

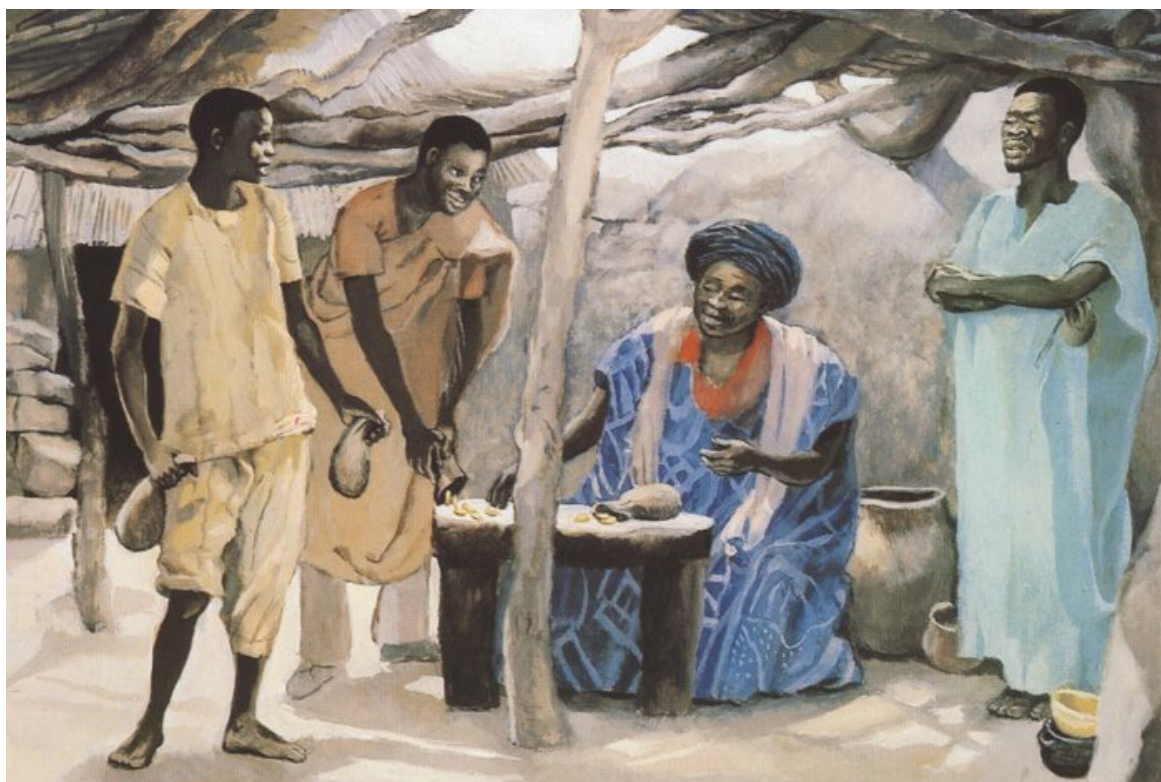


Church of the Nativity, Hamilton

Holy Eucharist

The 25th Sunday after Pentecost

19 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.

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
“Come unto me and rest;
lay down, thou weary one, lay down
thy head upon my breast.”

I came to Jesus as I was,
So weary and worn and sad;
I found in him a resting place,
and he has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
“Behold, I freely give
the living water, thirsty one;
stoop down and drink and live.”

I came to Jesus, and I drank
of that life-giving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
and now I live in him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
“I am this dark world's light;
look unto me, thy morn shall rise,
and all thy day be bright.”

I looked to Jesus, and I found
in him my star, my sun;
and in that light of life I'll walk
till travelling days are done.

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.

Let us pray.

O God,

from whose abundance all gifts and skills are lavishly bestowed:

give us courage to use our talents as generously as you have given them,
so that, being faithful to your purpose,

we may share in your glory;

through 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

A reading from the book of Judges.

