



# Church of the Nativity, Hamilton

## Holy Eucharist

The First Sunday of Advent

3 December 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 Long-expected Jesus**

**Come, thou long-expected Jesus,  
born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us,  
let us find our rest in thee.**

**Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope of all the earth thou art;  
dear desire of every nation,  
joy of every longing heart.**

**Born thy people to deliver;  
born a child and yet a King,  
born to reign in us forever,  
now thy gracious kingdom bring.**

**By thine own eternal Spirit  
rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all-sufficient merit,  
raise us to thy glorious throne.**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who opens the heavens and draws near to us with salvation.  
**Amen.**

Pour down, O heavens, from above,  
and let the skies rain down righteousness.  
**Arise, shine; for your light comes,  
and the glory of the Lord rises upon us.**

Though night still covers the earth  
and darkness covers the nations,  
**over us will the Lord arise,  
over us will the glory of God appear.**

Pour down, O heavens, from above,  
and let the skies rain down righteousness.

Lighting of Advent Candles

**People, Look East! The Time Is Near <sup>2</sup>**

**People, look east! The time is near  
of the crowning of the year.**

**Make your house fair as you are able,  
trim the hearth and set the table.**

**People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the guest is on the way.**

**Furrows, be glad! Though earth is bare,  
one more seed is planted there:  
give up your strength, the seed to nourish,  
that in course the flower may flourish.**

**People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the rose is on the way.**

**Confession & Absolution <sup>3</sup>**

**Everlasting God,  
you love justice and you hate wrongdoing.  
We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness  
that make us reluctant to work against oppression.  
We are complicit in systems of exploitation.  
We choose comfort over courage.  
We are careless with creation's bounty.  
Look upon us with mercy.  
Turn our hearts again to you.  
Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways  
for the sake of our waiting world.  
Amen.**

Hear these words of assurance: God clothes you with garments of salvation and covers you with robes of righteousness. In the tender compassion of ✠ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. God's covenant is eternal, and God's blessing rests upon us all.  
**Amen.**

The Collect <sup>4</sup>

Let us pray.

God of unveiled truth,  
in times of darkened sun and waning moon,  
lift up our hearts and waken our love  
to announce the coming dawn of unexpected peace;  
through Jesus Christ, the one who is to come,  
and 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 prophet Isaiah.

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,  
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—  
as when fire kindles brushwood  
and the fire causes water to boil—  
to make your name known to your adversaries,  
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!  
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,  
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.  
From ages past no one has heard,  
no ear has perceived,  
no eye has seen any God besides you,

who works for those who wait for him.  
You meet those who gladly do right,  
those who remember you in your ways.  
But you were angry, and we sinned;  
because you hid yourself we transgressed.  
We have all become like one who is unclean,  
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.  
We all fade like a leaf,  
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.  
There is no one who calls on your name,  
or attempts to take hold of you;  
for you have hidden your face from us,  
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.  
Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;  
we are the clay, and you are our potter;  
we are all the work of your hand.  
Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,  
and do not remember iniquity for ever.  
Now consider, we are all your people.

*Isaiah 64.1—9*

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

**Thanks be to God.**

On the holy mountain stands the city God has founded;  
**the Lord loves the gates of Zion**  
**more than all the dwellings of Jacob.**

Glorious things are spoken of you, O city of our God.  
**I count Egypt and Babylon among those who know me;**

behold Philistia, Tyre, and Ethiopia: in Zion were they born.  
**Of Zion it shall be said, "Everyone was born in there,**  
**and the Most High shall sustain it."**

The Lord will record as the peoples are enrolled,  
"These also were born there."  
**The singers and the dancers will say,**  
**"All my fresh springs are in you."**



A reading from the first letter to the followers of Jesus in Corinth.

