



Church of the Nativity, Hamilton

Holy Eucharist

Christmas Eve

December 24th, 2023 at 4^{pm}



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.

This service is designed for all, young and old,
to hear the Christmas story.

Children and young people are the “**sacrament that won't sit still**”—please know that all are welcome to participate in whatever ways work best for each person.

It's okay to move about and make noise and be the people we are!

A very safe, happy, and holy Christmas to you and all in your heart!

Music is offered to provide a time for quiet prayer and preparation.

A bell is rung, and the service begins.

Processional Carol # 118 ¹

O Come, All Ye Faithful

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem:
come and behold him, born the King of Angels;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

**God of God, Light of Light,
lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
very God, begotten, not created:
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God, glory in the highest:
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

**See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

The Gathering

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.

Lighting the Candles in the Advent Wreath

Opening Acclamation

Son of God, child of Mary,
born in the stable at Bethlehem,
be born again in us this day
that through our lives and worship
the world may know the wonder of your love.
Amen.

The Collect

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you make this holy night shine
with the brightness of the true Light.
Grant that here on earth
we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence
and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory;
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

Hearing God Coming into the World

The prophet Isaiah tells the people of Israel of God's promise of a saviour.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. God will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Isaiah 9.2, 6-7

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

We remain seated and sing 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.**

**And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love,
for that child so dear and gentle
is our Lord in heaven above;
Jesus leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.**

The promise is kept: Saint Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Luke 2.1-7

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

We remain seated and sing

**Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace. Sleep in heavenly peace.**

Shepherds come to adore the new baby in the manger.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.’ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom God favours!’

Luke 2.8—14

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

We remain seated and sing

**Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight,
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Saviour, is born! Christ, the Saviour, is born!**

The shepherds find everything as God had promised.

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Luke 2.15—20

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

We remain seated and sing

**Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at thy birth. Jesus, Lord at thy birth.**

The Nativity Scene is Set

We believe in God.

**We believe in God,
from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in Jesus,
the Son of God and son of Mary,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
fills us with love,
and teaches us how to live.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit who guides us,
who helps us to love,
who makes us holy,
who leads us to know God better,
and who strengthens us with power from on high.**

**We believe that our faith in God
asks us to live for justice, peace, and unity
with all our fellow people,
and that God gives us the grace to live this way.**

The Prayers of the People

✠ Loving God,
✠ hear our prayer.

My dear friends in Christ, God loves without limits.
God invites and welcomes everyone to this table.

Let us trust in God,
and ask God to forgive us for all the ways
that we have not loved as God loves us.

Gracious God,
out of love for you,
I am sorry for all the ways
that I have fallen short of sharing your love with others,
and all the ways that my choices
have caused hurt and pain.
I leave those ways behind.

Help me to turn again to you,
to walk in your ways,
and to share your love
which we meet in Jesus the Christ.
Amen.

Almighty God have mercy upon you,
✠ pardon and deliver you from all your sin,
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 Carol

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing⁴

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

**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.**

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

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 ⁵

God of abundance,
receive and bless these gifts we have offered.
Join our hearts with the song of the angels,
and gather us at your table of celebration.
Strengthen us to share with all the world
the abundance of your grace upon grace,
poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.
Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving ⁶

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 always right, wherever we are,
to thank you and to praise you,
God, the Source of Life and Love,
through Jesus Christ, your Son.

Jesus is the Word made flesh.

Through him you give to the eye of faith a new vision of your glory;
you reveal your perfect love,
and invite us to love and worship you, the unseen God.



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

Holy One, listen to the prayer we make in Jesus' name;
through the Holy Spirit's power, gentle as a dove,
may this bread and this wine be for us Jesus' body and blood.

We remember when Jesus had supper with his friends
the night before he died,
he took the bread;
he thanked you, broke it, gave it to his friends and said:
Take this and eat it –
this is my body, given for you.
Do this to remember me.

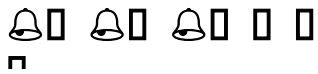
After supper, Jesus took the cup of wine;
he thanked you, gave it to his friends and said:
All of you drink from this cup,
because this is my blood –
the new promise of God's love.
Do this every time you drink it to remember me.

