



# Church of the Nativity, Hamilton

## Holy Eucharist

December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023

The First Sunday of Christmas



## 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 # 121  
O Little Town of Bethlehem <sup>1</sup>

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.

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 <sup>2</sup>

Let us pray.

God of promise,  
you renew your gift to those  
whose faces are lined and whose hearts are filled by the passage of years:  
help us, with Simeon and Anna,  
to see beyond the surface  
the face and heart of God in Jesus Christ, the given Child;  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, in glory everlasting.  
**Amen.**

# Unfolding the Scriptures

1<sup>st</sup> Reading

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,  
my whole being shall exult in my God;  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,  
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,  
so the LORD God will cause righteousness and praise  
to spring up before all the nations.

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,  
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,  
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,  
and her salvation like a burning torch.

The nations shall see your vindication,  
and all the kings your glory;  
and you shall be called by a new name  
that the mouth of the LORD will give.

You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,  
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

*Isaiah 61.10—62.3*

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

**Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia! Praise the Lord from the heavens;  
praise God in the heights.

**Praise the Lord all you angels;  
sing praises, all you heavenly host.**

Praise the Lord, sun and moon;  
sing praises, all you shining stars.

**Praise the Lord, heaven of heavens,  
sing praises, you waters above the heavens.**

Let them praise the name of the Lord;  
who gave the command and they were created,  
**who made them stand fast for ever and ever,  
who gave them a law which shall not pass away.**

Praise the Lord from the earth,  
you sea-monsters and all deeps;  
**fire and hail, snow and fog,  
tempestuous wind, doing God's will;**

mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;  
**wild beasts and all cattle,  
creeping things and wingèd birds;**

sovereigns of the earth and all peoples,  
princes and all rulers of the world;  
**young men and young women,  
old and young together.**

Let them praise the name of the Lord,  
whose name only is exalted,  
whose splendour is over earth and heaven.  
**The Lord has raised up strength for this people  
and praise for all loyal servants,**

the children of Israel, a people who are near to the Lord.

**Alleluia!**

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading

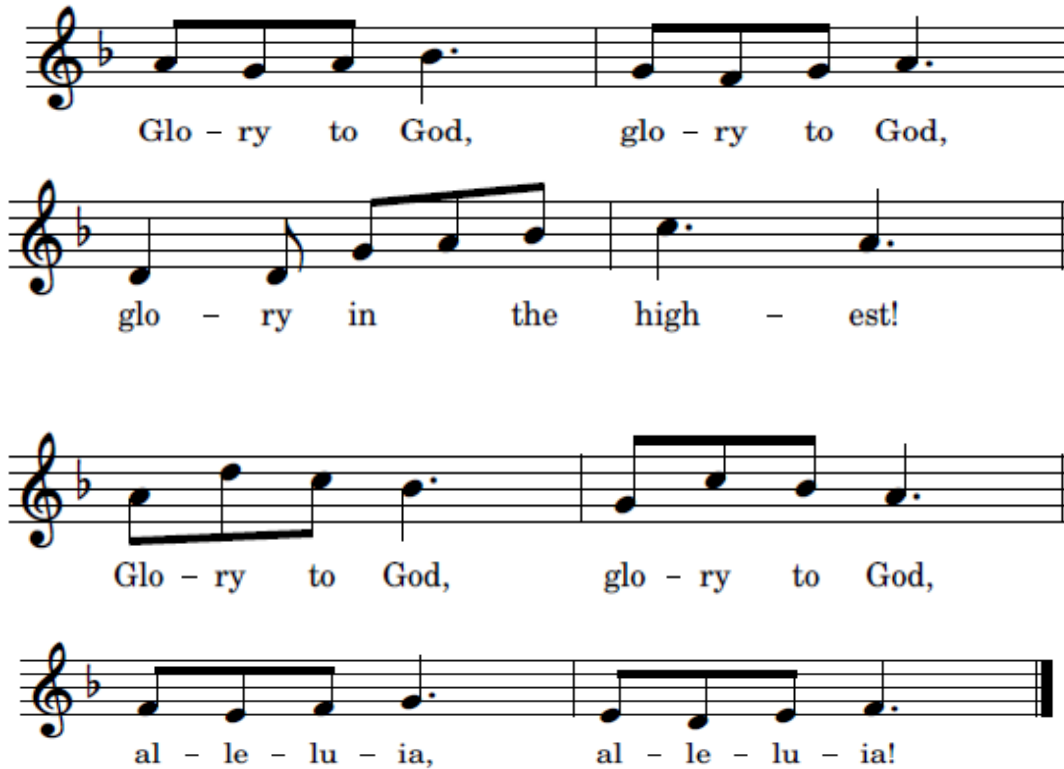
A reading from the letter to followers of Jesus in Galatia.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!' So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

*Galatians 4.4—7*

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.** ♪

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, ‘Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord’), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, ‘a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.’

