

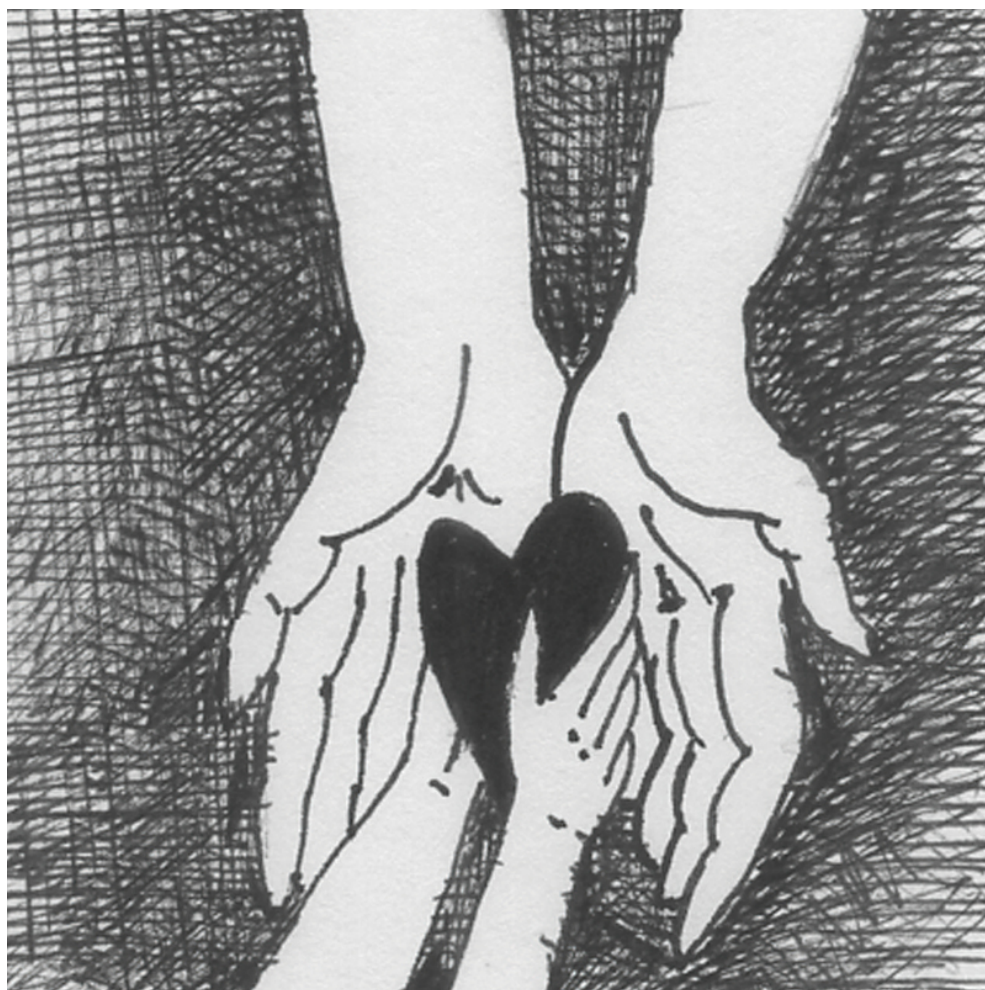


Church of the Nativity, Hamilton

Holy Eucharist

January 28th, 2024

The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany



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 Hymn # 397
Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness ¹

Praise the one who breaks the darkness
with a liberating light.

Praise the one who frees the prisoners,
turning blindness into sight.

Praise the one who preached the gospel,
healing every dread disease,
calming storms and feeding thousands
with the very bread of peace.

Praise the one who blessed the children
with a strong yet gentle word.

Praise the one who drove out demons
with a piercing two-edged sword.

Praise the one who brings cool water
to the desert's burning sand.

From this well comes living water,
quenching thirst in every land.

Praise the one true love incarnate:
Christ who suffered in our place.

Jesus died and rose for many
that we may know God by grace.

Let us sing for joy and gladness,
seeing what our God has done.

Praise the one redeeming glory,
praise the One who makes us one.

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 ²

Perfect Light of revelation,
as you shone in the life of Jesus,
so shine in us and through us,
that we may become beacons of truth and compassion,
enlightening all creation with deeds of justice and mercy.
Amen.

The Collect ³

Let us pray.

Living God, in Christ you make all things new.
Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace,
and in the renewal of our lives make known your 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 book of Deuteronomy.

The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: ‘If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die.’ Then the LORD replied to me: ‘They are right in what they have said. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die.’

Deuteronomy 18.15—20

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 111 ⁴

Confitebor tibi

Alleluia! I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart,
in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.

Great are the deeds of the Lord!

They are studied by all who delight in them.

O Lord, your work is full of majesty and splendour,
and your righteousness endures for ever.

