



Church of the Nativity, Hamilton

Holy Eucharist

March 3rd, 2024

The Third 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.

Gathering

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.

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.

Lord of the overturning,
your passion sweeps away the calculating religion,
the pious profiteering which keeps us safely outside the holy places:
may we find our way through the debris
of all that protected us to find your dangerous heart and our world upside down;
through Jesus Christ, our exiled Lord;
who lives and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Youth Focus

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

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 image shows a musical score for the song 'Tell Me the Stories of Jesus'. It consists of four staves of music in 6/8 time, written in treble clef. The lyrics are printed below the notes. The melody is simple and repetitive, with a consistent rhythm of eighth notes 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.'

Unfolding the Scriptures

1st Reading

A reading from the book of Exodus.

Then God spoke all these words:

I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. For six days you shall labour and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

Honour your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

You shall not covet your neighbour's house; you shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour.

Exodus 20. 1—17

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 19³

Caeli enarrant

The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the firmament shows the handiwork of the Lord.

**One day tells its tale to another,
and one night imparts knowledge to another.**

Although they have no words or language,
and their voices are not heard,
**their sound has gone out into all lands,
and their message to the ends of the world.**

In the deep has God set a pavilion for the sun;
it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.
**It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens
and runs about to the end of it again;
nothing is hidden from its burning heat.**

The law of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul;
the testimony of the Lord is sure
and gives wisdom to the innocent.
**The statutes of the Lord are just and rejoice the heart;
the commandment of the Lord is clear
and gives light to the eyes.**

The fear of the Lord is clean and endures for ever;
the judgements of the Lord are true
and righteous altogether.
**More to be desired are they than gold,
more than much fine gold,**

sweeter far than honey,
than honey in the comb.
**By them also is your servant enlightened,
and in keeping them there is great reward.**

Who can tell how often they offend?
Cleanse me from my secret faults.
**Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins;
let them not get dominion over me;**

then shall I be whole and sound,
and innocent of a great offense.

**Let the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart
be acceptable in your sight;
O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.**

2nd Reading

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

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

‘I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.’

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

1 Corinthians 1. 18—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 - jice!
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 John.

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

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money-changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, 'Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a market-place!' His disciples remembered that it was written, 'Zeal for your house will consume me.' The Jews then said to him, 'What sign can you show us for doing this?' Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews then said, 'This

temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?’ But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

John 2. 13—22

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

We Are Called to Follow Jesus⁵

**When pain of the world surrounds us with darkness and despair,
when searching just confounds us with false hopes everywhere,
when lives are starved for meaning and destiny is bare,
we are called to follow Jesus and let God's healing flow through us.**

**We see with fear and trembling our aching world in need,
confessing to each other our wastefulness and greed.
May we with steadfast caring the hungry children feed.
We are called to follow Jesus and let God's justice flow through us.**

**The church is a holy vessel the living waters fill
to nourish all the people, God's purpose to fulfill.
May we with humble courage be open to God's will.
We are called to follow Jesus and let God's Spirit flow through us.**

**We praise you for our journey and your abundant grace,
your saving word that guided a struggling human race.
O God, with all creation, your future we embrace.
We are called to follow Jesus and let God's changes flow through us.**

*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.

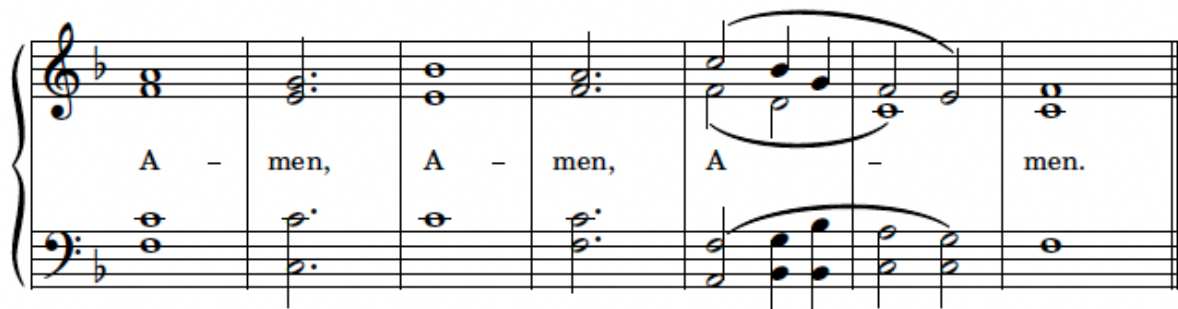
We now obey your Son's command,
recalling his passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension;
and we look for the coming of your reign.

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.

Be Thou My Vision¹⁰

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art—
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true Word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou my great Father: thine own may I be,
thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.

Riches I heed not, nor the world's empty praise;
thou mine inheritance, now and always:
thou and thou only the first in my heart,
high King of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of Heaven, when victory is won,
may I reach heaven's joys, bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Prayer after Communion ¹¹

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 ¹²

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 ¹³

Let us bow down before the Lord.
Look mercifully on this your family, almighty God,
that by your great goodness we may be governed and protected evermore;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The King of Love My Shepherd Is ¹⁴

**The king of love my shepherd is, whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his and he is mine for ever.**

**Where streams of living water flow, my ransomed soul he leadeth,
and where the verdant pastures grow, with food celestial feedeth.**

**Perverse and foolish oft I strayed, but yet in love he sought me,
and on his shoulder gently laid, and home rejoicing brought me.**

**In death's dark vale I fear no ill with thee, dear Lord, beside me;
thy rod and staff my comfort still, thy cross before to guide me.**

**Thou spread'st a table in my sight; thy unction grace bestoweth;
and O what transport of delight from thy pure chalice floweth!**

**And so through all the length of days thy goodness faileth never:
good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise within thy house for ever!**

Dismissal

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

Postlude

Announcements!



Daylight Savings Time begins next Sunday, March 10th.

Your Daily Prayers are Requested:

For the Church:

For Susan our bishop & all the people of the Diocese of Niagara;
For the parish of Transfiguration, St. Catharines;
For Anne, our metropolitan archbishop;
For Linda, our primate;
For the worldwide Anglican Communion,
especially remembering the Church of the Province of Uganda;

For those in our parish cycle of prayer:

For Shirley; Anne & Harvey; and Pat;

For the needs of the world:

For peace:

For peace especially in 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 Right Reverend Susan Bell

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

Mrs. Gayle MacDonald

Mr. Derek Smith

Wardens

Sources

Our cover image is “Christ Overturns the Tables of the Moneylenders” by Peter Koenig. The artist has granted permission for the non-commercial use of this image with attribution, and we thank him for allowing us to use it!

¹ *Prayers for an Inclusive Church*. Steven Shakespeare. Canterbury Press, 2009.

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 Words & music: Jim Strathdee (1941—). © 1976 Desert Flower Music. 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 Text: Irish hymn (8th cent.); tr. Mary Elizabeth Byrne (1880—1931); vers. Eleanor H. Hull (1860—1935), alt. Melody: Irish trad.; arr. Martin Shaw (1875—1958). Used under OneLicense A-604280.

¹¹ *Sundays and Seasons*.

¹² *Book of Alternative Services*.

¹³ *The Book of Occasional Services 2018*. The Episcopal Church of the United States.

¹⁴ Text: Psalm 23; para. Henry Williams Baker (1821—77). Music: John Bacchus Dykes (1823—76). Used under OneLicense A-604280.