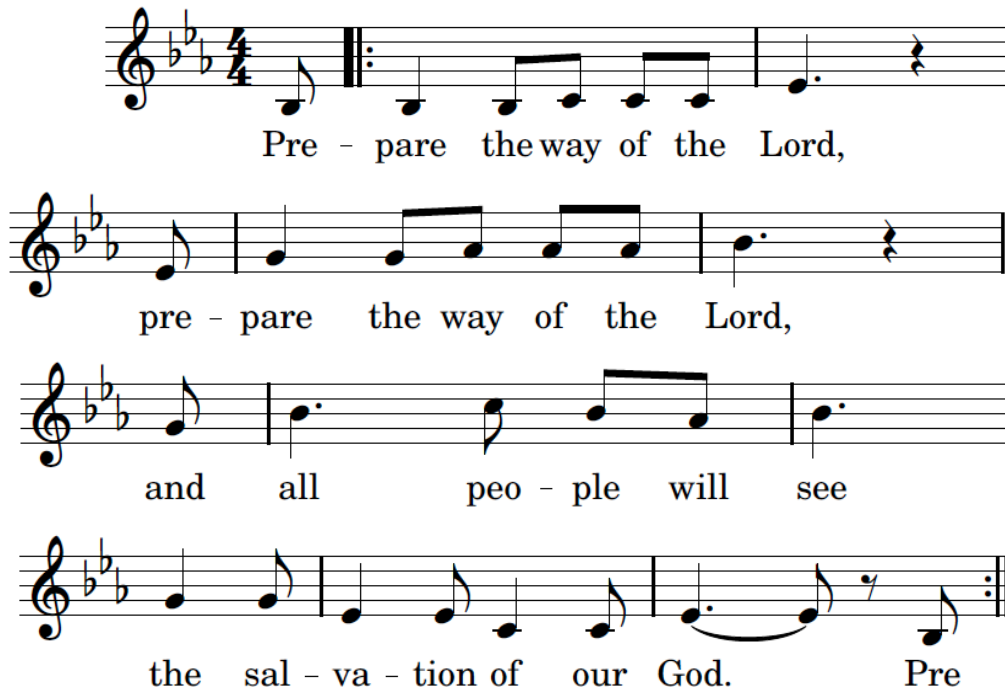
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

*1 Corinthians 1.3—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 Mark.

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

Jesus said, 'But in those days, after that suffering,  
the sun will be darkened,  
and the moon will not give its light,  
and the stars will be falling from heaven,  
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in clouds" with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

'From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have

taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

‘But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.’

*Mark 13.24—37*

The Gospel of Christ.

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

Homily

Affirmation of Faith <sup>6</sup>

We say together in faith

**Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God almighty,  
who was, and is, and is to come.**

We believe in God the Father, who created all things:  
**for by his will they were created and have their being.**

We believe in God the Son, who was slain:  
**for with his blood, he purchased us for God,  
from every tribe and language, from every people and nation.**

We believe in God the Holy Spirit:  
**the Spirit and the Bride say, ‘Come!’  
Even so come, Lord Jesus! Amen.**

## The Prayers of the People

✠ Merciful God,  
✠ receive our prayer.

## The Peace

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

## Feasting at the Table

Offertory Song  
**Christ, Be Our Light** <sup>7</sup>

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.  
Longing for truth, we turn to you.  
Make us your own, your holy people,  
Light for the world to see.

*Refrain:* Christ, be our light!  
Shine in our hearts, shine through the darkness.  
Christ, be our light!  
Shine in your church, gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.  
Longing for hope, many despair.  
Your word alone has power to save us.  
Make us your living voice. *Refrain...*

Longing for food, many are hungry.  
Longing for water, many still thirst.  
Make us your bread, broken for others,

**Shared until all are fed.**                      *Refrain...*

**Longing for shelter, many are homeless,  
Longing for warmth, many are cold.  
Make us your building, sheltering other,  
walls made of living stone.**                      *Refrain...*

**Many the gifts, many the people,  
many the hearts that yearn to belong.  
Let us be servants to one another,  
making your kingdom come.**                      *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 <sup>8</sup>

