



Church of the Nativity, Hamilton

Holy Eucharist

First Sunday of Advent

December 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

88 *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*¹

**Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.**

**Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.**

**Born thy people to deliver;
born a child and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.**

**By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.**

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.

Advent Responsory²

Pour down, O heavens, from above,
and let the skies rain down righteousness.
**Arise, shine; for your light comes,
and the glory of the Lord rises upon us.**

Though night still covers the earth
and darkness covers the nations,
**over us will the Lord arise,
over us will the glory of God appear.**

Pour down, O heavens, from above,
and let the skies rain down righteousness.

Lighting of Advent Candles ³



Hope is a star that shines in the night,

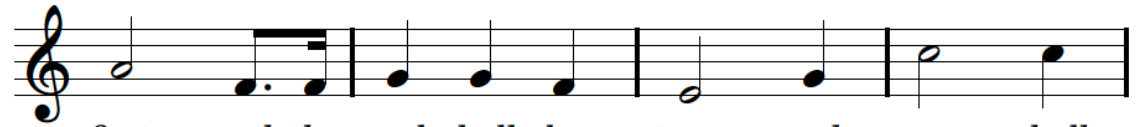


lead - ing us on till the morn-ing is bright.

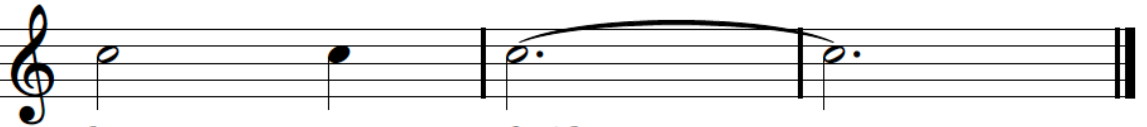
Refrain



When God is a child there's joy in our song. The last shall be



first and the weak shall be strong, and none shall



be a - fraid.

Confession & Absolution ⁴

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of one another.

God of mercy,

we confess that we have sinned.

We trust earthly powers and human authority alone.

We grow fearful.

We cling to false comforts.

God of might,
we confess that we have sinned.
We have turned away from our neighbours.
We have trusted false promises.

God in our midst,
we confess that we have sinned.
We plead: come to us.
Bring your mercy to birth in us.

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 Collect ⁵

Let us pray.

Urgent God,
breaking through the static to speak to our hearts:
disarm our love of control
and shake the silent heavens
to reveal your dawning glory,
judging all in the light of love;
through Jesus Christ, the one who is to come.
Amen.

Unfolding the Scriptures

1st Reading

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah.

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.

Jeremiah 33. 14 – 16

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;
my God, I put my trust in you;
let me not be humiliated,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.

Let none who look to you be put to shame;
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.
Show me your ways, O Lord,
and teach me your paths.

Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all the day long.
Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.

Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;
remember me according to your love
and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.
Gracious and upright are you, O Lord;
therefore you teach sinners in your way.

You guide the humble in doing right
and teach your way to the lowly.
O Lord, all your paths are love and faithfulness
to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.

A reading from the first letter to the followers of the Way in Thessaloniki.

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

1 Thessalonians 3. 9 – 13

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

The acclamation is sung

Pre - pare the way of the Lord, pre - pare the way of the Lord,
and all peo - ple will see the sal - va - tion of our God. Pre-

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus said, ‘There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in a cloud” with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.’

Then he told them a parable: ‘Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

‘Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to

escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.'

Luke 21. 25 – 36

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily

Affirmation of Faith ⁷

We say together in faith

**Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God almighty,
who was, and is, and is to come.**

We believe in God the Father, who created all things:
for by his will they were created and have their being.

