



# Church of the Nativity, Hamilton

## Holy Eucharist

March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024

The Fifth 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.**

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.**

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 <sup>1</sup>**

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 hymn "Tell Me the Stories of Jesus". It consists of four staves of music in G major, 8/8 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff contains the first line of the hymn. The second staff contains the second line. The third staff contains the third line. The fourth staff contains the fourth line and ends with a double bar line.

Let us pray.

Lord of the new covenant,  
in Christ you draw all people to yourself:  
may we die with him to the powers of hate  
and let him show us a world loved by you,  
through Jesus Christ, the fruitful grain,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

Choir Anthem: “Teach Me, O Lord”

## Unfolding the Scriptures

1<sup>st</sup> Reading

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah.

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, ‘Know the LORD, for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

*Jeremiah 31. 31—34*

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

**Thanks be to God.**

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness;  
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

**Wash me through and through from my wickedness  
and cleanse me from my sin.**

For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

**Against you only have I sinned  
and done what is evil in your sight.**

And so you are justified when you speak  
and upright in your judgement.

**Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth,  
a sinner from my mother's womb.**

For behold, you look for truth deep within me,  
and will make me understand wisdom secretly.

**Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure;  
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.**

Make me hear of joy and gladness,  
that the body you have broken may rejoice.

**Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquities.**

Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.

**Cast me not away from your presence  
and take not your holy Spirit from me.**

Give me the joy of your saving help again  
**and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

A reading from the first letter to the Hebrews.

So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

‘You are my Son,

today I have begotten you’;

as he says also in another place,

‘You are a priest for ever,

according to the order of Melchizedek.’

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

*Hebrews 5. 5—10*

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.** ♪

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, ‘Sir, we wish to see Jesus.’ Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, ‘The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will



keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour.

‘Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—“Father, save me from this hour”? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.’ Then a voice came from heaven, ‘I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.’ The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, ‘An angel has spoken to him.’ Jesus answered, ‘This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.’ He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

*John 12. 20—33*

The Gospel of Christ.

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

Homily

Affirmation of Faith <sup>4</sup>

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.**

✠ Hear us, O God.

✠ **Your mercy is great.**

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**<sup>5</sup>

**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 <sup>6</sup>

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 Thanksgiving <sup>7</sup>

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.**

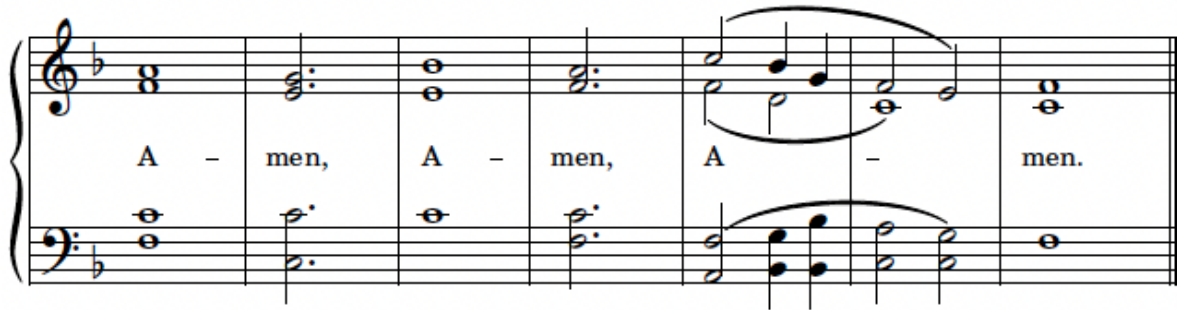
We now obey your Son's command,  
recalling his passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension;  
and we look for the coming of your reign.

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 <sup>9</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.



**Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery**<sup>10</sup>

*Verses 1—5, 6f*

**Tree of Life and awesome mystery,  
in your death we are reborn;  
though you die in all of history,  
still you rise with every morn, still you rise with every morn.**

**Seed that dies to rise in glory,  
may we see ourselves in you;  
if we learn to live your story  
we may die to rise anew, we may die to rise anew.**

**We remember truth once spoken,  
love passed on through act and word;  
every person lost and broken  
wears the body of our Lord, wears the body of our Lord.**

**Gentle Jesus, mighty Spirit,  
come inflame our hearts anew.  
We may all your joy inherit  
if we bear the cross with you, if we bear the cross with you.**

**Christ, you lead and we shall follow,  
stumbling though our steps may be;  
one with you in joy and sorrow,  
we the river, you the sea, we the river, you the sea.**

**God of all our fear and sorrow,  
God who lives beyond our death  
hold us close through each tomorrow,  
love as near as every breath, love as near as every breath.**



## Prayer after Communion <sup>11</sup>

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 <sup>12</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.**

## Announcements

## Solemn Prayer over the People <sup>13</sup>

Let us bow down before the Lord.  
Look with compassion, O Lord, upon this your people;  
that, rightly observing this holy season,  
we may learn to know you more fully,  
and serve you with a more perfect will;  
through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

**Your Hand, O God, Has Guided** <sup>14</sup>

**Your hand, O God, has guided your flock, from age to age;  
the wondrous tale is written, full clear, on every page.  
Our forebears owned your goodness and we their deeds record,  
and both of this bear witness: one church, one faith, one Lord.**

**Your heralds brought glad tidings to greatest as to least;  
they bade them rise to hasten to share the royal feast;  
and this was all their teaching, in every deed and word,  
to all alike proclaiming one church, one faith, one Lord.**

**When shadows, thickly falling, engulfed the world in night,  
you summoned forth your servants, your messengers of light.  
On them and on your people your plenteous grace was poured,  
and this was still their message: one church, one faith, one Lord.**

**And we, shall we be faithless, shall hearts fail, hands hang down?  
Shall we evade the struggle and cast away the crown?  
Not so; in God's deep counsels some better gift is stored:  
the covenant of promise—one church, one faith, one Lord.**

**Your mercy will not fail us, nor leave your work undone;  
with your right hand to help us, your people shall be one;  
and then, by all creation, your name shall be adored,  
and this shall be their anthem: one church, one faith, one Lord.**

Dismissal

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

Postlude

The flowers today are given to the glory of God,  
and in gratitude for sixty-five years of togetherness;  
from Bob and Margaret Keys and David and Jeanette Piper.

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

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

For Susan our bishop & all the people of the Diocese of Niagara;  
For the parish of St. John the Evangelist, Winona;  
For Anne, our metropolitan archbishop;  
For Linda, our primate;  
For the worldwide Anglican Communion,  
especially remembering the Church in Wales;

### ***For those in our parish cycle of prayer:***

For Albert, Sean, Sylvia, Grace, Gwyneth, George, Bob, & Margaret;

### ***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:***

For the repose of the soul of Harvey Hicks;

**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

Mrs. Gayle MacDonald

Mr. Derek Smith

*Wardens*

## Sources

The cover image is a photo taken by the rector.

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<sup>1</sup> Text: William H. Parker (1845—1929). Music: Frederick A. Challinor (1866—1952).

<sup>2</sup> *Revised Common Lectionary Prayers*.

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

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

<sup>5</sup> 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.

<sup>6</sup> *Sundays and Seasons*.

<sup>7</sup> Prayer III, *The Scottish Liturgy*, 1982.

<sup>8</sup> *Book of Alternative Services*, alt. *Sundays and Seasons*.

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

<sup>10</sup> Text & Music: Marty Haugen (1950—). © 1984 GIA Publications. Used under OneLicense A-604280.

<sup>11</sup> *Sundays and Seasons*.

<sup>12</sup> *Book of Alternative Services*.

<sup>13</sup> *The Book of Occasional Services 2018*. The Episcopal Church of the United States.

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