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took



him in his arms and praised God, saying,  
‘Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,  
according to your word;  
for my eyes have seen your salvation,  
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,  
a light for revelation to the Gentiles  
and for glory to your people Israel.’

And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, ‘This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.’

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

*Luke 2.22—40*

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 # 126  
Away in a Manger <sup>6</sup>

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.  
I love you, Lord Jesus—look down from on high  
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay  
close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,  
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

*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](mailto:donations.nativity@gmail.com)*

Prayer over the Gifts <sup>7</sup>

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.**

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 musical score for the word "Amen" in three parts. The score is written on a grand staff with a treble clef on the top staff and a bass clef on the bottom staff. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The time signature is 8/8. The melody is simple and repetitive, with the word "Amen" written below the notes. The first two measures are "A - men," and the last two are "A - men." The notes are mostly quarter and eighth notes, with some rests.

**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 <sup>9</sup>

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 <sup>10</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.

'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime <sup>11</sup>

'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 <sup>12</sup>

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 <sup>13</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.**

## 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.**

**Shepherds in the Field Abiding**<sup>14</sup>

**Shepherds in the field abiding, tell us, when, the seraph bright  
greeted you with wondrous tiding, what you saw and heard that night.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

**We beheld it (it is no fable), God incarnate, King of bliss,  
swathed and cradled in a stable, and the angel strain was this:  
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

**Choristers on high were singing Jesus and his virgin birth  
heavenly bells the while a-ringing, “Peace, good will to all on earth.”  
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

**Thanks, good shepherds, true your story; let us go to Bethlehem.  
Angels hymn the King of glory; carol we with you and them.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

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!**

Postlude

## **Your Daily Prayers are Requested:**

### ***For the Church:***

*our Bishop:* Susan;

*our diocese:* all the people of the Diocese of Niagara;

*cycle:* the parish of St. Mark, Niagara on the Lake;

*wider:* Anne, our metropolitan archbishop;

Linda, our primate;

the worldwide Anglican Communion, and in its cycle:  
l'Église Anglicane du Rwanda

### ***For the year ahead***

### ***For the needs of the world:***

### ***For peace:***

Ukraine, South Sudan, Yemen, and all places of conflict

### ***For those we know in need of healing***

### ***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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*Parish Administrator*

Mrs. Jan Collinson  
Mr. David Eccles

*Wardens*

## Sources

Our cover image is an icon written by Kelly Latimore, entitled “Mary: Keep Watch.” The artist has granted permission for the non-commercial use of this image with attribution.

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<sup>1</sup> 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).

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

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

<sup>4</sup> *Common Worship*, The Church of England. E7. *From the Athanasian Creed*.

<sup>5</sup> *Sundays and Seasons*.

<sup>6</sup> Text: American (19<sup>th</sup> cent.). Music: William James Kirkpatrick (1838—1921); adapt.

<sup>7</sup> *Sundays and Seasons*.

<sup>8</sup> Eucharistic Prayer 3. *The Scottish Liturgy*, 1982. The Scottish Episcopal Church.

<sup>9</sup> *Book of Alternative Services*, alt.

<sup>10</sup> Selected from the prayers provided for this use in “A Celebration of the Holy Eucharist with Spiritual Communion,” Diocese of Niagara, 2020.

<sup>11</sup> Text: Jean de Brébeuf (1593—1649); tr. Jesse Edgar Middleton (1872—196), alt. Tr. © The Frederick Harris Music Co., Ltd. Music: Melody French trad. (16<sup>th</sup> cent.); harm. Frederick F. Jackisch (1922—2022). Harm. © Lutheran Book of Worship.

<sup>12</sup> *Sundays and Seasons*.

<sup>13</sup> *Book of Alternative Services*.

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