The Israelites again did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, after Ehud died. So the LORD sold them into the hand of King Jabin of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor; the commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-hagoiim. Then the Israelites cried out to the LORD for help; for he had nine hundred chariots of iron, and had oppressed the Israelites cruelly for twenty years.

At that time Deborah, a prophetess, wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel. She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim; and the Israelites came up to her for judgement. She sent and summoned Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali, and said to him, 'The LORD, the God of Israel, commands you, "Go, take position at Mount

Tabor, bringing ten thousand from the tribe of Naphtali and the tribe of Zebulun. I will draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin's army, to meet you by the Wadi Kishon with his chariots and his troops; and I will give him into your hand." ' "

Judges 4.1—7

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

Psalm 123³

Ad te levavi oculos meos

To you I lift up my eyes,
to you enthroned in the heavens.
**As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters,
and the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress,
so our eyes look to you, O Lord our God,
until you show us your mercy.**

Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy,
for we have had more than enough of contempt,
**too much of the scorn of the indolent rich,
and of the derision of the proud.**

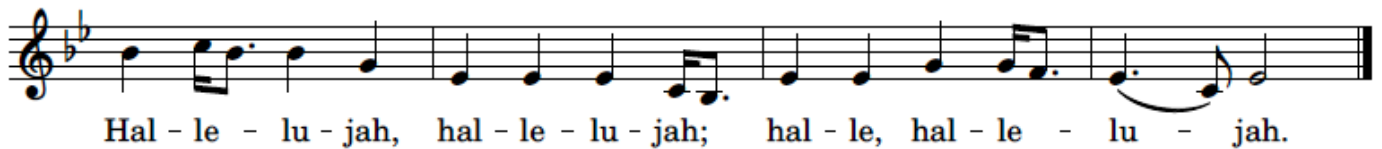
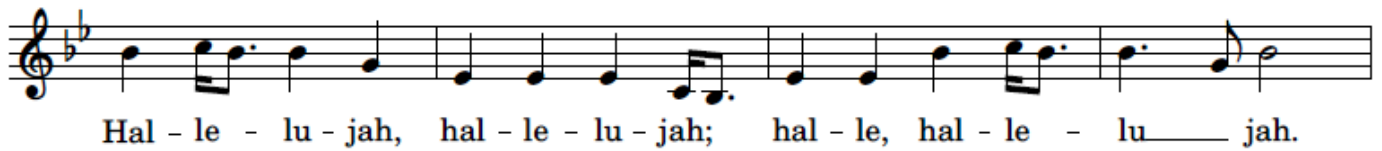
A reading from the letter to the followers of Jesus in Thessaloniki.

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, ‘There is peace and security’, then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

1 Thessalonians 5.1—11

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, ‘For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money.

After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, “Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.” His master said to him, “Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.” And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, “Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.” His master said to him, “Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.”

Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, “Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.” But his master replied, “You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

Matthew 25.14—30

The Gospel of Christ.

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

Homily

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 of grace,
℟ 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.

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

Open My Eyes that I May See⁶

**Open my eyes that I may see
glimpses of truth thou hast for me;
place in my hands the wonderful key
that shall unclasp and set me free.**

Refrain: **Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see;
open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!**

**Open my ears that I may hear
voices of truth thou sendest clear,
and while the wave-notes fall on my ear,
everything false will disappear.** *Refrain...*

**Open my mouth and let me bear
gladly the warm truth everywhere;
open my heart and let me prepare
love with thy children thus to share.** *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 ⁷

