



# Church of the Nativity, Hamilton

## Holy Eucharist

### Second Sunday of Advent

December 8<sup>th</sup>, 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*

**# 103 On Jordan's Bank, the Baptist's Cry<sup>1</sup>**

**On Jordan's bank, the Baptist's cry  
announces that the Lord is nigh;  
awake and hearken, for he brings  
glad tidings of the King of kings.**

**Then cleansed be every breast from sin;  
make straight the way for God within.  
Prepare we in our hearts a home,  
where such a mighty guest may come.**

**For thou art our salvation, Lord,  
our refuge and our great reward;  
without thy grace we waste away,  
like flowers that wither and decay.**

**To heal the sick stretch out thine hand,  
and bid the fallen sinner stand;  
shine forth, and let thy light restore  
earth's own true loveliness once more.**

**All praise, eternal Son, to thee  
whose advent doth thy people free;  
whom with the Father we adore  
and Holy Ghost for evermore.**

Greeting

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon.  
**Amen.**

Advent Responsory<sup>2</sup>

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 <sup>3</sup>



1. Hope is a star that shines in the night,  
2. Peace is a rib-bon that cir - clesthe earth,

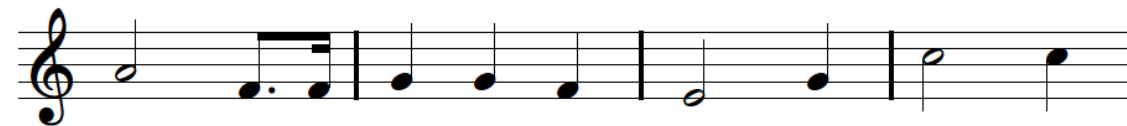


lead - ing us on till the morn - ing is bright.  
giv - ing a prom - ise of safe - ty and worth.

### *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 <sup>4</sup>

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 <sup>5</sup>

Let us pray.

Lord of the wilderness way,  
whose word scours our smooth evasions:  
take us on the unbending road to the raw centre of our world  
with a cry of invitation and the call of sudden grace;  
through Jesus Christ, the one who is to come.  
**Amen.**

# Unfolding the Scriptures

1<sup>st</sup> Reading

A reading from the prophet Baruch.

Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem,  
and put on for ever the beauty of the glory from God.  
Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God;  
put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting;  
for God will show your splendour everywhere under heaven.  
For God will give you evermore the name,  
'Righteous Peace, Godly Glory'.

Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height;  
look towards the east,  
and see your children gathered from west and east  
at the word of the Holy One,  
rejoicing that God has remembered them.

For they went out from you on foot,  
led away by their enemies;  
but God will bring them back to you,  
carried in glory, as on a royal throne.  
For God has ordered that every high mountain  
and the everlasting hills be made low  
and the valleys filled up, to make level ground,  
so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God.

The woods and every fragrant tree  
have shaded Israel at God's command.  
For God will lead Israel with joy,  
in the light of his glory,  
with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

*Baruch 5. 1 – 9*

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

**Thanks be to God.**

Canticle

*Benedictus*<sup>6</sup>  
Luke 1. 68 – 79



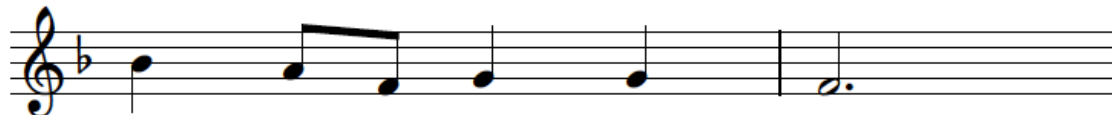
1. Blessed be the God of Is - ra - el who  
2. With prom - ised mer - cy will God still the  
3. My child, as proph - et of the Lord you



comes to set us free  
cov - e - nant re - call,  
will pre - pare the way,



and rais - es up new hope for us; a  
the oath once sworn to A - bra - ham, from  
to tell God's peo - ple they are saved from



Branch from Da - vid's tree.  
foes to save us all;  
sin's e - ter - nal sway.



