



Church of the Nativity, Hamilton

Holy Eucharist

Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28th, 2024



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.

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unchanging, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains high soaring above
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all life thou givest, to both great and small;
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
then wither and perish, but nought changeth thee.

Great Source of all glory and wisdom and light,
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
all laud we would render: O help us to see
'tis only the splendour of light hideth thee.

Paschal Greeting

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!

May Christ's grace and peace be with you.

May Christ fill our hearts with joy.

The Collect

Let us pray.

God of deep soil and luxurious growth,
you call us from our shallow selves to find our depth in you:
may we abide in him alone who can teach us who we are,
Jesus Christ, the true vine;

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

Unfolding the Scriptures

1st Reading

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, ‘Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.’ (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah.

Then the Spirit said to Philip, ‘Go over to this chariot and join it.’ So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, ‘Do you understand what you are reading?’ He replied, ‘How can I, unless someone guides me?’ And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

‘Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.’

The eunuch asked Philip, ‘About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?’

Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, ‘Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?’ He commanded the chariot to stop, and

both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing.

But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Acts 8. 26 — 40

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

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 first letter of John.

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, 'I love God', and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

1 John 4. 7–21

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 John.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus said ‘I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.’

John 15. 1 – 8

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

*We are delighted to welcome the Very Reverend Dr. Tim Dobbin,
Dean of Niagara and Rector of Christ's Church Cathedral,
as our guest preacher this morning.*

The Apostles' Creed

Let us confess the faith of our baptism,
as we say,

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

The Prayers of the People

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

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

Celebration of the Holy Eucharist

Offertory Song

I Come with Joy²

**I come with joy to meet my Lord,
forgiven, loved and free,
in awe and wonder to recall
his life laid down for me, his life laid down for me.**

**I come with Christians far and near
to find, as all are fed,
the new community of love in Christ's communion bread.**

**As Christ breaks bread and bids us share,
each proud division ends.
The love that made us makes us one,
and strangers now are friends, and strangers now are friends.**

**And thus with joy we meet our Lord.
His presence always near,
is in such friendship better known;
we see and praise him here; we see and praise him here.**

**Together met, together bound,
we'll go our different ways,
and as his people in the world,
we'll live and speak his praise, we'll live and speak his praise.**

Prayer over the Gifts ³

Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit.
May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love.
Form us to be your witnesses in the world,
through Jesus Christ, our true vine.

Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving ⁴

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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you,
almighty and merciful God,
for the glorious resurrection of our Saviour Jesus Christ,
the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin;
who in dying has destroyed death,
and in rising has brought us to eternal life.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter
and all the witnesses of the resurrection,
with earth and sea and all their creatures,
and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



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. Blest 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 pow'r and might.
 Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.
 Hosanna in the highest.
 Blest is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.
 Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

O God most mighty,
 O God most merciful,
 O God our rock and our salvation,
 hear us as we praise your holy Name,
 call us to your table,
 grant us your life.

When the world was a formless void,
you formed order and beauty.

When Abraham and Sarah were barren, you sent them a child.

When the Israelites were enslaved,
you led them to freedom.

Ruth faced starvation,
David fought Goliath,
and the psalmists cried out for healing,
and full of compassion,
you granted the people your life.

You entered our sorrows in Jesus our brother.

He was born among those living in poverty,
he lived under oppression,
he wept over the city.

With infinite love, he granted the people your life.

On the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, 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.

Remembering his death, we cry out Amen.

Amen!

Celebrating his resurrection, we shout Amen.

Amen!

Trusting his presence in every time and place, we plead Amen.

Amen!

O God, you are Breath:
send your Spirit on this meal.

O God, you are Bread:
feed us with yourself.

O God, you are Wine:
warm our hearts and make us one.

O God, you are Fire:
transform us with hope.

O God most majestic,
O God most motherly,
O God our strength and our song,
you show us a vision of a tree of life
with fruits for all and leaves that heal the nations.

Grant us such life,
the life of the Father to the Son,
the life of the Spirit of our risen Saviour,
life in you,
now and forever.