God our provider,  
by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth.  
Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty.  
Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people,  
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.  
**Amen.**

### The Great Thanksgiving <sup>9</sup>

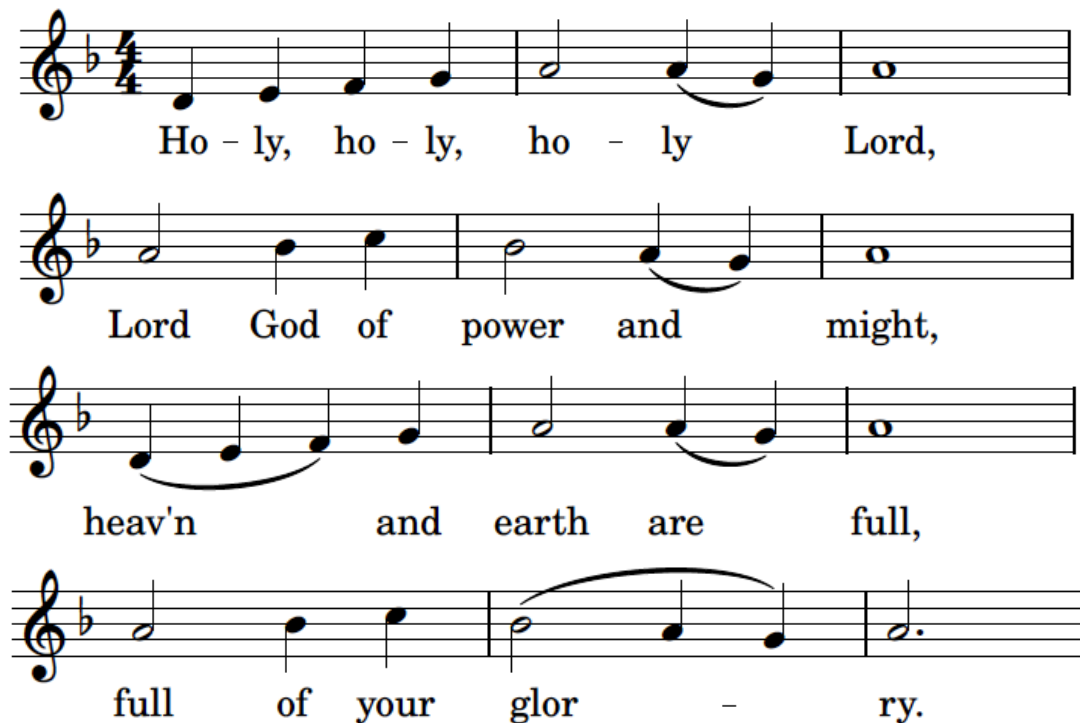
May God be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them up to God.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Worship and praise belong to you, God our maker.  
Out of nothing, you called all worlds to be,  
and still you draw the universe to its fulfilment.  
Dawn and evening celebrate your glory till time shall be no more.

In Christ your Son the life of heaven and earth were joined,  
sealing the promise of a new creation, given, yet still to come.

Taught by your Spirit,  
we who bear your threefold Likeness look for the City of Peace  
in whose light we are transfigured and the earth transformed.

As children of your redeeming purpose who await the coming of your Son,  
we offer you our praise,  
with angels and archangels and the whole company of heaven  
singing the hymn of your unending glory:



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na,

ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is the One who comes,

who comes in the name of the Lord.

Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na,

ho - san - na in the high - est.

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

Glory and thanksgiving be to you, most loving God.  
Our hope is built on Jesus,  
the first, the last, the living one.  
Obedient, even to accepting death,  
Jesus opened the gate of glory  
and calls us now to share the life of heaven.

Before Jesus was given up to suffering and death,  
alight with the vision of a feast that heralded a kingdom yet to come,  
at supper with his disciples he took bread and offered you thanks.  
He broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying:  
“Take, eat. This is my Body: it is broken for you.”