So have the proph - ets long de - clared that  
that we might wor - ship with - out fear and  
Then shall God's mer - cy from on high shine



with a might - y arm  
of - fer lives of praise,  
forth and nev - er cease





God would turn back our en - e - mies and  
 in ho - li - ness and righ - teous - ness to  
 to drive a - way the gloom of death and  
 al who wish us harm.  
 serve God all our days.  
 lead us in - to peace.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading

A reading from the letter to the followers of Jesus in Philippi.

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.

It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus.

And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that on the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

*Philippians 1.3-11*

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.**

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

‘The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way of the Lord,

make his paths straight.

Every valley shall be filled,

and every mountain and hill shall be made low,

and the crooked shall be made straight,

and the rough ways made smooth;

and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.” ’

*Luke 3. 1 – 6*

The Gospel of Christ.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Affirmation of Faith <sup>7</sup>

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](mailto:donations.nativity@gmail.com)

Offertory Hymn                      # 106    *There's a Voice in the Wilderness Calling*<sup>8</sup>

**There's a voice in the wilderness crying, a call from the ways untrod:  
prepare in the desert a highway, a highway for our God!  
The valleys shall be exalted, the lofty hills brought low;  
make straight all the crooked places, where the Lord our God may go!**

**O Zion, give voice to good tidings, ascend to the heights and sing!  
Proclaim to a desolate people the coming of their King.  
The works of pride all perish, like flowers they shall decay;  
the power and pomp of nations shall pass like a dream away.**

**But your word, O God, is faithful, your arm, O Lord, is strong;  
you stand in the midst of nations, and you will right the wrong.  
You will feed your flock like a shepherd,  
and fold the lambs to your breast;  
in pastures of peace you'll lead them, and give to the weary rest.**

**There's a voice in the wilderness crying, a call from the ways untrod:  
prepare in the desert a highway, a highway for our God!  
The valleys shall be exalted, the lofty hills brought low;  
make straight all the crooked places, where the Lord our God may go!**

## Prayer over the Gifts <sup>9</sup>

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 <sup>10</sup>

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 glory.

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.

**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.

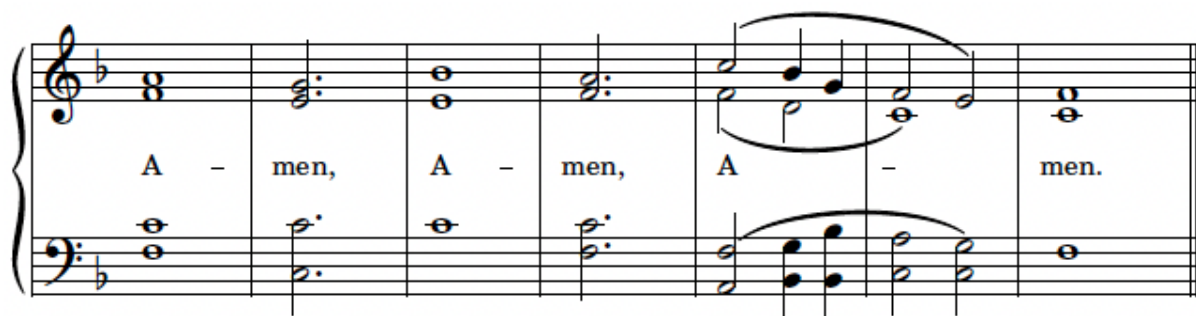
**We remember his death,  
we proclaim his resurrection,  
we await his coming in glory;**

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 <sup>11</sup>

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 <sup>12</sup>

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 <sup>13</sup>:*

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.

