

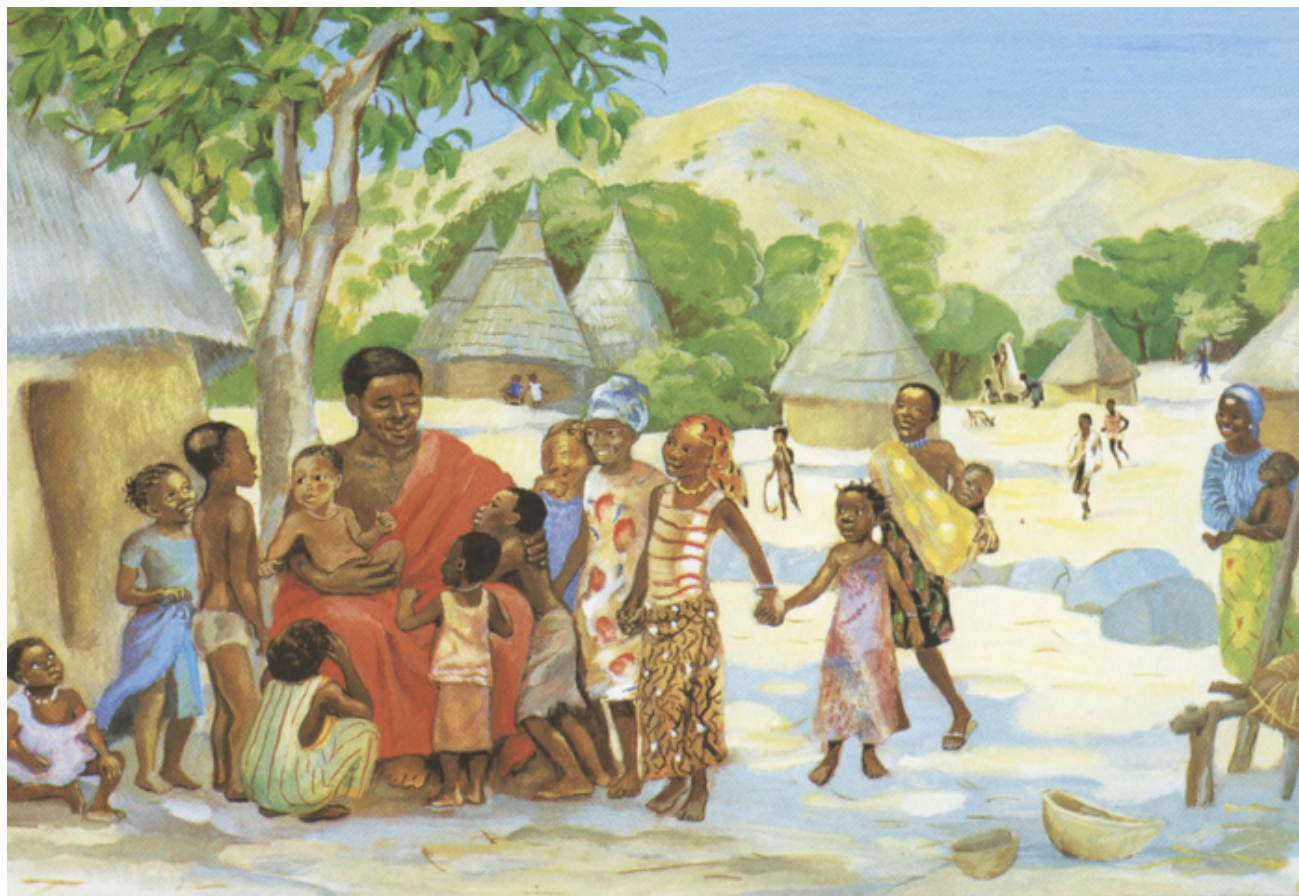


Church of the Nativity, Hamilton

Holy Eucharist

The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 22nd, 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 # 585 Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service ¹

**Lord, whose love in humble service
bore the weight of human need,
who upon the cross, forsaken,
worked your mercy's perfect deed:
we, your servants, bring the worship
not of voice alone but heart;
consecrating to your purpose
every gift which you impart.**

**Still your children wander homeless;
still the hungry cry for bread;
still the captives long for freedom;
still in grief we mourn our death.
As you, Lord, in deep compassion,
healed the sick and freed the soul,
by your Spirit send your power
to our world to make it whole.**

**As we worship, grant us vision
till your love's revealing light
in its height and depth and greatness
dawns upon our quickened sight,
making known the needs and burdens
your compassion bids us bear,
stirring us to ardent service,
your abundant life to share.**

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.