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 ⁸

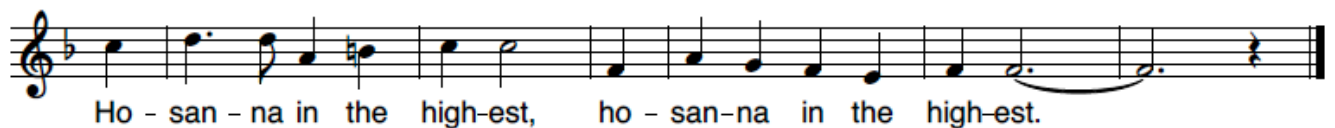
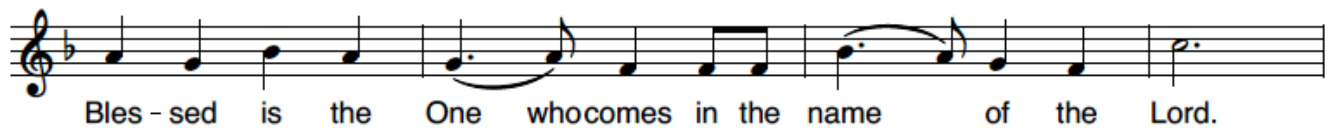
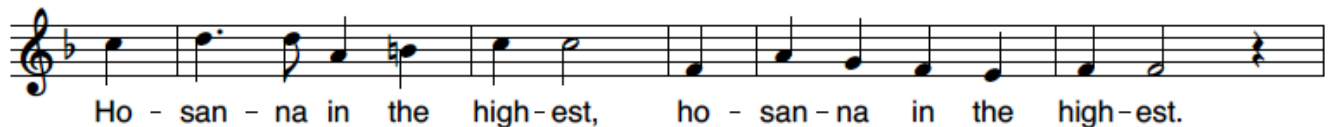
May God be with you.
And also with you.

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 praise and thank you, abounding God,
because you demand so much from us
and at the same time give us everything you expect of us.
In the glory of creation and the grace of liberation
you set the contours of our journey with you.
By crafting the covenant and renewing your people in exile
you showed us the manner and purpose of your ever-flowing love.
In Jesus you gave us your most precious talent.
Though we buried him through our ignorance and sin,
you raised him to multiply your church and spread abroad your kingdom.

And so we give you thanks
with saints and angels and the company of heaven,
joining their 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.**

Encouraging God,
your Son Jesus died for us so that we might live together with you.
He went through the deep night of betrayal,
anguish in Gethsemane,
trial by his own people,
and scourging by his oppressors,
that we might live in endless day.
Send your Holy Spirit that your people
may be turned from the fear of your wrath to the anticipation of your glory.
By that same Spirit of salvation and hope,
sanctify these gifts of bread and wine
that in your kingdom of grace
they may 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.

Generous God,

when your church is entrusted with a little, make it faithful,
and when your people are sent forth to take care of much,
make them wise and true and kind.

As you invested your whole heart in the uncertain market of our love,
show your children where to take risks,
when to enter the unknown,
and how to trade with your bounty.

Prepare the hearts of the flourishing and the fragile
for the day of your revelation
that when all secrets are made known and all desires laid bare,
your understanding and forgiving grace
may see the virtue behind our clumsiness
and the goodness amid our folly.

Fill every heart with the sure and certain hope
that we shall enter into the fullness of your joy,
when your whole creation is justified by faith and sanctified by love,
and you are all in all,
ever one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.



A musical score for piano accompaniment of the hymn 'Amen, Amen, Amen.' The score is written in G major (one flat) and 8/8 time. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The lyrics 'A - men, A - men, A - men.' are written below the treble staff. The music features a simple, hymn-like melody with a long note for 'A' and shorter notes for 'men'. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and single notes in the bass line.

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 ⁹

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 ¹⁰:

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.

Let There Be Light ¹¹

Let there be light,
let there be understanding,
let all the nations gather,
let them be face to face;

open our lips,
open our minds to ponder,
open the door of concord
opening into grace;

perish the sword,
perish the angry judgment,
perish the bombs and hunger,
perish the fight for gain;

hallow our love,
hallow the deaths of martyrs,
hallow their holy freedom,
hallowed be thy name;

thy kingdom come,
thy spirit turn to language,
thy people speak together,
thy spirit never fade;

let there be light,
open our hearts to wonder,
perish the way of terror,
hallow the world God made.