We believe in God the Son, who was slain:
**for with his blood, he purchased us for God,
from every tribe and language, from every people and nation.**

We believe in God the Holy Spirit:
**the Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come!'
Even so come, Lord Jesus! Amen.**

The Prayers of the People

✠ Lord, in your mercy,
✠ **receive our prayer.**

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

92 O Day of God, Draw Nigh⁸

**O day of God, draw nigh
in beauty and in power;
come with thy timeless judgment now,
to match our present hour.**

**Bring to our troubled minds,
uncertain and afraid,
the quiet of a steadfast faith,
calm of a call obeyed.**

**Bring justice to our land,
that all may dwell secure,
and finely build for days to come
foundations that endure.**

**Bring to our world of strife
thy sovereign word of peace,
that war may haunt the earth no more,
and desolation cease.**

**O day of God, draw nigh
as at creation's birth;
let there be light again,
and set thy judgments on the earth.**

Prayer over the Gifts ⁹

Creator God,
you made the whole world,
even the farthest stars,
and you draw near to feed us.
We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine.
Strengthen us with this food
that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving ¹⁰

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, God our maker.
Out of nothing, you called all worlds to be,
and still you draw the universe to its fulfilment.
Dawn and evening celebrate your glory till time shall be no more.

In Christ your Son the life of heaven and earth were joined,
sealing the promise of a new creation, given, yet still to come.

Taught by your Spirit,
we who bear your threefold Likeness look for the City of Peace
in whose light we are transfigured and the earth transformed.

As children of your redeeming purpose who await the coming of your Son,
we 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,
Lord God of power and might,
heav'n and earth are full,
full of your glor - ry.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na,
ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is the One who comes,
who comes in the name of the Lord.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na,
ho - san - na in the high - est.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of ten staves of music, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the notes. The music features a mix of quarter, eighth, and half notes, with some phrases spanning across bar lines. The final staff ends with a double bar line.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of power and might,
heav'n and earth are full, full of your glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the One who comes, who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

Glory and thanksgiving be to you, most loving God.
Our hope is built on Jesus,
the first, the last, the living one.
Obedient, even to accepting death,
Jesus opened the gate of glory
and calls us now to share the life of heaven.

Before Jesus was given up to suffering and death,
alight with the vision of a feast that heralded a kingdom yet to come,
at supper with his disciples he took bread and offered you thanks.
He broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying:
“Take, eat. This is my Body: it is broken for you.”

After supper, he took the cup, he offered you thanks,
and gave it to them saying:
“Drink this, all of you.
This is my Blood of the new covenant;
it is poured out for you, and for all, that sins may be forgiven.
Do this in remembrance of me.”

We now obey your Son's command.

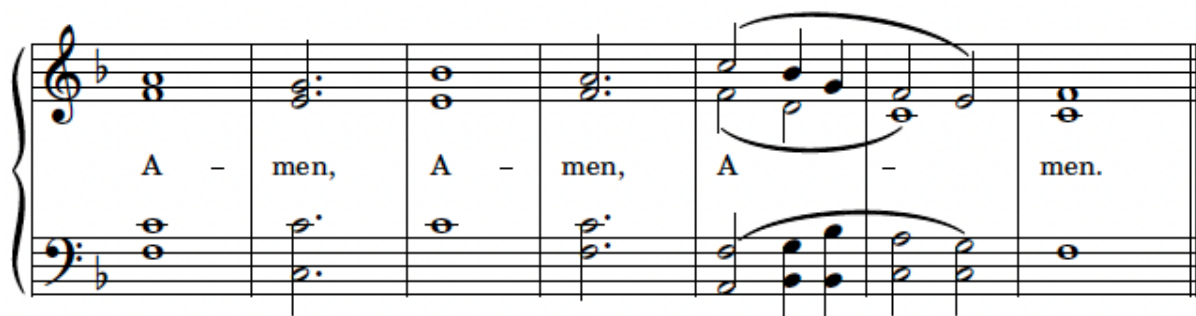
**We remember his death,
we proclaim his resurrection,
we await his coming in glory;**

Made one with him,
we offer you these gifts and with them ourselves,
a single, holy, living sacrifice.
Hear us, most gracious God,
and send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and this wine,

that, overshadowed by his 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 brothers and sisters 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,



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 ¹¹

God of promise,
you prepare a banquet for us in your reign of justice and peace.
Happy are those who are called to the Supper of the Lamb.

Communion ¹²

God feeds us with tender mercy.
Come to the table.
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 ¹³:

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.

