

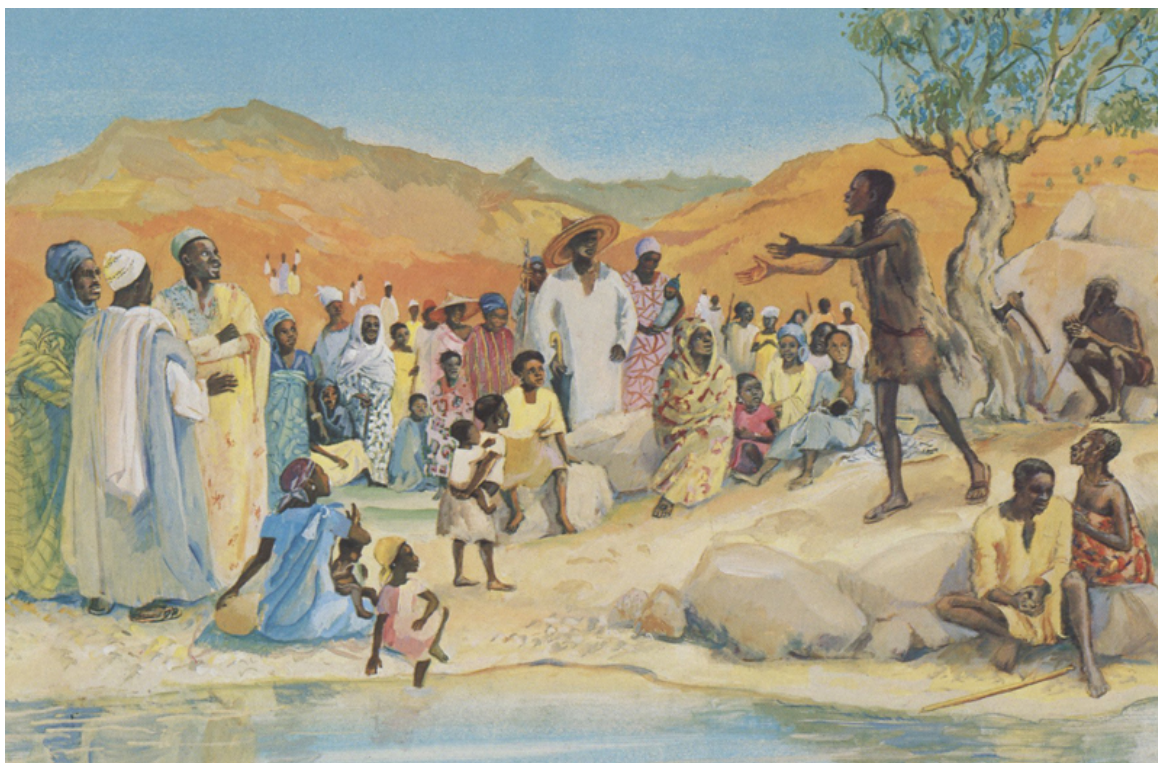


Church of the Nativity, Hamilton

Holy Eucharist

The Second Sunday of Advent

10 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.

On Jordan's Bank, the Baptist's Cry

**On Jordan's bank, the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings.**

**Then cleansed be every breast from sin;
make straight the way for God within.
Prepare we in our hearts a home,
where such a mighty guest may come.**

**For thou art our salvation, Lord,
our refuge and our great reward;
without thy grace we waste away,
like flowers that wither and decay.**

**To heal the sick stretch out thine hand,
and bid the fallen sinner stand;
shine forth, and let thy light restore
earth's own true loveliness once more.**

**All praise, eternal Son, to thee
whose advent doth thy people free;
whom with the Father we adore
and Holy Ghost for evermore.**

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 ²

**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.**

**Birds, though you long have ceased to build,
guard the nest that must be filled;
even the hour when wings are frozen
God for fledging time has chosen.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the bird, is on the way.**

Confession & Absolution ³

**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 ⁴

Let us pray.

God of timeless grace,
you fill us with joyful expectation.

