

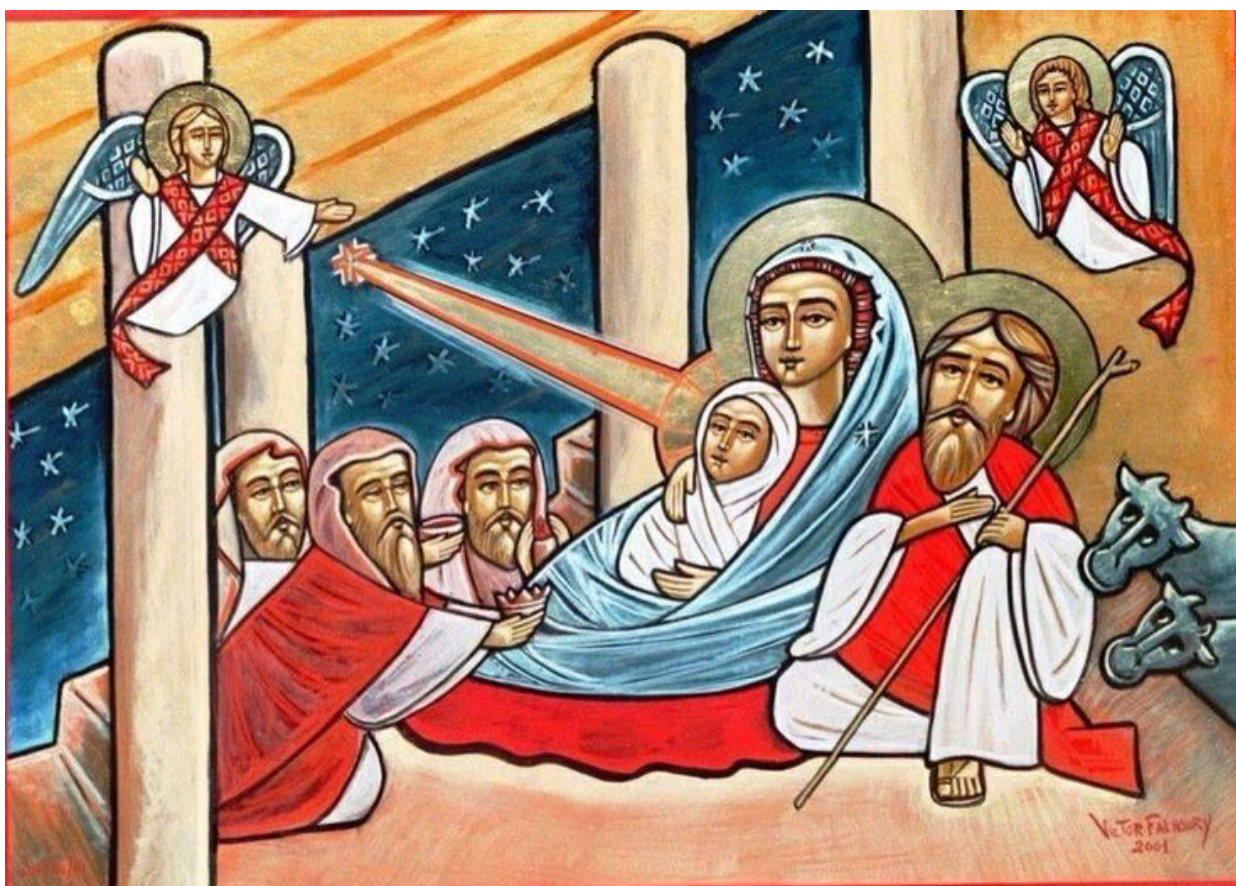


Church of the Nativity, Hamilton

Holy Eucharist

Christmas Eve

December 24th, 2023 at 8^{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.

Prelude

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

A bell is rung, and the service begins.

Processional Carol # 118
O Come, All Ye Faithful¹

**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;**

Refrain:

**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:** *Refrain*

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God, glory in the highest:** *Refrain*

**See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps;** *Refrain*

Welcome

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
be with you all.

And also with you.

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 ²

Let us pray.

Eternal God,
this holy night is radiant
with the brilliance of your one true light.
As we have known the revelation of that light on earth,
bring us to see the splendour of your heavenly glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive 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.

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.
You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.
For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
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.
He 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—7

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 96 ³

Cantate Domino

Sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.

**Sing to the Lord and bless the divine name;
proclaim the good news of our salvation from day to day.**

Declare the glory of the Lord among the nations
and the wonders of God among all peoples.

**For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised,
more to be feared than all gods.**

As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;
but it is you, O Lord, who made the heavens.

**Oh, the majesty and magnificence of your presence!
Oh, the power and the splendour of your sanctuary!**

Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples;
ascribe to the Lord honour and power.

**Ascribe to the Lord the honour due the divine name;
bring offerings and come into the courts of the Lord.**

Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;
let the whole earth tremble before God.

Tell it out among the nations: “The Lord reigns!

The Lord who made the world so firm that it cannot
be moved will judge the peoples with equity.”

**Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it;
let the field be joyful and all that is therein.**

Then shall all the trees of the wood
shout for joy before the Lord who is coming,
who is coming to judge the earth.

**The Lord will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with truth.**

2nd Reading

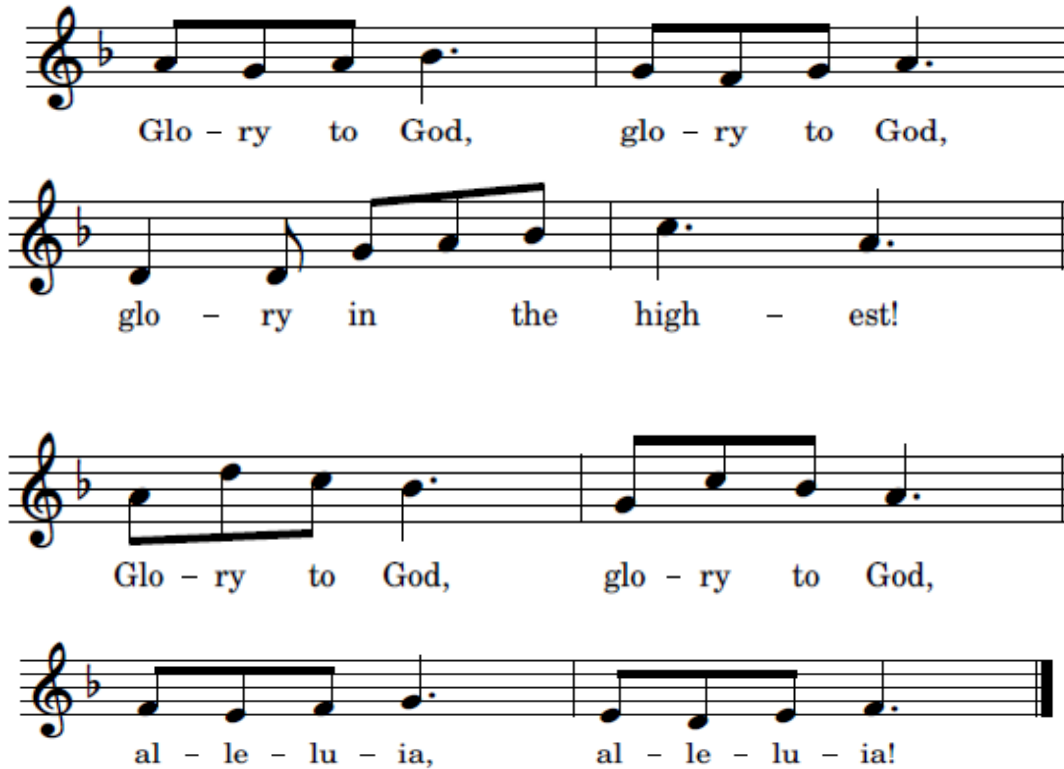
A reading from the letter to Titus.

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Titus 2.11—14

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 Luke.

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

In those days a decree went out from Caesar 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 in the guest room.^[a]

Now in that same 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 Savior, 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 he favors!”

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, and 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, just as it had been told them.

Luke 2.1—20

The Gospel of Christ.

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

Homily

Let us join together
in affirming the Church's faith in Jesus Christ.

We believe and declare
**that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God,
is both divine and human.**

God, of the being of the Father,
the only Son from before time began;
human from the being of his mother, born in the world;
**fully God and fully human;
human in both mind and body.**

As God he is equal to the Father,
as human he is less than the Father.
**Although he is both divine and human
he is not two beings but one Christ.**

One, not by turning God into flesh,
but by taking humanity into God;
**truly one, not by mixing humanity with Godhead,
but by being one person.**

For as mind and body form one human being
so the one Christ is both divine and human.
**The Word became flesh and lived among us;
we have seen his glory,
the glory of the only Son from the Father,
full of grace and truth.**

The Prayers of the People

✠ Hear us, O God;
✠ **your mercy is great.**

Trusting the goodness and loving-kindness of God our Saviour,
let us confess our sin.

God of life,
you promise good news of great joy for all people,
and call us to be messengers of your peace.

**We confess that too often we hoard our joy,
our resources, and our security.**

We nurture conflict and build barriers.

**We neglect the needs of our neighbours
and ignore the groaning of creation.**

Have mercy on us.

Where we are self-centered, open our hearts.

Where we are reluctant, give us courage.

Where we are cynical, restore our trust.

**Renew us with your grace
and give us again the hope of eternal life in you.**

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 # 138
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing⁶

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 Gifts⁷

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 Thanksgiving⁸

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, Holy God,
in every place and at all times.

You made us, all the people of the world, and everything that is.

You give us the daylight.

Your Word lights up our minds.

Jesus was born among us to be light in our darkness.

Your Spirit lives in us so that we can look at the world with your eyes.

One day we will be with you in heaven,

but already we laugh with the saints and angels,

and sing their joyful song:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Blessed is the One who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Ho - san - na in the high - est.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven 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.**

Gracious God, you never forget us or turn away from us,
even when we fail you.

