



Church of the Nativity, Hamilton

Advent Carols & Lessons

Third Sunday of Advent

December 15th, 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

89 O Come, O Come Emmanuel ¹

**O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.**

Refrain:

**Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!**

**O come, O Wisdom from on high,
who orders all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show,
and teach us in her ways to go. *Refrain...***

**O come, O Dayspring from on high,
and cheer us by your drawing nigh;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain...***

**O come, Desire of nations, bind
in one the hearts of humankind;
O bid our sad divisions cease,
and be for us our Prince of Peace. *Refrain...***

Welcome ²

In the name of God,
who has delivered us from the dominion of darkness
and made a place for us in the kingdom of his beloved Son,
we welcome you:
grace to you and peace.

And also with you.

As we meet to celebrate anew the coming of God's kingdom,
we hear revealed the mystery of God's loving purpose for us –
how that when we were far off,
he met us in his Son and brought us home;
how he humbled himself to take our human nature,
that we might share his divine glory.

Let us then so celebrate this coming with our carols and hymns of praise,
that our lives may be charged with his life;
that we may bear witness to his glory
and so bring light to those who sit in darkness.

So first we pray for those among whom the Christ was born:
those living in poverty and helplessness,
the aged and young children;
the cold, the hungry and the unhoused;
the victims of poverty, injustice and oppression,
the sick and those who mourn,
the lonely and the unloved;
those in despair or in the shadow of death.

Then, as we hear again
the message of peace on earth and goodwill among all God's people,
we pray for the leaders of the nations,
that all may be inspired to work together
for the establishment of justice, freedom and peace the world over.

And that we may bear true witness to this hope in a divided world,
we pray for the peace and unity of Christ's Body, the Church universal,
that the whole earth may live to praise his name.

Finally, as we rejoice with the saints in heaven and on earth,
we remember all who have gone before us with the sign of faith,
whose hope was in the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord,
through whom we offer up our prayers for the coming of his kingdom,
in the words he himself has taught us, saying:

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.

Amen.

Lighting of Advent Candles³



1. Hope is a star that shines in the night,
2. Peace is a rib - bon that cir - cles the earth,
3. Joy is a song that wel - comesthe dawn,

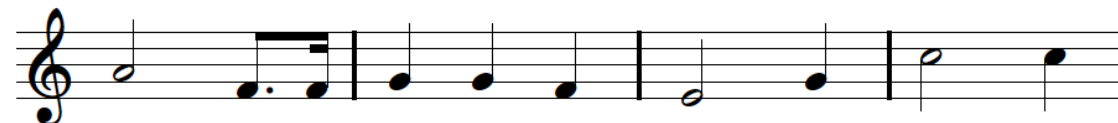


lead - ing us on till the morn - ing is bright.
giv - ing a prom - ise of safe - ty and worth.
tell - ing the world that the Sav - iour is born.

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.

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.

Let us pray.

God of justice and peace,
from the heavens you rain down mercy and kindness,
that all on earth may stand in awe and wonder
before your marvelous deeds.

Raise our heads in expectation,
that we may yearn for the coming day of the Lord
and stand without blame before your Son, Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Amen.

Choral Anthem

“Sing for Joy”

Looking for Light

1st Reading

A reading from the book of Genesis.

When God began to create heaven and earth, and the earth then was welter and waste and darkness over the deep and God’s breath hovering over the waters, God said, “Let there be light.”

And there was light.

And God saw the light, that it was good, and God divided the light from the darkness. And God called the light Day and the darkness God called Night. And it was evening and it was morning, first day.

Genesis 1. 1 – 5

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

**People, look east! The time is near
of the crowning of the year.**

**Make your house fair as you are able,
trim the hearth and set the table.**

**People, look east and sing today:
Love, the guest is on the way.**

**Furrows, be glad! Though earth is bare,
one more seed is planted there:
give up your strength, the seed to nourish,
that in course the flower may flourish.**

**People, look east and sing today:
Love, the rose is on the way.**

**Birds, though you long have ceased to build,
guard the nest that must be filled;
even the hour when wings are frozen
God for fledging time has chosen.**

**People, look east and sing today:
Love, the bird, is on the way.**

**Stars, keep the watch: When night is dim
one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather,
bright as sun and moon together.**

**People, look east and sing today:
Love, the star, is on the way.**

Give judgement for me, O God,
and defend my cause against an ungodly people;
deliver me from the deceitful and the wicked.

**For you are the God of my strength;
why have you put me from you?**

And why do I go so heavily while the enemy oppresses me?
**Send out your light and your truth, that they may lead me,
and bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling;**

that I may go to the altar of God,
to the God of my joy and gladness;
and on the harp I will give thanks to you, O God my God.

**Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul,
and why are you so disquieted within me?**

Put your trust in God;
for I will yet give thanks to the Holy One,
who is the help of my countenance, and my God.

2nd Reading

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

I will go before you
and level the mountains,
I will break in pieces the doors of bronze
and cut through the bars of iron,
I will give you the treasures of darkness
and riches hidden in secret places,
so that you may know that it is I, the LORD,
the God of Israel, who call you by your name.

For the sake of my servant Jacob,
and Israel my chosen,
I call you by your name,
I surname you, though you do not know me.
I am the LORD, and there is no other;
besides me there is no god.
I arm you, though you do not know me,
so that they may know, from the rising of the sun
and from the west, that there is no one besides me;
I am the LORD, and there is no other.