Make us ready for the message that prepares the way,
so that with uprightness of heart and holy joy
we may eagerly await the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Unfolding the Scriptures

1st Reading

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her

that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

'In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,

make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.
Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.'

A voice says, 'Cry out!'
And I said, 'What shall I cry?'
All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.
The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.
The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand for ever.
Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
'Here is your God!'
See, the LORD God comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.
He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

Isaiah 40.1—11

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 85.1—2, 8—13 ⁵

Benedixisti, Domine

You have been gracious to your land, O Lord,
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.
**You have forgiven all the iniquity of your people
and blotted out all their sins.**

I will listen to what you, Lord God, are saying,
for you are speaking peace to your faithful people
and to those who turn their hearts to you.
**Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you,
that your glory may dwell in our land.**

Mercy and truth have met together;
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.
**Truth shall spring up from the earth,
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

Lord, you will indeed grant prosperity,
and our land will yield its increase.
**Righteousness shall go before you,
and peace shall be a pathway for your feet.**

A reading from the second letter of Peter.

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

But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

2 Peter 3.8—15a

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.** ♪

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;

the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight”’,

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, ‘The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his

sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

Mark 1.1—8

The Gospel of Christ.

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

Homily

Affirmation of Faith ⁶

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

Feasting at the Table

Offertory Hymn # 106

There's a Voice in the Wilderness ⁷

There's a voice in the wilderness crying,
a call from the ways untrod:
prepare in the desert a highway,
a highway for our God!
The valleys shall be exalted,
the lofty hills brought low;
make straight all the crooked places,
where the Lord our God may go!

O Zion, give voice to good tidings,
ascend to the heights and sing!
Proclaim to a desolate people
the coming of their King.
The works of pride all perish,
like flowers they shall decay;
the power and pomp of nations
shall pass like a dream away.

But your word, O God, is faithful,
your arm, O Lord, is strong;
you stand in the midst of nations,
and you will right the wrong.
You will feed your flock like a shepherd,
and fold the lambs to your breast;
in pastures of peace you'll lead them,
and give to the weary rest.

**There's a voice in the wilderness crying,
a call from the ways untrod:
prepare in the desert a highway,
a highway for our God!
The valleys shall be exalted,
the lofty hills brought low;
make straight all the crooked places,
where the Lord our God may go!**