**You servants of the Lord,
each in your calling wait,
observant of his heavenly Word,
and watchful at his gate.**

**Let all your lamps be bright,
and trim the golden flame;
attentive stand, as in his sight,
for awesome is his name.**

**Watch: 'tis your Lord's command,
and while we speak, he's near;
mark the first signal of his hand,
and ready all appear.**

**How happy shall we be
if in his service found!
We shall our Lord with rapture see
and be with honour crowned!**

**Christ shall the banquet spread
with his own royal hand,
and raise each faithful servant's head
amid the angelic band.**

Generous God,
we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation.
We thank you for coming among us,
for leading us into peace.
We thank you for showering us with mercy,
for sending us into the world.
Come, Lord Jesus,
and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name.
Amen.

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

**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. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.
Thanks be to God!

Postlude

*The flowers at the altar are given to the glory of God,
and in thanksgiving for blessings received.
A gift from Millie Marzo.*

Christmas Flowers

A reminder that if you would like flowers at the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services, please speak with or email Laura in the office by next Sunday, December 8th. Donations to support the flowers can be given to Laura or one of the wardens.

Christmas Luncheon & Carol Sing-a-long

The Nativity Ladies are having their annual Christmas luncheon on **Monday, December 16th** at 12 noon with a short service at 11:30 am for those interested.

The cost is \$15 for a catered lunch followed by a festive sing-a-long with Peter! Be sure to let Blanche or the office know if you will be attending by December 12th. As part of their outreach efforts, toys for children or gifts for teenagers will be accepted and donated to St. Matthew's House.

Advent Newsletter

Advent Newsletters are available in the narthex—please make sure you pick yours up. Because of the ongoing job action by Canada Post employees, we can't mail them this year: can you please help the church connect with all our parishioners, by taking a newsletter or two to deliver to other folk who live near you?

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. John the Evangelist, Hamilton.
For Anne, our Metropolitan Archbishop and Acting Primate;
For the worldwide Anglican Communion,
remembering the Episcopal Church of South Sudan;

For those in our parish cycle of prayer:

For Brad & Julie Ann; for Diane; for Adele;

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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Bishop of Niagara
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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 this morning is a photo entitled “one candle” from user “Candy’s Cake Candles” on flickr. We use it through the CC BY 2.0 Generic license.

¹ Text: Charles Wesley (1707—88). Music: Melody: *Psalmodia Sacra*, Gotha, 1715; harm. William Henry Havergal (1793—1870), alt. Used under OneLicense A-604280.

² “Rorate cœli.” Introit for the Fourth Sunday of Advent from the *Graduale Romanum*. Based on Isaiah 45.8.

³ Text: Brian Wren, 1985. Music: Joan Collier Fogg, 1987. Text & music © 1989 Hope Publishing Co. Used under OneLicense A-604280.

⁴ *Sundays and Seasons*.

⁵ 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.

⁶ *A Liturgical Psalter* (2016). General Synod from the Anglican Church of Canada.

⁷ *Common Worship, The Church of England*. cf. *Revelation* 4.8, 11; 5.9; 22.17, 20.

⁸ Text: R.B.Y. Scott (1899—1987). © 1988 Emmanuel College, Toronto. Sung to *Festal Song Music*: William Henry Walter (1825—93). Used under OneLicense A-604280.

⁹ *Sundays and Seasons*.

¹⁰ *Eucharistic Prayer 2. The Scottish Liturgy*, 1982. *The Scottish Episcopal Church*.

¹¹ *Book of Alternative Services*, alt.

¹² *Sundays and Seasons*.

¹³ Selected from the prayers provided for this use in “A Celebration of the Holy Eucharist with Spiritual Communion,” Diocese of Niagara, 2020.

¹⁴ Text: Philip Doddridge (1702—51), alt. Music: Melody Hymnologium, 1584; adapt. and harm. William Henry Havergal (11793—1870). Used under OneLicense A-604280.

¹⁵ *Sundays and Seasons. An Order for Holy Communion*, Church in Wales.

¹⁶ Text: Charles Wesley (1707—88). Music: sung to *Hyfrydol* Rowland Huw Prichard (1811-87). Used under OneLicense A-604280.