



Church of the Nativity, Hamilton

Christmas Songs and Stories

December 17th, 2023 at 3:00 p.m.



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.

Christmas Songs and Stories

Welcome to the Church of the Nativity!

Thank you for joining us as part of your Christmas Celebrations! We hope that this afternoon's presentation will be a gift of joy and gladness for you.

About Songs and Stories

Everything you need to take part this afternoon can be found in this booklet.

There will be no collection this afternoon. If you would like to contribute to the church, you may do so in the envelopes and the church-shaped donation box on the welcome table, or via e-transfer to

donations.nativity@gmail.com

Gifts are used to support our mission and ministry as a community of faith in east Hamilton, and to serve our local community.

**We wish you a joyful and blessed Christmas
and peace in the year ahead!**

Music is offered to help set the mood for our celebration!

Territorial Acknowledgement

We Sing Together: *People, Look East!*

**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.**

**Stars, keep the watch: when night is dim
one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather,
bright as sun and moon together.**

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

Welcome and Introduction

We Sing Together: *Veni Emmanuel*

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel!

O come, O Dayspring from on high,
and cheer us by your drawing nigh;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadow put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel!

O come, Desire of nations, bind
in one the hearts of humankind;
O bid our sad divisions cease,
and be for us our Prince of Peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel!

A Reading:

An Angel Visits Mary (*Luke 1.26—38*)

We Sing Together: *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

O holy child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in;
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel.

A Reading:

The Birth of Jesus (*Luke 2.1—7*)

We Sing Together: *Once in Royal David's City*

Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed.
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven,
who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall.
With the poor and mean and lowly
lived on earth our Saviour holy.

Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him, but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high,
when, like, stars, his children crowned
all in white shall gather round.

Choir Anthem:

“Bethlehem Boy” by David Asplund

A Reading:

The Shepherds and the Angels (*Luke 2.8—20*)

We Sing Together: *While Shepherds Watched*

**While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down
and glory shone around.**

**“Fear not,” said he, for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind;
“Glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and humankind.**

**“All glory be to God on high
and on earth be peace;
good will henceforth from heaven to me
begin and never cease.”**

A Musical Offering

Schafe können sicher weiden

(Sheep May Safely Graze)

from *Was mir behagt ist nur die muntre Jagd*

by Johann Sebastian Bach, BWV 208

Played by Matthew Griffin

A Christmas Story

The Happy Prince by Oscar Wilde

Read by Mrs. Dena Thomas

Choir Anthem:

“Italian Piper’s Carol”

by Richard Proulx

We Sing Together: *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

**Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the new-born King,
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.”
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic hosts proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”**

Refrain:

**Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King.”**

**Christ, by highest heaven adored;
Christ, the everlasting Lord;
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail, the incarnate Deity,
pleased as one of us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel! *Refrain***

**Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings,
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth,
born to give us second birth. *Refrain***

A Reading:

The Magi Visit (*Matthew 2.1—12*)

We Sing Together: *We Three Kings*

We three kings of Orient are,
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder Star.

Refrain O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.

Born a king on Bethlehem plain,
gold I bring to crown him again.
King for ever, ceasing never
over us all to reign. *Refrain*

Frankincense to offer have I,
incense owns a deity nigh:
prayer and praising all men raising,
worship him God on High. *Refrain*

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;—
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb. *Refrain*

Glorious now behold him arise,
king, and God, and sacrifice;
heav'n sings Hallelujah:
Hallelujah the earth replies. *Refrain*

Prayers

As Christmas draws close,
let us pray together for ourselves and our world, that we may draw
close to God.

a short time of silence is kept

Response One God of love,
All hear our prayer.

a short time of silence is kept

A Christmas Poem

“The Work of Christmas” by Howard Thurman

A Blessing

We Sing Together: *Joy to the World*

**Joy to the world! The Lord is come:
let earth receive the King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

**Joy to the world! The Saviour reigns:
let us glad songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.**

Postlude

For more information about the Church of the Nativity,
please visit
worshipwithnativity.org

You are invited to join us for Christmas Services:

Christmas Eve (December 24th)

4^{pm} Christmas Service

8^{pm} Christmas Service with Choir

Christmas Day (December 25th)

10^{am} A simple Eucharist to celebrate Christ's birth

First Sunday after Christmas (December 31st)

8:30^{am} Said Service

10^{am} Eucharist with Carols

Three Theophanies (January 7th)

*The Days of Christmas conclude as we celebrate
the Epiphany, the Presentation, and the Naming of Jesus*

8:30^{am} Said Service

10^{am} Eucharist with Choir



The Church of the Nativity

worshipwithnativity.org



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1831 King St. East
Hamilton, ON L8K 1V8



(905) 549-4335



admin@worshipwithnativity.org

The Right Reverend Susan Bell	<i>Bishop of Niagara</i>
The Reverend Canon Matthew Griffin	<i>Rector</i>
The Reverend Canon David Linn	<i>Honorary Assistant</i>
The Reverend Deacon Larry Collinson	<i>Parish Deacon</i>
Mrs. Dena Thomas	<i>Theological Intern</i>
Mr. Peter Harding	<i>Director of Music</i>
Mrs. Laura Brintnell	<i>Parish Administrator</i>
Mrs. Jan Collinson	
Mr. David Eccles	<i>Wardens</i>

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