**“Your kingdom come” – on bended knee  
the passing ages pray;  
and faithful souls have yearned to see  
on earth that kingdom's day.**

**But the slow watches of the night  
not less to God belong,  
and for the everlasting right  
the silent stars are strong.**

**And lo, already on the hills  
the flags of dawn appear.  
Gird up your loins, ye prophet souls,  
proclaim the day is near:**

**the day in whose clear-shining light  
all wrong shall stand revealed,  
when justice shall be throned with might,  
and every heart be healed:**

**when knowledge, hand in hand with peace,  
shall walk the earth abroad --  
the day of perfect righteousness,  
the promised day of God.**

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

**Hail to the Lord's anointed, great David's greater Son!  
Hail, in the time appointed, his reign on earth begun!  
He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free,  
to take away transgression, and rule in equity.**

**He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth,  
and love, joy, hope, like flowers, spring in his path to birth.  
Before him on the mountains shall peace the herald go,  
and righteousness in fountains from hill to valley flow.**

**Kings shall fall down before him, and gold and incense bring;  
all nations shall adore him, his praise all people sing.  
To him shall prayer unceasing and daily vows ascend,  
his kingdom still increasing, a kingdom without end.**

**O'er every foe victorious, he on his throne shall rest,  
from age to age more glorious, all-blessing and all-blest.  
The tide of time shall never his covenant remove.  
His name shall stand for ever: that name to us is Love.**

Dismissal

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

Postlude

## Christmas Flowers

A reminder that if you would like flowers at the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services, please call Patty as soon as possible! (You can also speak with Laura in the office—act now!)

## Christmas Luncheon & Carol Sing-a-long

The Nativity Ladies are having their annual Christmas luncheon on **Monday, December 16<sup>th</sup>** 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 12<sup>th</sup>.** As part of their outreach efforts, toys for children or gifts for teenagers will be accepted and donated to St. Matthew's House.



## **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, Westdale;  
For Anne, our Metropolitan Archbishop and Acting Primate;  
For the worldwide Anglican Communion,  
remembering the Episcopal Church of Sudan;

### ***For those in our parish cycle of prayer:***

For Sherry & Robin; for Anne; for Larry & Jan;

### ***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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*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 photograph of a fragment of a mosaic in the Hagia Sophia, dating to the 12th century and depicting John the Baptist. The picture was taken by user Brad Hostetler on flickr. We use it through the CC BY 2.0 Generic license.

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<sup>1</sup> Text: Charles Coffin (1676—1749); tr. John Chandler (1806—76), alt. Music: Melody *Musicalisches Hand-Buch*, Hamburg, 1690; harm. William Henry Monk (1823—89), alt. Used under OneLicense A-604280.

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

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

<sup>4</sup> *Sundays and Seasons*.

<sup>5</sup> 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.

<sup>6</sup> Text: Luke 1. 68 – 79, adapt. Carl P. Daw, Jr. © 1989 Hope Publishing. Music: Tune “Forest Green” Melody English trad.; coll. And harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872—1958). Harm © Oxford UP. Used under OneLicense A-604280.

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

<sup>8</sup> Text: Isaiah 40.3—11; para. James Lewis Milligan (1876—1961), alt. Music: Henry Hugh Bancroft (1904—88). © Estate of Henry Hugh Bancroft. Used under OneLicense A-604280.

<sup>9</sup> *Sundays and Seasons*.

<sup>10</sup> *Eucharistic Prayer 2. The Scottish Liturgy, 1982. The Scottish Episcopal Church.*

<sup>11</sup> *Book of Alternative Services*, alt.

<sup>12</sup> *Sundays and Seasons*.

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

<sup>14</sup> Text: Frederick Lucian Hosmer (1840—1929), alt. Music: *Hymns and Sacred Poems*, Dublin, 1749. Used under OneLicense A-604280.

<sup>15</sup> *Sundays and Seasons. An Order for Holy Communion*, Church in Wales.

<sup>16</sup> Text: James Montgomery (1771—1854), alt. Music: Melody Johann Crüger (1598—1662); adapt. William Henry Monk (1823—89). Used under OneLicense A-604280.