

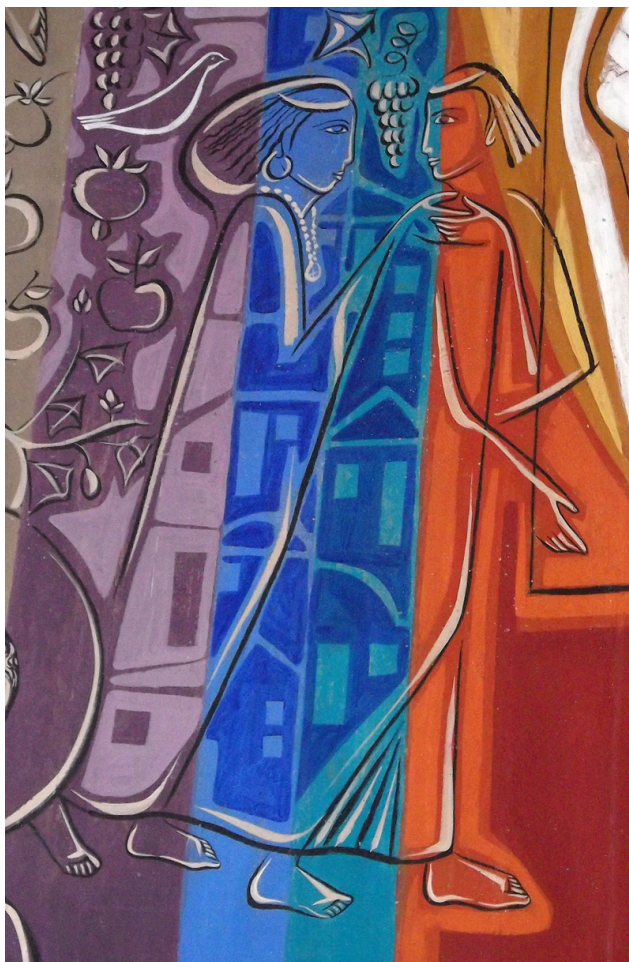


Church of the Nativity, Hamilton

Holy Eucharist

The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 1st, 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.

Opening Hymn # 393 *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*¹

**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, unhasting, 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.**

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.

Blessed are you, O Lord and Lover,
source of beauty and depth of passion.
Strengthen and inspire us to do the word we hear
and live the faith we confess,
through Jesus, our Saviour and Friend,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.

Amen.

Unfolding the Scriptures

1st Reading

A reading from the Song of Songs.

The voice of my beloved!

Look, he comes,
leaping upon the mountains,
bounding over the hills.

My beloved is like a gazelle
or a young stag.

Look, there he stands
behind our wall,
gazing in at the windows,
looking through the lattice.

My beloved speaks and says to me:

‘Arise, my love, my fair one,
and come away;

for now the winter is past,
the rain is over and gone.

The flowers appear on the earth;
the time of singing has come,
and the voice of the turtle-dove
is heard in our land.

The fig tree puts forth its figs,
and the vines are in blossom;
they give forth fragrance.

Arise, my love, my fair one,
and come away.

Song of Songs 2. 8 – 13

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

My heart is stirring with a noble song;
let me recite what I have fashioned for the king;
my tongue shall be the pen of a skilled writer.

**You are the fairest of mortals;
grace flows from your lips, because God has blessed you for ever.**

Your throne, O God, endures for ever and ever,
a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of your dominion.

**You love righteousness and hate iniquity.
Therefore God, your God, has anointed you
with the oil of gladness above your companions.**

All your garments are fragrant with myrrh, aloes, and cassia,
and the music of strings from ivory palaces makes you glad.

**The daughters of rulers stand among the ladies of the court;
at your side is the queen, adorned with the gold of Ophir.**

2nd Reading

A reading from the letter of James.