A musical score for the hymn "Amen, amen, amen." The score is written for piano and voice. It consists of six measures. The first two measures are for the voice, with the lyrics "A - men," and "A - men," respectively. The third measure is for the piano, with the lyrics "A - men." The fourth, fifth, and sixth measures are for the piano, with the lyrics "A - men." The music is in a 2/4 time signature and features a simple melody with a bass line accompaniment.

Amen, amen, amen.

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 ⁵

Lord, we died with you on the cross.
Now we are raised to new life.

We were buried in your tomb.
**Now we share in your resurrection.
Live in us, that we may live in you.**

Communion ⁶

The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread.
Come and eat at God's table.
Thanks be to God! Alleluia!

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 ⁷:

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.

**I am the bread, the bread of life;
who comes to me will never hunger.
I am the bread, the bread of heaven;
who feeds on me will never die.
And as you eat, remember me,
my body broken on the tree:
my life was given to set you free,
and I'm alive for evermore.**

**I am the vine, the living vine;
apart from me you can do nothing.
I am the vine, the real vine:
abide in me and I in you.
And as you drink, remember me,
my blood was shed upon the tree:
my life was given to set you free,
and I'm alive for evermore.**

**So eat this bread and drink this wine,
and as you do, receive this life of mine.
All that I am, I give to you,
that you may live for evermore.**

Prayer after Communion ⁹

Shepherding God,
you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love.
Send us forth from this banquet
to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus,
our redeemer and friend.
Amen.

Doxology ¹⁰

Generous God,
you have fed us at your heavenly table.
Kindle us with the fire of your Spirit
that when the Lord comes again
we may shine as lights before him,
who is alive and reigns in glory for ever.
Amen.

Parish Announcements

Blessing

The love of the Lord Jesus draw you to God,
the power of the Lord Jesus strengthen you in God's service,
the joy of the Lord Jesus fill your hearts;
and the blessing of God almighty,
Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

**Forth in thy name, O Lord, I go,
my daily labour to pursue;
thee, only thee, resolved to know
in all I think or speak or do.**

**The task thy wisdom hath assigned
O let me cheerfully fulfil,
in all my works thy presence find,
and prove thy good and perfect will.**

**Thee may I set at my right hand,
whose eyes mine inmost substance see,
and labour on at thy command,
and offer all my works to thee.**

**Give me to bear thy easy yoke,
and every moment watch and pray,
and still to things eternal look,
and hasten to thy glorious day;**

**for thee delightfully employ
whate'er thy bounteous grace hath given;
and run my course with even joy,
and closely walk with thee to heaven.**

Dismissal

**Alleluia! Go in peace; rejoice and be glad!
Thanks be to God! Alleluia!**

Your Daily Prayers are Requested:

For the Church:

For Susan our bishop & all the people of the Diocese of Niagara;
For the parish of Christ Church, Flamborough;
For Anne, our metropolitan archbishop;
For Linda, our primate;
For the worldwide Anglican Communion, especially remembering the Anglican Church in Bangladesh;

For those in our parish cycle of prayer:

For Judy & Barry; Susan & Terry; Charles & Rose;

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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Parish Administrator

Mrs. Jan Collinson
Mr. David Eccles
Ms. Gayle MacDonald
Mr. Derek Smith

Wardens

Sources

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¹ Text: Walter Chalmers Smith (1824—1908), alt. Music: Melody Welsh trad.; adapt. John Roberts of Henllan (1808—76), *Caniadau y Cyssegr* 1839. Used under OneLicense A-604280.

² Text: Brian Wren (1936—). Music: American folk tune; arr. Austin C. Lovelace (1919—2010). © 1971, 1977 Hope Publishing. Used under OneLicense A-604280.

³ *Sundays and Seasons*.

⁴ *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*.

⁵ *Book of Alternative Services*.

⁶ *Sundays and Seasons*.

⁷ Selected from the prayers provided for this use in “A Celebration of the Holy Eucharist with Spiritual Communion,” Diocese of Niagara, 2020.

⁸ Text and music: Brian R. Hoare (1935—). © 1988 Hope Publishing. Used under OneLicense A-604280.

⁹ *Sundays and Seasons*.

¹⁰ *An Order for the Holy Eucharist* 2004. The Church in Wales.

¹¹ Text: Charles Wesley (1707—1788). Music: Orlando Gibbons (1583—1625). Used under OneLicense A-604280.