



Church of the Nativity, Hamilton

Holy Eucharist

February 25th, 2024

The Second Sunday in Lent



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.

Confession

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who writes the law on our hearts,
who draws all people together through Jesus.

Amen.

Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,
**we confess that we are caught in snares of sin
and cannot break free.**

**We hoard resources while our neighbours
are hungry and cold.**

We speak in ways that silence others.

We are silent when we should speak up.

We keep score in our hearts.

We let hurts grow into hatred.

**For all these things and for sins only you know,
forgive us, Lord.**

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.

Almighty God,
all hearts are open to you.
No secrets are hidden from you.
Purify us with the fire of your Holy Spirit
that we may love and worship you faithfully,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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.

The Collect ¹

Let us pray.

God of Sarah and Abraham,
long ago you embraced your people in covenant
and promised them your blessing.
Strengthen us in faith, so that,
with your followers in every age,
we may proclaim our deliverance in Jesus Christ to generations yet unborn;
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

Young people will be invited to come forward and share with the priest what's made them happy this week and what they'd like help with, and the priest will pray with them. Those who choose to will make their way to the youth Faith/Nurture program.

Tell Me the Stories of Jesus ²

The musical score is written on four staves in treble clef with a 6/8 time signature. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are: "Tell me the stor-ries of Je - sus I love to hear; things I would ask him to tell me if he were here: scenes by the way - side, tales of the sea, sto - ries of Je - sus, tell them to me." The score ends with a double bar line.

Tell me the stor-ries of Je - sus I love to hear;
things I would ask him to tell me if he were here:
scenes by the way - side, tales of the sea,
sto - ries of Je - sus, tell them to me.

Unfolding the Scriptures

1st Reading

A reading from the book of Genesis.

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, 'I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.' Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, 'As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

God said to Abraham, 'As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.'

Genesis 17.1—7, 15—16

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

Praise the Lord, you that fear God;
stand in awe of God, O offspring of Israel;
all you of Jacob's line, give glory.

**For God does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty;
neither turns away from them;
when they cry to the Lord, they are heard.**

My praise is of God in the great assembly;
I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship the Lord.

**The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
and those who seek the Lord shall give praise:
“May your heart live for ever!”**

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord,
and all the families of the nations shall bow before God.

**For sovereignty belongs to the Lord,
who rules over the nations.**

To God alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship;
all who go down to the dust fall before God.

**My soul shall live for God; my descendants shall serve God;
they shall be known as the Lord's for ever.**

They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn
the saving deeds that God has done.

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

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, ‘I have made you the father of many nations’)—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become ‘the father of many nations’, according to what was said, ‘So numerous shall your descendants be.’ He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith ‘was reckoned to him as righteousness.’ Now the words, ‘it was reckoned to him’, were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

Romans 4.13—25

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

In the Lord I'll be ev - er thank - ful,
in the Lord I will re - joice!
Look to God, do not be a - fraid;
lift up your voic - es, the Lord is near;
lift up our voic - es, the Lord is near. In the

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.** ♪

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For

those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.’

Mark 8. 31—38

The Gospel of Christ.

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

Homily

Affirmation of Faith ⁴

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

Though he was divine,
Jesus did not cling to equality with God,
but made himself nothing.

**Taking the form of a slave, he was born in human likeness.
He humbled himself and was obedient to death,
even the death of the cross.**

**Therefore God has raised him on high,
and given him the name above every name:
that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

℣ Hear us, O God.

℟ **Your mercy is great.**

The peace of the Lord be always with you!
And also with you.

Feasting at the Table

Offertory Hymn # 434⁵

The Love of Jesus Calls Us

**The love of Jesus calls us our joyous praise to sing;
our deeply felt thanksgivings we now together bring,
for all God's many blessings, unasked yet still received,
and for the generations who faithfully believed.**

**The love of Jesus calls us, that we may always be
companions on a journey, where all the world may see
that serving Christ is freedom which time does not destroy;
where Christ's command is duty, and every duty joy.**

**The love of Jesus calls us to go where he would go,
to challenge all that limits, to change, to learn, to grow,
to know that Christ has freed us, that prisons are no more;
for those who seek his kingdom, Christ opens every door.**

**The love of Jesus calls us in swiftly changing days,
to be God's co-creators in new and wondrous ways;
that God with men and women may so transform the earth,
that love and peace and justice may give God's kingdom birth.**

*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 Gifts⁶

Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal.
Bless these gifts that we have gathered
that all people may know your goodness.
Feed us not only with this holy food
but with hunger for justice and peace.
We pray this in your name.
Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving⁷

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, maker of light and darkness.

Your wisdom draws beauty from chaos,

brings a harvest out of sorrow and leads the exiles home.

In Christ your Son

enemies are reconciled, debts forgiven, and strangers made welcome.

Your Spirit frees us to live as sons and daughters in our God's house.

We who by Christ's power follow the way of the Cross,

sharing the joy of his obedience,

now offer you our praise,

with angels and archangels and the whole company of heaven

singing the hymn of your unending glory:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
 God of pow - er and might,
 hea - ven 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.

**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.**

Glory and thanksgiving be to you, Holy One,
 for Christ in whom the world is reconciled.
 When Jesus was lifted on the Cross,
 death was swallowed up in victory, that life and light might reign.
 Before Jesus was given up to suffering and death,
 recalling the night of Israel's release,
 the night in which the sons of Egypt died,
 your Chosen One, himself the First-Born, freely offered his life.