After supper, he took the cup, he offered you thanks,  
and gave it to them saying:  
“Drink this, all of you.  
This is my Blood of the new covenant;  
it is poured out for you, and for all, that sins may be forgiven.  
Do this in remembrance of me.”

We now obey your Son's command.

**We remember his death,  
we proclaim his resurrection,  
we await his coming in glory;**

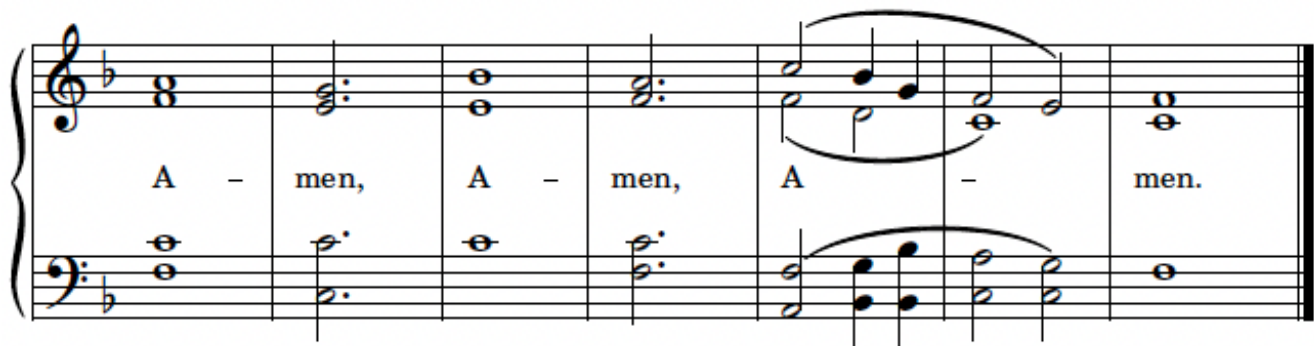
Made one with him,  
we offer you these gifts and with them ourselves,  
a single, holy, living sacrifice.  
Hear us, most gracious God,  
and send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and this wine,  
that, overshadowed by his life-giving power,  
they may be the Body and Blood of your Son,  
and we may be kindled with the fire of your love  
and renewed for the service of your reign.



Help us, who are baptised into the fellowship of Christ's Body  
to live and work to your praise and glory;  
may we grow together in unity and love until at last, in your new creation,  
we enter into our heritage in the company of the Virgin Mary,  
the apostles, and prophets,  
and of all our brothers and sisters living and departed.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory be to you, Lord of all ages,

□



**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 <sup>10</sup>

God of promise,  
you prepare a banquet for us in your reign of justice and peace.  
**Happy are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb.**

In this meal, righteousness and peace meet together.  
Come, take your place at the 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 <sup>11</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.

**“Your Kingdom Come”—On Bended Knee<sup>12</sup>**

**“Your kingdom come” – on bended knee  
the passing ages pray;  
and faithful souls have yearned to see  
on earth that kingdom's day.**

**But the slow watches of the night  
not less to God belong,  
and for the everlasting right  
the silent stars are strong.**

**And lo, already on the hills  
the flags of dawn appear.  
Gird up your loins, ye prophet souls,  
proclaim the day is near:**

**the day in whose clear-shining light  
all wrong shall stand revealed,  
when justice shall be throned with might,  
and every heart be healed:**

**when knowledge, hand in hand with peace,  
shall walk the earth abroad --  
the day of perfect righteousness,  
the promised day of God.**

## Prayer after Communion <sup>13</sup>

Generous God,  
in bread and cup  
you have revealed your glory for all people to see together.  
Nourished by this meal,  
send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release,  
brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Saviour.  
**Amen.**