O God, who draws near to us
and whose nature is revealed in lordship laid aside:
give us grace to welcome you in the child and in the outcast;
in the name of Jesus Christ,
who humbled himself so that we might know eternal life;
and 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 book of Proverbs.

A woman of strength who can find?
She is far more precious than jewels.
The heart of her husband trusts in her,
and he will have no lack of gain.
She does him good and not harm
all the days of her life.
She seeks wool and flax
and works with willing hands.
She is like the ships of the merchant;
she brings her food from far away.
She rises while it is still night
and provides food for her household
and tasks for her female servants.
She considers a field and buys it;
with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard.
She girds herself with strength
and makes her arms strong.
She perceives that her merchandise is profitable.
Her lamp does not go out at night.
She puts her hands to the distaff,
and her hands hold the spindle.
She opens her hand to the poor
and reaches out her hands to the needy.
She is not afraid for her household when it snows,
for all her household are clothed in crimson.
She makes herself coverings;
her clothing is fine linen and purple.
Her husband is known in the city gates,

taking his seat among the elders of the land.
She makes linen garments and sells them;
she supplies the merchant with sashes.
Strength and dignity are her clothing,
and she laughs at the time to come.
She opens her mouth with wisdom,
and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.
She looks well to the ways of her household
and does not eat the bread of idleness.
Her children rise up and call her happy;
her husband, too, and he praises her:
“Many women have done excellently,
but you surpass them all.”
Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain,
but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.
Give her a share in the fruit of her hands,
and let her works praise her in the city gates.

Proverbs 31. 10 – 31

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 1

Beatus vir qui non abiit ³

Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked,
nor lingered in the way of sinners,
nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

**Their delight is in the law of the Lord,
and on this law they meditate day and night.**

They are like trees planted by streams of water,
bearing fruit in due season,
**with leaves that do not wither;
everything they do shall prosper.**

It is not so with the wicked;
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.

**Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgement comes,
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.**

For the Lord knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked is doomed.

2nd Reading

A reading from the letter of James.

Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures.

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

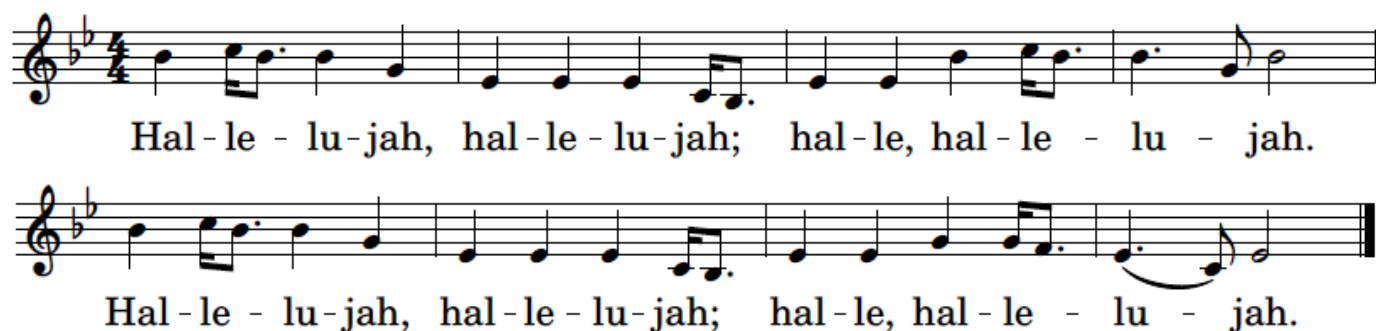
James 3. 13 – 4. 3, 7 – 8^a

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 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.

They went on from there and passed through Galilee. Jesus did not want anyone to know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, ‘The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.’ But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, ‘What were you arguing about on the way?’ But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, ‘Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.’ Then he took a

little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, 'Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.'

Mark 9. 30 – 37

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily

Affirmation of Faith ⁴

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.

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

500 *Sister, Let Me Be Your Servant*⁶

**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.**

Prayer over the Gifts⁷

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.

God of good fruits, it is right to give you thanks and praise
because you place your life in our hands,
that we may share it and enjoy it.

In your Son Jesus you set a little child among us,
and embodied your promises to your chosen people.

In his betrayal and crucifixion
we see the cost of your entrusting your very self to us;
and the still-scarred hands of his resurrection
reveal how deep and irresistible is your love.

In his ascension on high we rejoice to see him raised up to glory
and seated at your right hand.

And so we join with angels and archangels
and with all the company of heaven,
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.

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.

Wisdom from above, despite all we have done to you,
still in this holy meal when we stretch out our hands
you fill them with your life and love.

Send your Spirit upon your people,
that hands which have received such precious things
may be holy in faith and service.

By that same Spirit, sanctify this bread and this cup,
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.

Joy-giving God, make your people worthy of your trust.