**You make your marvellous works to be remembered;
you are gracious and full of compassion.**

You give food to those who fear you;
you are ever mindful of your covenant.
**You have shown your people the power of your works
in giving them the lands of the nations.**

The works of your hands are faithfulness and justice;
all your commandments are sure.
**They stand fast for ever and ever,
because they are done in truth and equity.**

You send redemption to your people;
you commanded your covenant for ever;
holy and awesome is your name.
**The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;
those who act accordingly have a good understanding;
the praise of the Lord endures for ever.**

2nd Reading

A reading from the first letter to followers of Jesus in Corinth.

Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that ‘all of us possess knowledge.’ Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; but anyone who loves God is known by him.

Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that ‘no idol in the world really exists’, and that ‘there is no God but one.’ Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat

as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. 'Food will not bring us close to God.' We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling-block to the weak. For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

1 Corinthians 8.1—13

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

The Gospel

Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God,
glo - ry in the high - est!
Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

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.** ♪

They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, ‘What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.’ But Jesus rebuked him, saying, ‘Be silent, and come out of him!’ And the unclean spirit, throwing him into convulsions and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, ‘What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.’ At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

Mark 1.21—28

The Gospel of Christ.

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

Homily

The Prayers of the People

✠ God of grace,
✠ **receive our prayer.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

**God, our rock and refuge,
we pour out our hearts before you.**

**We have known you but have not always loved you.
We have wounded one another and sinned against you.
We have not always recognized
the Holy Spirit dwelling in each of us.**

Remember your covenant.

Renew your creation.

Restore us, that we might proclaim your good news to all.

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 Hymn # 500
Sister, Let Me Be Your Servant ⁶

**Sister, let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.**

**We are pilgrims on a journey, fellow travellers on the road;
we are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.**

**I will hold the Christ-light for you in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.**

**I will weep when you are weeping;
when you laugh, I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow till we've seen this journey through.**

**When we sing to God in heaven, we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony.**

**Brother, let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I might have the grace to let you be my servant, too.**

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 ⁷

Blessed are you, Holy One,
for all good things come from you.
In bread and cup you open heaven to us.
Meet us at this table,
that we receive what we seek
and follow your Son, Jesus,
in whose name we pray.

Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving ⁸

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.

God of glory and truth, we praise your holy name with thanksgiving,
because you sent prophets to inscribe the story of creation,
to recall the shaping of your covenant with Israel,
and to hold your people to account for their life in you.

Those same prophets told of a day
when you would restore your covenant
and open wide your arms to bring your people home to you.

In Jesus we see those promises fulfilled.

In his death and resurrection we know our sins are forgiven
and receive the promise of everlasting life with you.

And so with angels and archangels, and the company of heaven,
we join the everlasting hymn to your praise.





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, your Son Jesus ate with friend and stranger,
with devoted disciple and skeptical scrutinizer,
with the one who would betray and the one who had denied.
He made food a place of encounter with you.
By the power of your Holy Spirit visit your people
and sanctify us in the image of your crucified Son.
Through the same Spirit, make these gifts of bread and wine be for us
the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ;

who, at supper with his disciples, took bread, gave you thanks,
broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying,
“Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.”

After supper he took the cup.

Again he gave you thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying,
“Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

Great is the mystery of faith.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

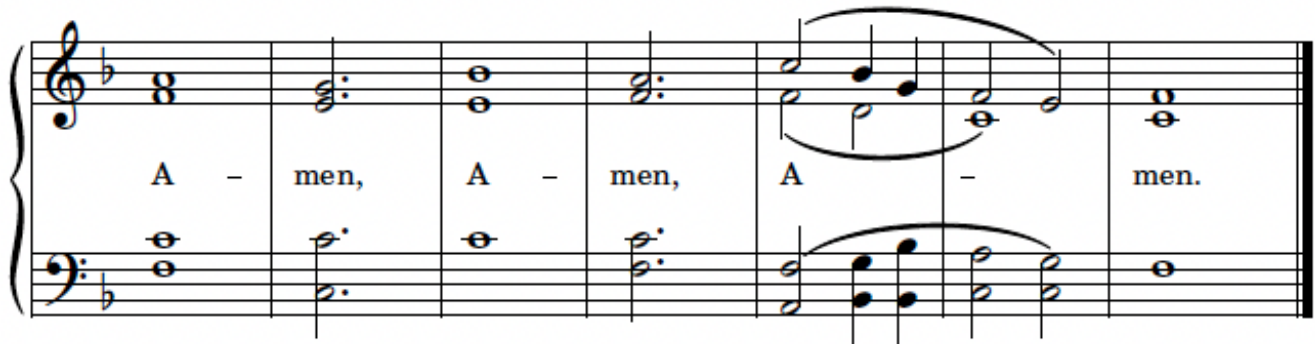
Cleansing God, your Son Jesus taught and healed as one with authority.
Where your children search in vain for someone to trust,
show them your face.

Where your people long for one to lead or a path to follow,
send them your pillar of cloud by day and of fire by night.