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. In fulfilment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

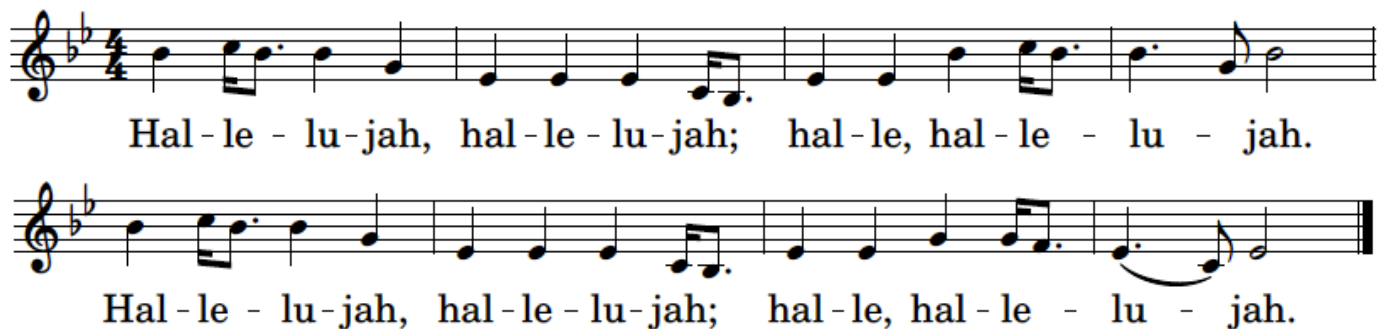
James 1. 17–27

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel

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 image shows two staves of musical notation in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff ends with a double bar line, and the second staff continues the melody and lyrics.

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.

Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus, they noticed that some of his disciples

were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, ‘Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?’ He said to them, ‘Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written, “This people honours me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.” You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.’

Then Jesus called the crowd again and said to them, ‘Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.’ For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.’

Mark 7. 1 – 8, 14 – 15, 21 – 23

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

V Merciful God,
R **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.

Gracious God,
have mercy on us.
We confess that we have honoured you with our lips,
but have harmed our neighbours with our tongues.
The cravings at war within us
cause conflicts and disputes.
In our desire to be first
we make distinctions among ourselves.
We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last.
In your great mercy, forgive us our sins.
Draw near to us with grace in time of need,
and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ,
our Saviour and Lord. 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

619 Fairest Lord Jesus ⁶

**Fairest Lord Jesus, ruler of all nature,
O thou the Godhead's human son:
thee will I cherish, thee will I honour,
thou my soul's glory, joy, and crown.**

**Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands,
robed in the blooming garb of spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,
who makes the troubled heart to sing.**

**Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight,
and fair the twinkling, starry host;
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer
than all the angels heaven can boast.**

**All fairest beauty, heavenly and earthly,
wondrously, Jesus, is found in thee;
none can be nearer, fairer or dearer
than thou, my Saviour, art to me.**

Prayer over the Gifts ⁷

Blessed are you, O God, source of every gift of your creation.
By these gifts and with our lives,
 help us to serve one another and all in need,
 through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.
Amen.

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.

We gladly and joyfully thank and praise you, our Lord and God,
for you created all things from the overflowing of your goodness
and made us your beloved in your covenant of grace.

Out of the long winter of our estrangement
you called us to arise and come away with you,
because the springtime of salvation was at hand.

In fulfillment of your own purpose you gave us birth by your Word of truth,
so that we would become the firstfruits of his creatures.

In your Son Jesus you set us as a seal upon your heart,
and in his cross and resurrection
you showed us that your love was stronger than death.

And so we join our voices with the heavenly throng,
singing the hymn of your eternal 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.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of four staves of music, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff has four measures, the second has four measures, the third has four measures, and the fourth has four measures. The lyrics are: '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.**

Transforming God, you long for us to become holy like you.
 Through this gathering of reconciliation
 and word of truth and embodiment of peace
 you fill us with bread for the journey.
 In the power of your Holy Spirit,
 make all who participate in this blessed meal
 doers of your word, and not hearers only.
 By your same Spirit bless this food and drink
 that they may be for us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;
 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.

Gentle God, you call us to be quick to listen and slow to speak.

Embolden all who have no one to listen to them,

that in their distress, or dismay, or disease

they may meet friends, receive justice, and find you.

Give wisdom to any who may have something to say,

that they may speak your words, live your hope,

and draw others to your truth.

Bless those who struggle with anger,

that their frustration may turn to good work,

and their sense of deep wrong yield a pursuit of righteousness.

