



Church of the Nativity, Hamilton

Holy Eucharist

The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

June 16th, 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.

Processional Hymn **# 373 This Is the Day the Lord Hath Made** ¹

**This is the day the Lord hath made, its hours to God are known;
let heaven rejoice, let earth be glad, and praise surround the throne.**

**Today Christ rose and left the dead, and Satan's empire fell;
today the saints his triumph spread, and all his wonders tell.**

**Hosanna to the anointed King, to David's holy Son!
Help us, O Lord; descend and bring salvation from thy throne.**

**Hosanna in the highest strains the church on earth can raise;
the highest heavens in which he reigns shall give him nobler praise.**

Greeting

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 ²

Let us pray.

Mighty God, to you belong the mysteries of the universe.
You transform shepherds into kings,
the smallest seeds into magnificent trees,
and hardened hearts into loving one.
May your life-giving Spirit re-create us in your image
and shape us into your purposes,
through Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Unfolding the Scriptures

1st Reading

A reading from the first book of Samuel.

Then Samuel went to Ramah; and Saul went up to his house in Gibeah of Saul. Samuel did not see Saul again until the day of his death, but Samuel grieved over Saul. And the LORD was sorry that he had made Saul king over Israel.

The LORD said to Samuel, 'How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.' Samuel said, 'How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.' And the LORD said, 'Take a heifer with you, and say, "I have come to sacrifice to the LORD." Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.' Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, 'Do you come peaceably?' He said, 'Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.' And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, 'Surely the LORD's anointed is now before the LORD.' But the LORD said to Samuel, 'Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.' Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, 'Neither has the LORD chosen this one.' Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, 'Neither has the LORD chosen this one.' Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, 'The LORD has not chosen any of these.' Samuel said to Jesse, 'Are all your sons here?' And he said, 'There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.' And Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.' He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, 'Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.' Then Samuel took the

horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

1 Samuel 15. 34 – 16. 13

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

May the Lord answer you in the day of trouble,
the name of the God of Jacob defend you;
**send you help from the holy place of the Lord
and strengthen you out of Zion;**

remember all your offerings
and accept your burnt sacrifice;
**grant you your heart's desire
and prosper all your plans.**

We will shout for joy at your victory
and triumph in the name of our God;
may the Lord grant all your requests.
**Now I know that you, O Lord, give victory to your anointed,
whom you will answer out of the heavenly realms
with the victorious strength of your mighty hand.**

Some put their trust in chariots and some in horses,
but we will call upon the name of the Lord our God.
**They collapse and fall down,
but we will arise and stand upright.**

O Lord, give victory to your anointed
and answer us when we call.

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

So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord— for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For all of us must appear before the judgement seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences. We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

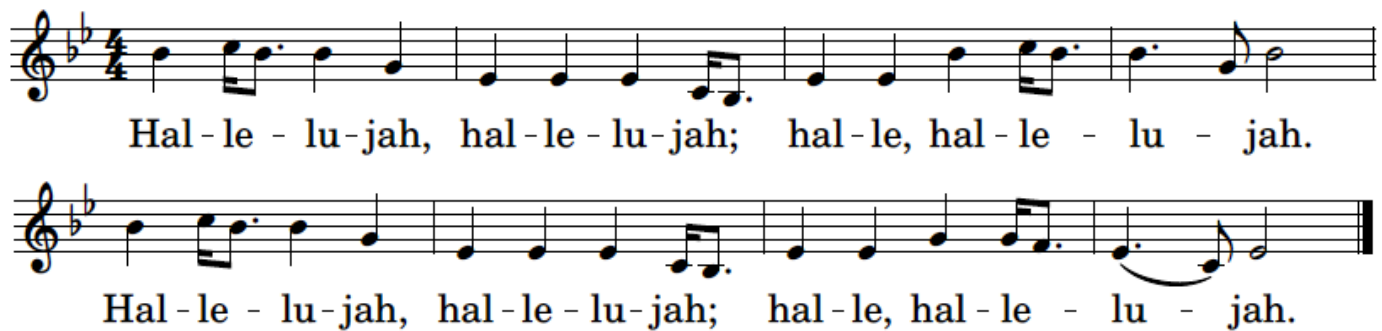
From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

2 Corinthians 5. 6–17

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

The acclamation is sung



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah; hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah.
Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah; hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Mark.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus said, ‘The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.’

He also said, ‘With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.’

With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

Mark 4. 26 – 34

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily

Let us affirm the faith we share.

**We trust in God, who has created and is creating;
who came to us in Jesus, the word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new;
who works in us and others by the Holy Spirit.**

**We believe we are called to be God's people:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus' death and resurrection by word and deed.**

**We live in hope because in life, in death, in life beyond death,
we are not alone: God is with us.**

Thanks be to God. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

✠ Merciful God,
✠ **receive our prayer.**

Dear friends in Christ,
God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy,
welcoming sinners and inviting us to this table.
Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

God, our provider,
help us.

It is hard to believe there is enough to share.

We question your ways

when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live.

We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you.

We take offense at your teachings and your ways.

Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn?

Share with us the words of eternal life

and feed us for life in the world. Amen.

Almighty God have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
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.