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 ⁸

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 ⁹

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,

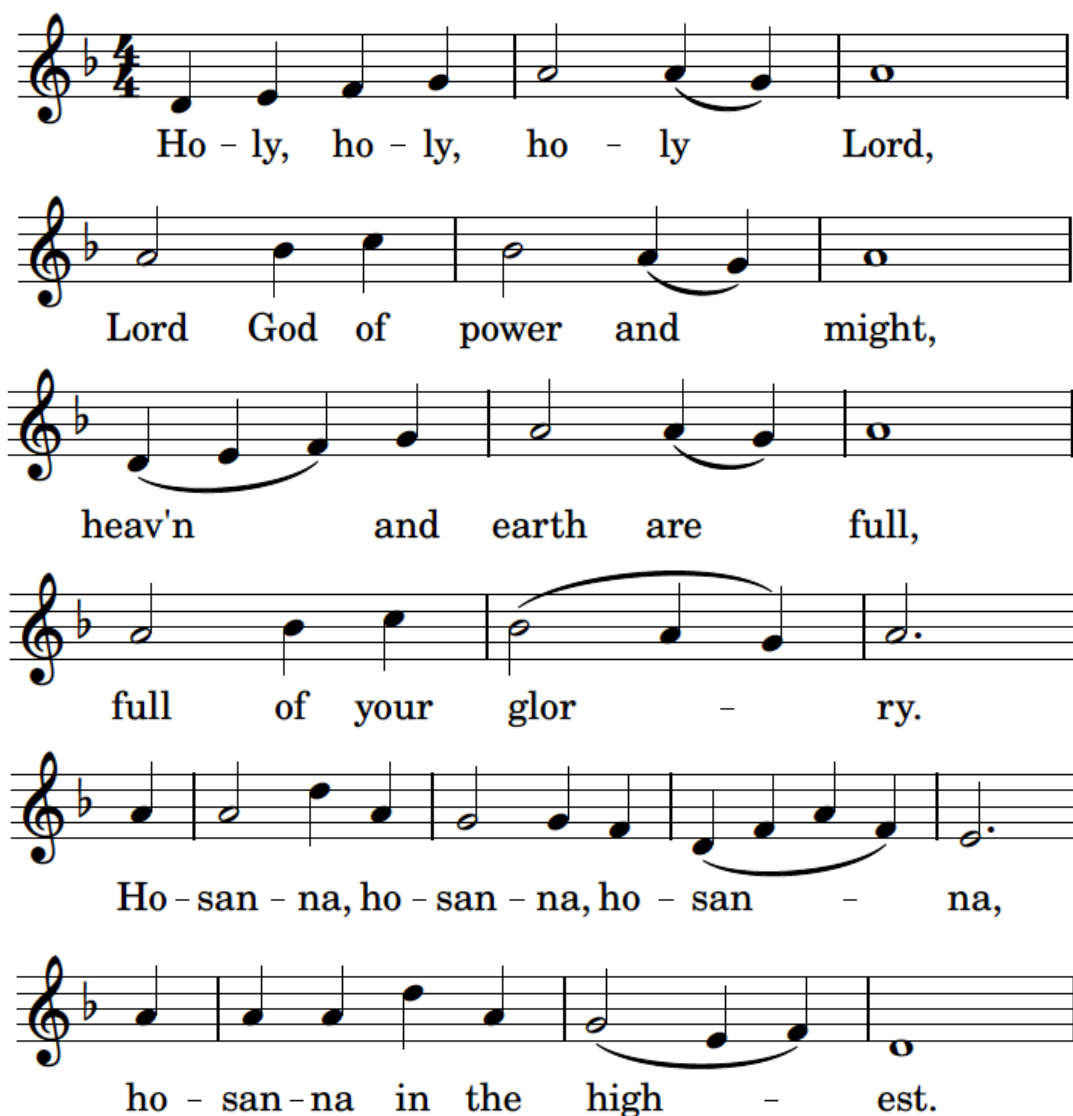
and still you draw the universe to its fulfilment.

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 - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,