Hasten the day when there is no more grief or sorrow,

but you are all in all, ever one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

A musical score for the hymn "Amen, amen, amen." The score is written for a piano and features a treble and bass clef. The key signature is one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 8/8. The melody is primarily in the treble clef, with the bass clef providing a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics "A - men, A - men, A - men." are written below the notes. The score consists of six measures, with the first two measures containing the first "Amen", the next two containing the second "Amen", and the final two containing the third "Amen". The music is simple and reverent, with a focus on the text.

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

Jesus welcomes you to this table.

Come, here is your God.

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.

**Just as I am, without one plea,
but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou biddest me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
sight, riches, healing of the mind,
yea, all I need, in thee to find,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt,
fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**Just as I am, and waiting not
to rid my soul of one dark blot,
to thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**Just as I am—thy love unknown
has broken every barrier down—
now to be thine, yea, thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

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

**Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation.
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation:
All ye who hear, brothers and sisters draw near,
praise him in glad adoration.**

**Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;
surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend thee:
ponder anew what the Almighty can do,
if with his love he befriend thee.**

**Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath come now with praises before him!
Let the Amen sound from his people again:
gladly for aye we adore him.**

Dismissal

Go in peace. Follow Jesus.
Thanks be to God!

Save the Date...

The Taste of Spirit Fundraiser



1 – 5 pm

Church of the Nativity

Tickets \$30.⁰⁰

Includes 3 sample tastings

Charcuterie Boards

Entertainment

Beer, Wine, & additional samples for purchase

Gift Baskets, Draws, and other prizes

How will you get home?



Back to School Supplies!

For many families, the extra costs of students heading back to school in the fall are overwhelming!

Through September, let's gather supplies that can make a difference for students at local schools.

Some Suggested Items

Pencil Crayons
Glue Sticks
Safety Scissors
cloth Pencil Case
HB Pencils
Erasers
Pencil Sharpeners (with receptacle)
Kleenex
Page Dividers for Binders
Coloured Duo Tangs
Lined 3-hole paper
Calculators (preferably solar-powered)
Rulers (with cm & mm)

Your Daily Prayers are Requested:

For the Church:

For Susan our bishop;
and for & all the people of the Diocese of Niagara;
For the parish of St. Paul, Norval;
For Anne, our metropolitan archbishop;
For Linda, our primate;
For the worldwide Anglican Communion,
remembering Igreja Anglicana de Mocambique e Angola;

For those in our parish cycle of prayer:

For Jim; for Jackie; for Karen;

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 George Archibald;

**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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[youtube.com/@nativityniagara](https://www.youtube.com/@nativityniagara)



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The Right Reverend Susan Bell
The Reverend Canon Matthew Griffin
The Reverend Canon David Linn
The Reverend Deacon Larry Collinson
Mr. Peter Harding
Mrs. Laura Brintnell

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

Our cover image is a mural by Cláudio Pastro depicting Song of Solomon 2.10 “Arise, my love, my fair one...” The mural is located in the Mosteiro da Virgem, a Benedictine convent in Petrópolis, Brazil. The photograph we use was taken by Eugenio Hansen, OFS, and is used under the CC BY-SA 3.0 license.

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 Stephen Shakespeare. *Prayers for an Inclusive Church* (2009), alt. From *Alternative Collects for Years A, B, & C of the Revised Common Lectionary and Seasonal Prayers Over the Gifts and After Communion*. Authorized by the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada, 2019.

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: Münster Gesangbuch, 1677; tr. Church Chorals and Choir Studies, 1850, alt. Music: Melody Silesan trad.; Schlesische Volkslieder, Leipzig, 1842; arr. James Hopkirk (1908—1972); desc. Kenneth Hull (1952–). © Arr. © Estate of James Hopkirk. Used under OneLicense A-604280.

⁷ *Sundays and Seasons*.

⁸ *Eucharistic Prayers*. Samuel Wells & Abigail Kocher. Eerdmans, 2016.

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: Charlotte Elliott (1789—1871). Music: William Batchelder Bradbury (1816—68). Used under OneLicense A-604280.

¹³ *Book of Alternative Services*.

¹⁴ Text: Joachim Neander (1650—1680); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827—78), alt. Music: Ernewerten Gesangbuch, Straslund, 1665, alt. Used under OneLicense A-604280.