Open our hearts to those in poverty, and stretch out our hands to those in
need.

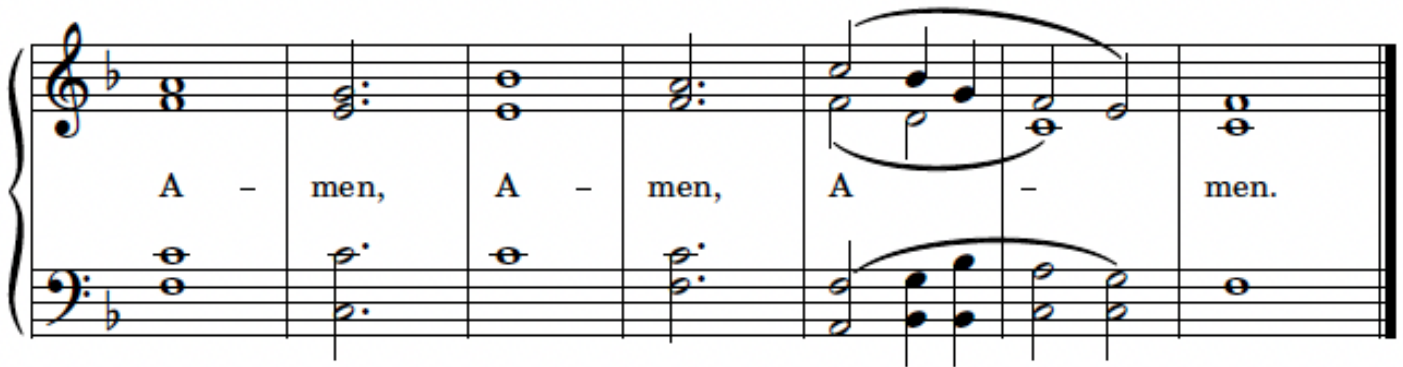
Open our mouths with gentleness born of wisdom,
and put the teaching of kindness on our tongues.

Give us a share in the fruit of your hands,
that all the world may praise the wonders of your grace.

Give your church the trust and confidence
to be last of all and servant of all;

until that day when you welcome the last to be first
and draw your children with all creation near to your heart,
making all things new,

ever one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.



Amen, amen, amen.

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.

The Breaking of the Bread ⁹

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.**

Communion ¹⁰

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.

**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.**

Holy God,
you have welcomed us to this meal
and fed us with dignity at your table.
Send us now to welcome others
and to be at peace with one another,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

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.**

Parish Announcements

Blessing

**God of grace and God of glory,
on your people pour your power,
now fulfill your church's story;
bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.**

**Lo, the hosts of evil round us
scorn your Christ, assail his ways.
Fears and doubts too long have bound us;
free our hearts to work and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
for the living of these days,
for the living of these days.**

**Cure your children's warring madness.
Bend our pride to your control.
Shame our wanton selfish gladness,
rich in goods and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
lest we miss your kingdom's goal,
lest we miss your kingdom's goal.**

**Set our feet on lofty places,
gird our lives that they may be
armoured with all Christ-like graces
in the fight for liberty.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
lest we fail ourselves and thee,
lest we fail ourselves and thee.**

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

Great fun, whether you're sampling or not!



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. Aidan, Oakville;
For Anne, our Metropolitan Archbishop and Acting Primate;
For the worldwide Anglican Communion,
remembering the Church of North India (United);

For those in our parish cycle of prayer:

For Laurie; for Betty; for Allan;

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
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 “Jesus welcomes the children,” from the Jesus MAFA project. It is sourced from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=48395> [retrieved September 16, 2024]. Original source: <http://www.librairie-emmanuel.fr> (contact page: <https://www.librairie-emmanuel.fr/contact>).

¹ Text: Albert Frederick Bayly (1901—84), alt. © 1961 Oxford UP. Music: Melody The Sacred Harp, Mason, 1844; attrib Benjamin Franklin White (1800—79). Used under OneLicense A-604280.

² Steven Shakespeare, *Prayers for an Inclusive Church*, 2008. Drawn from *Alternative Collects for Years A, B & C of the Revised Common Lectionary and Seasonal Prayers over the Gifts and after Communion*, prepared by Liturgy Task Force of the General Synod’s Faith, Worship and Ministry Committee.

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: Richard Gillard (1953—). Music: Richard Gillard (1953—); arr. Betty Carr Pulkingham (1928—2019). Text & Music © 1977 Scripture in Song. 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: 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.

¹³ *Sundays and Seasons. Book of Alternative Services*.

¹⁴ Text: Harry Emerson Fosdick (1878—1969), alt. Music: John Hughes (1873—1932). ©. Used under OneLicense A-604280.