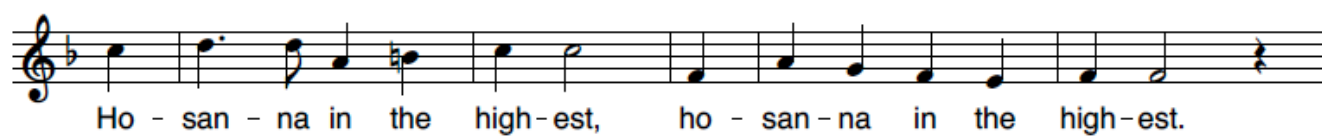
May God be with you.
And also with you.

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.

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,
Holy Father, through our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
And so, with the Church on earth,
and all the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

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**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.**

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
you have brought us this far along the way.
In times of bitterness you did not abandon us,
but guided us into the path of love and light.
In every age you sent prophets
to make known your loving will for all humanity.
The cry of those living in poverty has become your own cry;
our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire.
In the fullness of time,
you sent your chosen servant to preach good news to the afflicted,
to break bread with the outcast and despised,
and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

In 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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection,
we await the day when Jesus shall return
to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death.

Come, Lord Jesus!

And let the church say, Amen.

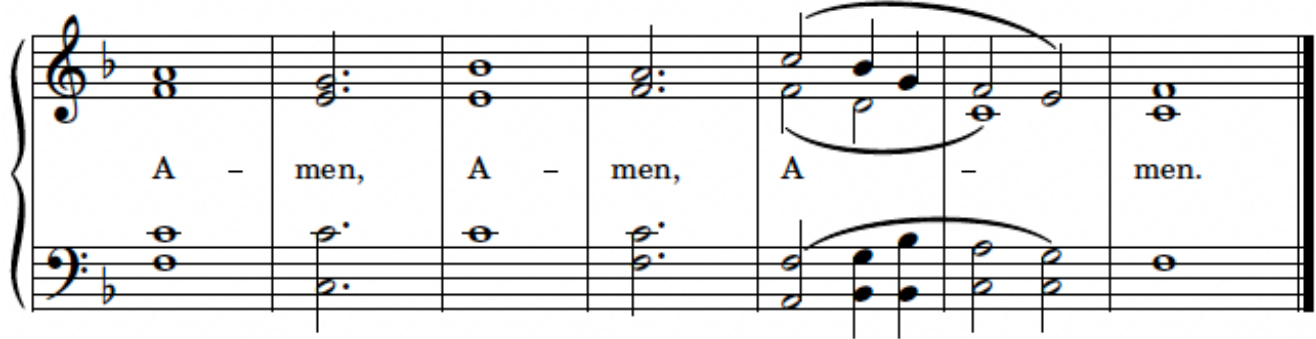
Amen

Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate,
to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup
with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world.
Come, Spirit of freedom!
And let the church say, Amen.

Amen

Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age,
that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection,
we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son.
Through him, with him, in him in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honour is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

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□



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,
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.

The Breaking of the Bread ⁸

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.**

There is a place for you at the banquet.

Come and feast at Jesus' table.

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 itgiveth. *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

Lord Jesus, in this simple meal you have set a banquet.
Sustain us on the journey,
strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children,
and give us glad and generous hearts
as we meet you on the way.

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

O God, Our Help in Ages Past ¹³

O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home:

under the shadow of thy throne
thy saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is thine arm alone,
and our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood
or earth received its frame,
from everlasting thou art God,
to endless years the same.

A thousand ages in thy sight
are like an evening gone,
short as the watch that ends the night
before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
bears all our years away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the opening day.

O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
be thou our guard while troubles last,
and our eternal home.

Dismissal

Go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit!
Thanks be to God!

Postlude

Announcements!

COMMUNITY LUNCH

November 17th 12 noon – 1^{pm}

Join us for the next Community Lunch to enjoy a delicious meal of soup & sandwiches!

CHURCH CALENDARS

If you would like a 2025 church calendar, please let Laura in the office know by November 27th: admin@worshipwithnativity or 905-549-4335.

NATIVITY MARKETPLACE

November 25th 9^{am} – 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

ADVENT BRUNCH

December 3rd

The Advent Brunch will be taking place this year on Sunday, December 3rd, following the 10^{am} service. Tickets will be available soon. If you are interested in helping to prepare or serve or in any other way, talk to Larry Collinson or call the office.

CHRISTMAS SONGS & STORIES

December 17th at 3^{pm}

Save the date, and start inviting friends and loved ones now! At this informal celebration, we'll sing our favourite carols, hear stories from scripture & the wider world, and enjoy musical offerings from some very talented folk. It's an easy service to invite folks with little church background to check out!

Your Daily Prayers are Requested:

For the Church:

our Bishop: † Susan;
our diocese: all the people of the Diocese of Niagara;
diocesan cycle: St. John, Rockwood;
wider: Anne, our metropolitan archbishop;
Linda, our primate;
Igreja Anglicana de Mocambique e Angola;

For those in our parish cycle of prayer:

Elsie;
Beth;
Giselle, Seth, Ares, and Cersei;

For the needs of the world:

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 for all places and people in 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 this morning is the painting “The Place of Meeting: by Thomas Noyes Lewis (1862—1946). It depicts the priest’s communion at the requiem mass, and, in the cloud of incense above, military figures. Those in the front row (including a sailor and a chaplain) wear First World War uniforms; each rank behind them takes the viewer further back into the past.

¹ *Revised Common Lectionary Prayers*.

² *A Liturgical Psalter* (2016). General Synod 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 and Music: Bernadette Farrell, © 1993. Used under OneLicense A-604280.

⁶ *Sundays and Seasons*.

⁷ *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, Canon VIII.

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: Psalm 90; para. Isaac Watts (1674—1748), alt. Music: William Croft (1678—1727). Used under OneLicense A-604280.