Where your church is faltering in fear and doubt,
make yourself known in the ones we regard as least of these.

Usher in the day when all may taste and see the riches of your grace,
and your arms of love will all the world embrace,
in Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit
in union with the Father.





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.

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 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.

Let There Be Light ¹¹

Let there be light,
let there be understanding,
let all the nations gather,
let them be face to face;

open our lips,
open our minds to ponder,
open the door of concord
opening into grace;

perish the sword,
perish the angry judgment,
perish the bombs and hunger,
perish the fight for gain;

hallow our love,
hallow the deaths of martyrs,
hallow their holy freedom,
hallowed be thy name;

thy kingdom come,
thy spirit turn to language,
thy people speak together,
they spirit never fade;

let there be light,
open our hearts to wonder,
perish the way of terror,
hallow the world God made.

Where Charity and Love Prevail ¹²

Where charity and love prevail,
there God is ever found;
brought here together by Christ's love,
by love are we thus bound.

With grateful joy and holy fear
his charity we learn;
let us with heart and mind and soul
now love him in return.

Forgive we now each other's faults
as we our faults confess;
and let us love each other well
in Christian holiness.

Let strife among us be unknown,
let all contention cease;
be his the glory that we seek,
be ours his holy peace.

Let us recall that in our midst
dwells God's begotten Son;
as members of his body joined,
we are in him made one.

Love can exclude no race or creed
if honored be God's name;
our common life embraces all
whose Father is the same.

Prayer after Communion¹³

Giver of every gift,
Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body.
Raise us to life by your power
for the benefit of all and to your glory,
now and forever.
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.**

Announcements

Blessing

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty¹⁵

verses 1, 2, 3, & 6

**Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation.
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation:
All ye who hear, brothers and sisters draw near,
praise him in glad adoration.**

**Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth
shelters thee under his wings, yea, so gently sustaineth:
hast thou not see how thy entreaties have been
granted in what he ordaineth?**

**Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;
surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend thee:
ponder anew what the Almighty can do,
if with his love he befriend thee.**

**Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath come now with praises before him!
Let the Amen sound from his people again:
gladly for aye we adore him.**

Dismissal

Go forth in the name of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Announcements!

SOCK IT TO ME!

Be sure to bring in your socks to donate to those in need in our community for Sunday, February 4th or anytime before. There is a basket in the narthex they can be placed in.

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY

The Super Bowl is creeping closer and that means the Nativity Souper Bowl is doing the same! Just a reminder to bring in ingredients for soup or tins of soup on Sunday, February 11th!

FOOD BANK

The food donation box is always available for non-perishable items to be donated for the local food bank!

VESTRY REPORTS

Please ensure that you have submitted vestry reports to Laura by Wednesday, January 31st.

Your Daily Prayers are Requested:

For the Church:

our Bishop: Susan;

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

cycle: St. George, St Catharines;

wider: Anne, our metropolitan archbishop;

Linda, our primate;

the worldwide Anglican Communion, and in its cycle:
the Anglican Church of Southern Africa;

For those in our parish cycle of prayer:

Shirley & Brian; Marion; Marjorie;

For the needs of the world:

For peace:

Ukraine, South Sudan, Yemen, Gaza, Palestine, Israel,
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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The Reverend Canon Matthew Griffin
The Reverend Canon David Linn
The Reverend Deacon Larry Collinson
Mr. Peter Harding
Mrs. Laura Brintnell

Bishop of Niagara
Rector
Honorary Assistant
Parish Deacon
Director of Music
Parish Administrator

Mrs. Jan Collinson
Mr. David Eccles

Wardens

Sources

Our cover image is by the liturgical artist Liz Valente.

Liz Valente, *My Heart for the Lord*.

<http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=57567>

¹ Text: Rusty Edwards (1955—), © Hope Publishing. Music: *A Repository of Sacred Music: Part Second*, Harrisburg, 1813. Used under OneLicense A-604280.

² *Revised Common Lectionary Prayers*.

³ *Book of Alternative Services*.

⁴ *A Liturgical Psalter* (2016). General Synod from the Anglican Church of Canada.

⁵ *Sundays and Seasons*.

⁶ Text: Richard Gillard (1953—). Music: Richard Gillard (1953—); arr. Betty Carr Pulkingham (1928—2019). Text & Music © 1977 Scripture in Song. Used under OneLicense A-604280.

⁷ *Sundays and Seasons*.

⁸ *Eucharistic Prayers*. Samuel Wells & Abigail Kocher. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2016.

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: Frances Wheeler Davis (1936—). Music: Robert J.B. Fleming (1921—76). © 1976 Margaret Fleming. Used under OneLicense A-604280.

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¹³ *Sundays and Seasons*.

¹⁴ *Book of Alternative Services*.

¹⁵ Text: Joachim Neander (1650—1680); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827—78), alt. Music: *Ernewerten Gesangbuch*, Straslund, 1665, alt. Used under OneLicense A-604280.