Together we remember that Jesus
is always with us and say:
**Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

Holy One, as we remember your Son, Jesus Christ,
who died on the cross and rose again,
we offer you these and all the gifts you freely give to us.
Send your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts,
to be with us and all who share this bread and drink from this cup.

Help us to trust you,
bring us closer together
and welcome us, with all your people,
into your glorious kingdom.

All honour and glory belong to you, Gracious God,
through Jesus, your Son, with the Holy Spirit:
one God, for ever and ever.



A musical score for the hymn 'Amen, Amen, Amen.' The score is written for a piano and voice. It features a treble and bass clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is in the treble clef, and the piano accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics 'A - men, A - men, A - men.' are written below the notes. The score is divided into six measures, with the first two measures containing the first 'Amen', the next two containing the second 'Amen', and the final two containing the third 'Amen'. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and single notes that support the vocal 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 ⁷

We break the bread of life, and that life is the light of the world.

**God here among us, light in the midst of us,
bring us to light and life.**

Come, all people: this is Christ's table to which all are invited.

Come, for all is ready.

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 ⁸:

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.

What Child Is This ⁹

What Child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping?

Refrain: This, this is Christ, the king,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the Babe, the son of Mary!

Why lies he in such mean estate,
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading. *Refrain...*

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
come, peasant, king to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him. *Refrain...*

Prayer after Communion¹⁰

Gracious God,
this holy night you have united Earth and Heaven
in the birth of your Son.

You sent Jesus to become what we are
so that we can become what he is.

May we who have eaten heavenly things
share in the life of his eternal love.

We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

Doxology¹¹

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

Grace from God's own heart,
✠ peace from the Child in the manger,
and strength from the Spirit of life
be blessings for you today and forever.

Amen.

Joy to the World¹²

**Joy to the world! the Lord is come:
let earth receive her 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 our 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.**

Dismissal

**Alleluia!
Go forth into the world,
rejoicing in the gift of God in Christ!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

Postlude

Announcements!

ENVELOPES & 2023 RECEIPTS

If you requested physical envelopes for 2024, you can find them set out in the narthex.

All gifts received by midnight on New Year's Eve (31 December 2023) will be receipted in the 2023 tax year. Any gifts received by the church after then will be receipted in the 2024 year.

SERVICES OVER THE NEXT TWO WEEKS

Next Sunday there will be two services, at 8:30 and 10 am.

There is no midweek service on December 27th; our midweek service will resume on January 3rd.



The Church of the Nativity

worshipwithnativity.org

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

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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

¹ Text: st. 1, 2, 3, 5: John Francis Wade (1711—86); st. 4 Étienne-Jean-François Borderies, 1822; st. 5a *Thesaurus Animae Christianae*, 1850?; st. 1,2,3,5 tr. Frederick Oakley (1802—80), st. 4 & 5a tr. William T. Brooke (1848—1917). Music: Melody attrib. John Francis Wade (1711—86). Used under OneLicense A-604280.

² Church of England. *Common Worship*. Affirmation E12 (cf. Ephesians 3.)

³ Invitation & Confession: Church of Wales *An Order for the Holy Eucharist* 2004.

Absolution: *Book of Alternative Services*. Confession: *Sundays and Seasons*.

⁴ Text: Charles Wesley (1701—88), alt. Music: Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy (1809—47); adapt. William Hayman Cummings (1831—1915). Used under OneLicense A-604280.

⁵ *Sundays and Seasons*.

⁶ Church of Wales *An Order for the Holy Eucharist* 2004.

⁷ *Book of Alternative Services*, alt.

⁸ Selected from the prayers provided for this use in “A Celebration of the Holy Eucharist with Spiritual Communion,” Diocese of Niagara, 2020.

⁹ Text: William Chatterton Dix (1837—98). Music: Melody English trad.; arr. *Christmas Carols New and Old*, 1871, alt. Used under OneLicense A-604280.

¹⁰ *Sundays and Seasons*.

¹¹ *Book of Alternative Services*.

¹² Text: Isaac Watts (1674—1748). Music: Georg Frederic Handel (1685—1759); adapt. William Holford, *Voce de Melodia*, 1835. Used under OneLicense A-604280.