You sent your Son Jesus who gave his life for us.

Jesus healed those who were sick,
cared for those who lived in poverty,
and cried with those who were sad.

He forgave sinners and taught us to forgive.

For all your love we give you thanks
in the way that Jesus showed us.

On the night before Jesus died,
while he was having supper with his friends,
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, Jesus took the cup,
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.”

So, as we do what Jesus told us,
we open our hearts to him;
**we remember how he died
and rose again
to live now in us.**

Together with Jesus we offer you these gifts:
in them we give you ourselves.

Send your Holy Spirit on us and on this bread and this wine,
that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ,
and that, sharing your life,
we may travel in your company to our journey's end.

With all your people we give you thanks and praise
through the Son and in the Spirit, now and for ever.



A - men, A - men, A - men.

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 ⁹

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!

Communion

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.

O Little Town of Bethlehem ¹¹

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.

For Christ is born of Mary; and, gathered all above
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King, and Peace to all the earth.

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given
as love imparts to human hearts the blessings of God's heaven!
No ear may hear his coming; but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

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

'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime ¹²

'Twas in the moon of wintertime, when all the birds had fled,
that mighty Gitchi Manitou sent angel choirs instead;
before their light the stars grew dim,
and wandering hunters heard the hymn:
Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born, *in excelsis gloria*.

Within a lodge of broken bark the tender Babe was found;
a ragged robe of rabbit skin enwrapped his beauty round,
but, as the hunter braves drew nigh,
the angel song rang loud and high:

Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born, *in excelsis gloria.*

**The earliest moon of wintertime is not so round and fair
as was the ring of glory on the helpless infant there.**

**The chiefs from far before him knelt
with gifts of fox and beaver pelt.**

Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born, *in excelsis gloria.*

**O children of the forest free, the kin of Manitou,
the holy child of earth and heaven is born today for you.**

**Come kneel before the radiant boy,
who brings you beauty, peace and joy.**

Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born, *in excelsis gloria.*

Prayer after Communion ¹³

God our redeemer,

you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life.

As you have gathered us in joy,

send us forth as messengers of your peace.

Make us shine with the good news of your glory,

born to us in Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.

Amen.

Doxology ¹⁴

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.

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.

Recessional Carol # 143

Angels, from the Realms of Glory¹⁵

**Angels from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
you who sang creation's story.
now proclaim Messiah's birth.
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.**

**Shepherds, in the field abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing;
yonder shines the infant Light:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.**

**Sages, leave your contemplations;
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great desire of nations;
you have seen his natal star:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.**

**Saints, before the altar bending,
watching long in hope and fear,
suddenly the Lord, descending,**

**in his temple shall appear:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.**

**Though an infant now we view him,
he shall fill the eternal throne,
gather all the nations to him;
every knee shall then bow down:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.**

Dismissal

**Glory to God in the highest!
Peace to God's people on earth!**

**Alleluia! Go in peace; share the gift of Jesus!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

Final Carol # 119

Silent Night¹⁶

**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.**

**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.**

**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.**

Postlude



The Church of the Nativity

worshipwithnativity.org

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Rector
Honorary Assistant
Parish Deacon
Theological Intern
Director of Music
Parish Administrator

Mrs. Jan Collinson
Mr. David Eccles

Wardens

Sources

Our cover image is a Coptic icon of the Nativity.

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).

² *Alternative Collects for Years A, B, & C of the Revised Common Lectionary*. General Synod from the Anglican Church of Canada.

³ *A Liturgical Psalter* (2016). General Synod from the Anglican Church of Canada.

⁴ *Common Worship, The Church of England. E7. From the Athanasian Creed*.

⁵ *Sundays and Seasons*.

⁶ Text: Charles Wesley (1701—88), alt. Music: Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy (1809—47); adapt. William Hayman Cummings (1831—1915).

⁷ *Sundays and Seasons*.

⁸ Eucharistic Prayer 3. *The Scottish Liturgy*, 1982. The Scottish Episcopal Church.

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: Phillips Brooks (1835—93), alt. Music: Lewis Henry Redner (1831—1908). Used under OneLicense A-604280.

¹² Text: Jean de Brébeuf (1593—1649); tr. Jesse Edgar Middleton (1872—196), alt. Tr. © The Frederick Harris Music Co., Ltd. Music: Melody French trad. (16th cent.); harm. Frederick F. Jackisch (1922—2022). Harm. © Lutheran Book of Worship.

¹³ *Sundays and Seasons*.

¹⁴ *Book of Alternative Services*.

¹⁵ Text: James Montgomery (1771—1854), alt. Music: Henry Thoas Smart (1813—79); desc. Craig Sellar Lang (1891—1971). Desc. © 1953 Novello & Co. Used under OneLicense A-604280.

¹⁶ Text: Joseph Mohr (1792—1848); tr. John Freeman Young (1820—85). Music: Melody Franz Xavier Gruber (1787—1863), alt.; harm. Carl H. Reinecke (1824—1910).