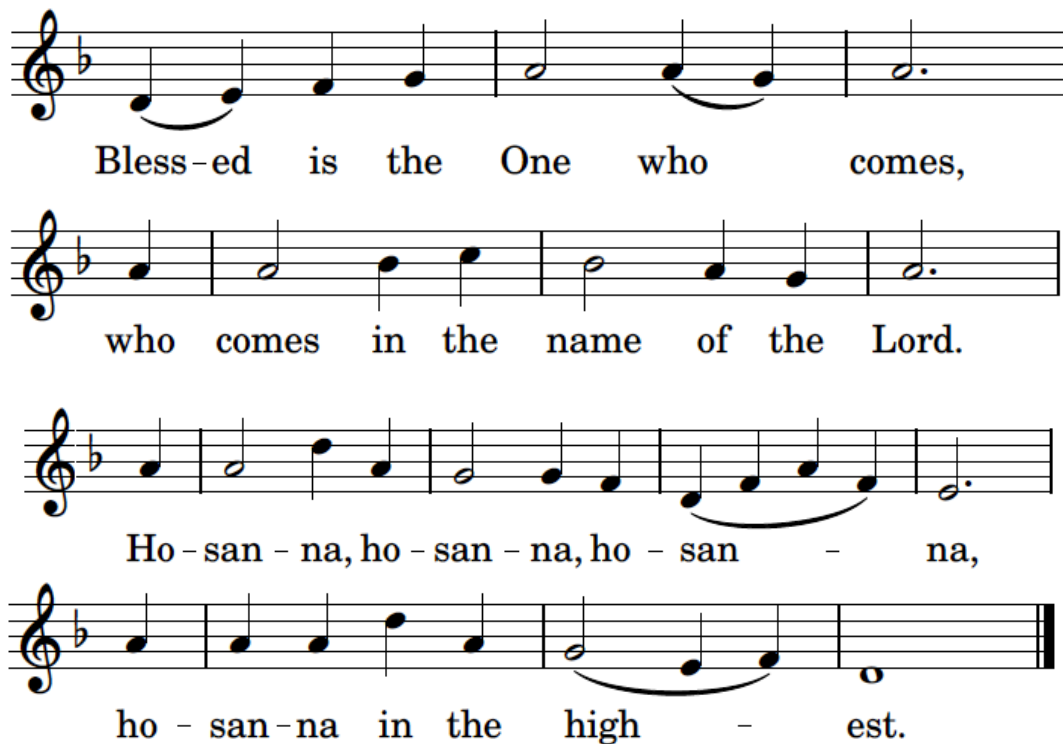
Lord God of power and might,

heav'n and earth are full,

full of your glor - ry.

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.

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.

The Breaking of the Bread ¹⁰

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 ¹¹:

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.

The Advent of Our King¹²

**The advent of our King our thoughts must now employ;
Then let us meet him on the road with songs of holy joy.**

**The co-eternal Son a maiden's offspring see;
a servant's form Christ putteth on, to set his people free.**

**In glory from his throne again will Christ descend,
and summon all who are his own to joys that never end.**

**Our joyful praises sing to Christ, who set us free;
Like tribute to the Father bring, and Holy Ghost, to thee.**

Prayer after Communion¹³

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.

Doxology¹⁴

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.**

Herald! Sound the Note of Judgement¹⁵

**Herald! Sound the note of judgment,
warning note of right and wrong,
turning us from sin and sadness
till once more we sing the song.**

Refrain

**Sound the trumpet! Tell the message!
Christ the Saviour King, has come!**

**Herald! Sound the note of gladness!
Tell the news that Christ is here;
make a pathway through the desert
for the one who brings God near. *Refrain***

**Herald! Sound the note of pardon!
Those repenting are forgiven;
God restores the wayward children,
and to all new life is given. *Refrain***

**Herald! Sound the note of triumph!
Christ has come to share our life,
bringing God's own love and power,
granting victory in our strife. *Refrain***

Dismissal

As we await our coming Saviour, go in the peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Announcements!

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!

ADVENT 4

December 24th at 9:30 am

On the Fourth Sunday of Advent, we'll only hold one service, at 9:30 am.

CHRISTMAS EVE AT 4

December 24th at 4 pm

As the sun sets, we celebrate the first eucharist of Christmas and prepare and bless the crèche.

CHRISTMAS EVE AT 8

December 24th at 4 pm

In darkness, we sing with the choir and celebrate the eucharist as we rejoice that the Light of the World has come into our midst.

CHRISTMAS DAY AT 10

December 25th at 10 am

A quiet and simple celebration of the Eucharist as we continue to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Your Daily Prayers are Requested:

For the Church:

our Bishop: ✙ Susan;
our diocese: all the people of the Diocese of Niagara;
diocesan cycle: St. Luke's, Smithville;
wider: Anne, our metropolitan archbishop;
 Linda, our primate;
 The Church of Pakistan (United);

For those in our parish cycle of prayer:

Larry & Jan;
John & Patty;
Marc & Lyn;

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

Facebook facebook.com/Nativityniagara/

Twitter (X) [@nativityniagara](https://twitter.com/nativityniagara)

YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/@nativityniagara>

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

³ *Sundays and Seasons*.

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

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

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

⁷ Text: Isaiah 40.3—11; para. James Lewis Milligan (1876—1961), alt. Music: Henry Hugh Bancroft (1904—88). © Estate of Henry Hugh Bancroft. Used under OneLicense A-604280.

⁸ *Sundays and Seasons*.

⁹ Eucharistic Prayer 2. *The Scottish Liturgy*, 1982. The Scottish Episcopal Church.

¹⁰ *Book of Alternative Services*, alt.

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

¹² Charles Coffin (1676—1749); tr. Robert Campbell (1814—68). Music: Melody St. Thomas, Aaron Williams (1731—76). Used under OneLicense A-604280.

¹³ *Sundays and Seasons*.

¹⁴ *Book of Alternative Services*.

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