At supper with his disciples Jesus took bread and offered you thanks.
He broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup
we remember our Lord's Passover from death to life
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

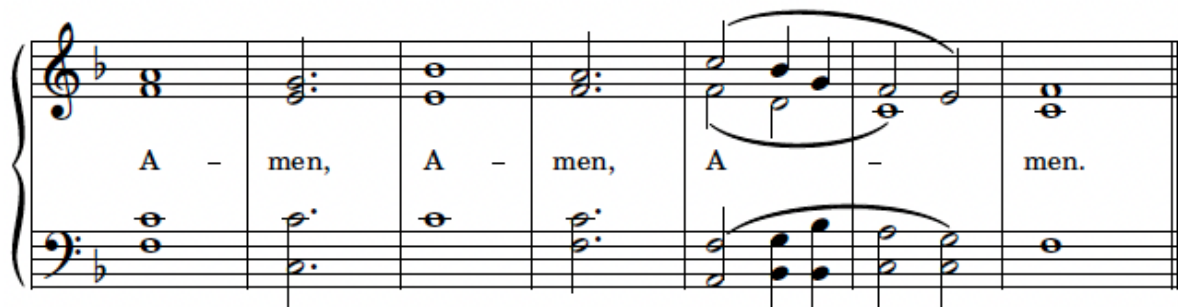
We now obey your Son's command,
recalling his passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension;
and we look for the coming of your reign.

Made one with Jesus, we offer you these gifts
and with them ourselves, a single, holy, living sacrifice.

Hear us, gracious God,
and send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and this wine,
that, overshadowed by your life-giving power,
they may be the Body and Blood of your Son,
and we may be kindled with the fire of your love
and renewed for the service of your reign.

Help us, who are baptised into the fellowship of Christ's Body
to live and work to your praise and glory;
may we grow together in unity and love until at last, in your new creation,
we enter into our heritage in the company of the Virgin Mary,
the apostles, and prophets,
and of all our sisters and brothers, living and departed.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be to you, Lord of all ages, world without end.



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 this bread,
Communion in Christ's body once broken.

Let your Church be the wheat which bears its fruit in dying.
If we have died with Christ, we shall live with Christ.
If we hold firm, we shall reign with Christ.

Bread for the journey, a feast for hungry hearts. Come!
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 ⁹:

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 Us Break Bread Together

Let us break bread together on our knees.

Let us break bread together on our knees.

Refrain:

**When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord have mercy on me.**

Let us drink wine together on our knees.

Let us drink wine together on our knees. *Refrain...*

Let us praise God together on our knees.

Let us praise God together on our knees. *Refrain...*

Prayer after Communion ¹⁰

Generous God,
at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace.
As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread,
now make us one loaf to feed the world;
in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life.
Amen.

Doxology ¹¹

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

Solemn Prayer over the People

Let us bow down before the Lord.
Keep this your family, Lord, with your never-failing mercy,
that relying solely on the help of your heavenly grace,
they may be upheld by your divine protection;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Look Forward in Faith

**Look forward in faith – all time is in God’s hand.
Walk humbly with him, and trust his future plan.
God has wisely led his people by his power.
Look forward in hope, he gives us each new hour.**

**Look forward in faith – the world is in God’s care.
His purpose of love he calls on us to share.
In our neighbour’s need the Lord is present still.
He blesses the meek! The earth will know God’s will.**

**Look forward in faith – God gives us life each day.
Go onward with Christ, the Spirit guides our way.
Now God lets us live within the sphere of grace.
Trust ever, in him – God rules o’er earth and space!**

Dismissal

Go in peace. Share your bread.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Announcements!

VESTRY



At this point, we do hope it's not a surprise: come downstairs to Bartonville Hall for coffee, snacks, and our annual Vestry meeting!

Your Daily Prayers are Requested:

For the Church:

our Bishop: Susan;

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

cycle: St. Columba, St Catharines;

wider: Anne, our metropolitan archbishop;

Linda, our primate;

the worldwide Anglican Communion, and in its cycle:

the Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan;

For those in our parish cycle of prayer:

Carrie;

Jason, Sandy, Quinn, & Carlyn;

David & Karen;

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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Bishop of Niagara

The Reverend Canon Matthew Griffin

Rector

The Reverend Canon David Linn

Honorary Assistant

The Reverend Deacon Larry Collinson

Parish Deacon

Mr. Peter Harding

Director of Music

Mrs. Laura Brintnell

Parish Administrator

Mrs. Jan Collinson

Mr. David Eccles

Wardens

Sources

Our cover image is from Sundays and Seasons.

¹ *Alternative Collects for Years A, B, & C of the Revised Common Lectionary*. General Synod from the Anglican Church of Canada.

² Text: William H. Parker (1845—1929). Music: Frederick A. Challinor (1866—1952).

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

⁴ Affirmation E9 (cf. Philippians 2.6—11), *Common Worship*. Church of England.

⁵ Text: Herbert O’Driscoll (1928—a). Music: Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1810—76). Used under OneLicense A-604280.

⁶ *Sundays and Seasons*.

⁷ Prayer III, *The Scottish Liturgy*, 1982.

⁸ *Book of Alternative Services*, alt. *Sundays and Seasons*.

⁹ Selected from the prayers provided for this use in “A Celebration of the Holy Eucharist with Spiritual Communion,” Diocese of Niagara, 2020.

¹⁰ *Sundays and Seasons*.

¹¹ *Book of Alternative Services*.