## Doxology <sup>14</sup>

Glory to God,  
**whose power, working in us,  
can do infinitely more  
than we can ask or imagine.**  
**Glory to God from generation to generation,  
in the Church and in Christ Jesus,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

## Parish Announcements

## Blessing

**When the King Shall Come Again <sup>15</sup>**

**When the King shall come again, all his power revealing,  
splendour shall announce his reign, life and joy and healing;  
earth no longer in decay, hope no more frustrated,  
this is God's redemption day longingly awaited.**

**In the desert trees take root, fresh from God's creation;  
plants and flowers and sweetest fruit join the celebration;  
rivers spring up from the earth, barren lands adorning.  
Valleys, this is your new birth; mountains, greet the morning!**

**Strengthen feeble hands and knees; fainting hearts, be cheerful!  
God, who comes for such as these, seeks and saves the fearful.  
Deaf ears, hear the silent tongues sing away their weeping;  
blind eyes, see the lifeless ones walking, running, leaping.**

**There God's highway shall be seen where no roaring lion,  
nothing evil or unclean, walks the road to Zion:  
ransomed people, homeward bound, all your praises voicing,  
see your Lord with glory crowned, share in his rejoicing!**

Dismissal

**As we await our coming Saviour, go in the peace of Christ.  
Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

# Announcements!

## **ADVENT BRUNCH**

**December 3<sup>rd</sup>**

The Advent Brunch will be taking place this year **NEXT** Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, following the 10<sup>am</sup> service. Tickets are available at no cost from Jan or Larry. 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 12<sup>th</sup> at 12<sup>pm</sup>**

The Nativity Ladies are having their annual Christmas luncheon on Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup>. 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 17<sup>th</sup> at 3<sup>pm</sup>**

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. Andrew's, Grimsby;  
wider:             Anne, our metropolitan archbishop;  
                      Linda, our primate;  
                      The Church of North India (United);

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

Brad & Julie Ann;  
Adele;  
Anne;

### ***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 baby Hannah, and new parents Bailey & Justin

### ***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 a photo entitled “one candle” from user “Candy’s Cake Candles” on flickr. We use it through the CC BY 2.0 Generic license.

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<sup>1</sup> Text: Charles Wesley (1707—88). Music: Melody: *Psalmodia Sacra*, Gotha, 1715; harm. William Henry Havergal (1793—1870), alt. Used under OneLicense A-604280.

<sup>2</sup> Text: Eleanor Farjeon (1881—1965). © David Higham Associates Ltd. Music: Melody French trad.; harm. Martin Shaw (1875—1958), alt. © Oxford UP.

<sup>3</sup> *Sundays and Seasons*.

<sup>4</sup> *Opening Prayers*. Quoted in *Alternative Collects* (2019) from the Anglican Church of Canada.

<sup>5</sup> *A Liturgical Psalter* (2016). General Synod from the Anglican Church of Canada.

<sup>6</sup> *Common Worship*, The Church of England. cf. Revelation 4.8, 11; 5.9; 22.17, 20.

<sup>7</sup> © 1993, 2000, Bernadette Farrell. Used under OneLicense A-604280.

<sup>8</sup> *Sundays and Seasons*.

<sup>9</sup> Eucharistic Prayer 2. *The Scottish Liturgy*, 1982. The Scottish Episcopal Church.

<sup>10</sup> *Book of Alternative Services*, alt.

<sup>11</sup> Selected from the prayers provided for this use in “A Celebration of the Holy Eucharist with Spiritual Communion,” Diocese of Niagara, 2020.

<sup>12</sup> Text: Frederick Lucian Hosmer (1840—1929), alt. Music: *Hymns and Sacred Poems*, Dublin, 1749. Used under OneLicense A-604280.

<sup>13</sup> *Sundays and Seasons*.

<sup>14</sup> *Book of Alternative Services*.

<sup>15</sup> Text: Christopher Idle (1938—). Music: Melody *Piae Cantiones*, 1582. Used under OneLicense A-604280.