Prayer after Communion¹²

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.

Doxology¹³

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

Awake! Awake! Fling Off the Night ¹⁴

**Awake! Awake! Fling off the night,
for God has sent a glorious light,
and we who live in Christ's new day
must works of darkness put away.**

**Awake and sing, with praises strong,
in psalm and hymn and spirit-song.
Let love our words and works renew
with all that's good and right and true.**

**Let in the light; all sin expose
to Christ, whose life no darkness knows.
Before the cross expectant live,
that Christ may judge, and judging, heal.**

**Then rise as children of the light.
Be neither proud, nor hide from sight.
Be careful how you live, and wise
to sift the truth from cunning lies.**

**Through Christ give thanks to God, and say
to other sleepers on the way:
"Awake, and rise up from the dead
that Christ may shine on you instead!"**

Dismissal

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

Postlude

*The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God,
and in loving memory of a dear brother and uncle, Ronald.
Missed by John, Patty and family.*

Announcements!

COMMUNITY LUNCH

November 17th 12 noon – 1^{pm}

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

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 LUNCHEON

December 12th at 12^{pm}

The Nativity Ladies are having their annual Christmas luncheon on Tuesday, December 12th at 12noon with a short service at 11:30am for those interested. The cost is \$15 for a catered lunch followed by a festive sing-a-long with Peter! Be sure to let Blanche or the office know if you will be attending by December 8th. As part of their outreach efforts, toys for children or gifts for teenagers will be accepted and donated to St. Matthew's House.

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!

NATIVITY MARKETPLACE

November 25th 9^{am} – 2^{pm}

Be sure to invite your friends, family, neighbours & the person you pass in the street to our Nativity Marketplace **next Saturday**, November 25th! You can get your Christmas shopping & baking done while enjoying a hot bowl of soup and a delicious sandwich and sweet. Try your luck at the raffle table, browse the attic treasures & check out the used book table as well.

Dust off your Christmas recipes! We need donations for our bake & deli sale portion of the Marketplace which can be dropped off on the 24th between 4 - 8pm or anytime after 7:30am on the 25th. We are also planning to have a book table and would greatly appreciate donations of books!

Thank you for your support!

Your Daily Prayers are Requested:

For the Church:

our Bishop: † Susan;
our diocese: all the people of the Diocese of Niagara;
diocesan cycle: St. Paul, Mount Forest;
wider: Anne, our metropolitan archbishop;
Linda, our primate;
The Church of the Province of Myanmar;

For those in our parish cycle of prayer:

Matthew;
Trevor & Denise;
Steve & Bonnie;

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

Telephone (905) 549-4335

Email 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

Our cover image this morning is the “Parable of the Three Servants, or The Talents.”

JESUS MAFA. Parable of the Three Servants, or, The Talents, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=48297> [retrieved November 14, 2023]. Original source: <http://www.librairie-emmanuel.fr> (contact page: <https://www.librairie-emmanuel.fr/contact>).

¹ Text: Horatius Bonar (1808—1889). Music: Melody English trad.; coll. Lucy Broadwood (1858—1929).

² *Opening Prayers*. Quoted in *Alternative Collects* (2019) from the Anglican Church of Canada.

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 Text and Music: Clara H. Scott. Used under OneLicense A-604280.

⁷ *Sundays and Seasons*.

⁸ *Eucharistic Prayers*. Samuel Wells & Abigail Kocher.

⁹ *Book of Alternative Services*, alt.

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

¹¹ Text: Frances Wheeler Davis (1936—). Music: Robert J.B. Fleming (1921—76). © 1976 Margaret Fleming. Used under OneLicense A-604280.

¹² *Sundays and Seasons*.

¹³ Church of Wales.

¹⁴ Text: J.R. Pearcey (1896—1971). © 1991 Hope Publishing. Music: James William Elliott (1833—1915). Used under OneLicense A-604280.