Celebration of the Holy Eucharist

Monetary contributions to the Church of the Nativity and its ministries as we live out God's mission can be mailed to the parish, dropped off in the mailbox, or made via e-transfer to donations.nativity@gmail.com

Offertory Hymn

502 **You Are Salt for the Earth** ⁶

**You are salt for the earth, O people:
salt for the kingdom of God!
Share the flavour of life, O people:
life in the kingdom of God!**

Refrain: **Bring forth the kingdom of mercy,
bring forth the kingdom of peace;
bring forth the kingdom of justice,
bring forth the city of God!**

**You are a light on the hill, O people:
light for the city of God!
Shine so holy and bright, O people:
shine for the kingdom of God! *Refrain***

**You are a seed of the Word, O people:
bring forth the kingdom of God!
Seeds of mercy and seeds of justice
grow in the kingdom of God! *Refrain***

**We are a blest and a pilgrim people:
bound for the kingdom of God!
Love our journey and love our homeland:
love is the kingdom of God! *Refrain***

Prayer over the Gifts ⁷

Jesus, Bread of life,
you have set this table with your very self,
and called us to the feast of plenty.
Gather what has been sown among us,
and strengthen us in this meal.
Make us to be what we receive here,
your body for the life of the world.
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.

Glorious God, we praise and thank you,
because you destined us to be your children,
and when you bring us to faith in your Son Jesus Christ
you make a new creation.

Your people longed for a leader,
and out of Bethlehem you gave them David;
when they yearned for a Saviour,
out of Bethlehem you gave them Jesus.

In your Son's life and death
you showed us the extent of your love,
and in his resurrection and ascension
you showed us our future in you.

And so with all the company of heaven
we rejoice to sing the praise of your glory.



Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est,
ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bles-sed 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.
Heav'n 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.**

True and living God, you do not judge by outward appearances
but look upon the heart.

You came among us in your Son Jesus Christ,
whose appearance was one with us,
and whose heart was one with you.

You call your church in human form;
send upon us your Holy Spirit
that we may become one with you in faith and hope and love.

Sanctify by that same Spirit this bread and wine,
that they may be for us the body and blood of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord;

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.

Promising God, you set our hearts to anticipate your harvest,
in which all that turns to you is transformed into glory,
and all that shrinks from you is turned to dust.

Uphold all who live in the midst of famine,
that the bread of your eternal banquet
may bring hope to the hungry.

Strengthen any who walk in the desert of despair,
that the wine of your kingdom
may give sustenance to those who thirst.

Bless all who labour and are heavy laden,
that the sacrifice you made once for all may inspire them
to walk with you until the time for tears is done,
and you fill heaven and earth
with the ever-rolling stream of your righteousness,
ever one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever.



A musical score for piano accompaniment. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics 'A - men, A - men, A - men.' are written below the treble staff. The first two measures are marked with a repeat sign. The third measure has a fermata over the word 'Amen'.

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 Bread⁹

Creator of all, you gave us golden fields of wheat,
whose many grains we have gathered and made into this one bread.

**So may your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth
into your reign of justice and peace.**

Communion¹⁰

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all.

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 ¹¹:

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.

**Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,
wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
love lives again, that with the dead has been;
love is come again like wheat arising green.**

**In the grave they laid him, Love by hatred slain,
thinking that He would never wake again,
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen;
love is come again like wheat arising green.**

**Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain,
he that for three days in the grave had lain;
raised from the dead, my living Lord is seen;
love is come again like wheat arising green.**

**When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
your touch can call us back to life again,
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;
love is come again like wheat arising green.**

All your works praise you, O Lord.
And your faithful servants bless you.

Gracious God
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
May we, who share his body, live his risen life;
we, who drink his cup, bring life to others;
we, whom the Spirit lights, give light to the world.
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,
so that we and all your children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise your name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Parish Announcements

Blessing

**Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling;
all thy faithful mercies crown.**

**Jesus, thou art all compassion;
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart.**

**Come, almighty to deliver;
let us all thy grace receive;
suddenly return, and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.**

**Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.**

**Finish then thy new creation;
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee,**

**changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love and praise!**

Dismissal

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.
Thanks be to God!

Parish Picnic

June 23rd at 10 am



Bring a salad or a desert – the church and its expert grillers will take care of the main!

Weather permitting, we'll worship outside—so bring a hat, and a lawn chair if you can!



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. Christopher, Burlington;
For Anne, our metropolitan archbishop;
For Linda, our primate;
For the worldwide Anglican Communion, remembering the Iglesia Anglican de Chile;

For those in our parish cycle of prayer:

For David & Jeanette; for William and Liam; for Gwen;

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

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The Right Reverend Susan Bell
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Bishop of Niagara
Rector
Honorary Assistant
Parish Deacon
Director of Music
Parish Administrator

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

Wardens

Sources

-
- ¹ Text: Isaac Watts (1647—1748), alt. Music: *Hymns and Sacred Poems*, Dublin, 1749. Used under OneLicense A-604280.
- ² *Revised Common Lectionary Prayers*. International Consultation on Common Texts.
- ³ *A Liturgical Psalter* (2016). General Synod from the Anglican Church of Canada.
- ⁴ *Celebrate God’s Presence*. United Church of Canada (2000)
- ⁵ *Sundays and Seasons*.
- ⁶ Text and music: Marty Haugen (1950—). © 1986 GIA Publications. Used under OneLicense A-604280.
- ⁷ *Sundays and Seasons*.
- ⁸ *Eucharistic Prayers*. Samuel Wells & Abigail Kocher.
- ⁹ *Book of Alternative Services*, alt.
- ¹⁰ *Sundays and Seasons*.
- ¹¹ Selected from the prayers provided for this use in “A Celebration of the Holy Eucharist with Spiritual Communion,” Diocese of Niagara, 2020.
- ¹² Text: John M.C. Crumb (1872—1958), alt. Music: Melody French (15th cent.); harm. Martin Shaw (1875—1958). *Text and harm.* © 1928 Oxford University Press. Used under OneLicense A-604280.
- ¹³ *Book of Alternative Services*.
- ¹⁴ Text: Harry Emerson Fosdick (1878—1969), alt. Music: John Hughes (1873—1932). ©. Used under OneLicense A-604280.