I form light and create darkness,
I make weal and create woe;
I the LORD do all these things.

Shower, O heavens, from above,
and let the skies rain down righteousness;
let the earth open, that salvation may spring up,
and let it cause righteousness to sprout up also;
I the LORD have created it.

Isaiah 45. 2 – 8

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.
Thanks be to God.

**Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the new-born King,
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.”
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic hosts proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King.”**

**Christ, by highest heaven adored;
Christ, the everlasting Lord;
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail, the incarnate Deity,
pleased as one of us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King.”**

**Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings,
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth,
born to give us second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King.”**

A reading from the first letter to the followers of Jesus in Thessalonika.

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, ‘There is peace and security’, then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

1 Thessalonians 5. 1 – 11, 23, 24

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

Choral Anthem

“Were You There on that Christmas Night?”

A reading from the apocrypha, from Baruch the scribe of Jeremiah.

Look towards the east, O Jerusalem,
and see the joy that is coming to you from God.
Look, your children are coming, whom you sent away;
they are coming, gathered from east and west,
at the word of the Holy One,
rejoicing in the glory of God.

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 4. 36 – 5. 9

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

Carol

154 *Joy to the World*⁹

**Joy to the world! the Lord is come:
let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

**Joy to the world! the Saviour reigns;
let us our songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**No more let wrongs and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as our sin is found, far as our sin is found,
far as, far as our sin is found.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness,
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.**

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onwards and for evermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Isaiah 9. 2, 3, 6, 7

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.
Thanks be to God.

Carol

126 *Away in a Manger*¹⁰

**Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

**The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus—look down from on high
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.**

Canticle

*A Song of the New Jerusalem*¹¹

Arise, shine out, for your light has come,
the glory of the Lord is rising upon you.
Though night still covers the earth,
and darkness the peoples;
**Above you the Holy One arises,
and above you God's glory appears.**

The nations will come to your light,
and kings to your dawning brightness.
Your gates will lie open continually,
shut neither by day nor by night.
**Above you the Holy One arises,
and above you God's glory appears.**

The sound of violence shall be heard no longer in your land,
or ruin and devastation within your borders.

You will call your walls, Salvation, and your gates, Praise.

**Above you the Holy One arises,
and above you God's glory appears.**

No more will the sun give you daylight,
nor moonlight shine upon you;
But the Lord will be your everlasting light,
your God will be your splendour.

**Above you the Holy One arises,
and above you God's glory appears.**

For you shall be called the city of God,
the dwelling of the Holy One of Israel.
Glory to God, Source of all being, Eternal Word,
and Holy Spirit,

as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be for ever. Amen.

**Above you the Holy One arises,
and above you God's glory appears.**

Choral Anthem

“Come and Adore Him”

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, 'Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

'But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.'

Luke 12. 35 – 40

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily

The Prayers of the People

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

Choral Anthem

“Prepare!”

Announcements

Conclusion

Restore us, O Lord God of hosts:
**show the light of your countenance,
and we shall be saved.**

Will you not give us life again
that your people may rejoice in you?

Show us your mercy, O Lord,
and grant us your salvation.

Blessing

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you
and scatter the darkness from before your path;
and the blessing of God,
Source of all being, Eternal Word, and Holy Spirit,
be with you, now and always.
Amen.

**When the King shall come again, all his power revealing,
splendour shall announce his reign, life and joy and healing;
earth no longer in decay, hope no more frustrated,
this is God's redemption day longingly awaited.**

**In the desert trees take root, fresh from God's creation;
plants and flowers and sweetest fruit join the celebration;
rivers spring up from the earth, barren lands adorning.
Valleys, this is your new birth; mountains, greet the morning!**

**Strengthen feeble hands and knees; fainting hearts, be cheerful!
God, who comes for such as these, seeks and saves the fearful.
Deaf ears, hear the silent tongues sing away their weeping;
blind eyes, see the lifeless ones walking, running, leaping.**

**There God's highway shall be seen where no roaring lion,
nothing evil or unclean, walks the road to Zion:
ransomed people, homeward bound, all your praises voicing,
see your Lord with glory crowned, share in his rejoicing!**

Dismissal

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

Postlude

Pop Cans

The Tuesday Men still collect pop cans (and beer cans & bottles) and crush them! Bring your empties into the church, and the proceeds can support the work of the Tuesday Men—the maintenance and beautification of the church’s building!

Upcoming Services

Sunday, December 22 nd	8:30 am 10:00 am	Advent 4 <i>Sunday services</i>
Tuesday, December 24 th (Christmas Eve)	4:00 pm 8:00 pm	Christmas Eve: <i>Carols, Crèche, and Communion</i> Christmas Eve: <i>Candles and Choral Eucharist</i>
Wednesday, December 25 th (Christmas Day)	10:00 am	Christmas Day: <i>a quiet, said Eucharist</i>
Sunday, December 29 th	8:30 am 10:00 am	First Sunday of Christmas <i>Sunday services</i>
Wednesday, January 1 st	<i>No service on New Year’s Day</i>	
Sunday, January 5 th	8:30 am 10:00 am	The Epiphany of Our Lord <i>Sunday services</i>

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 Our Saviour the Redeemer, Stoney Creek.
For Anne, our Metropolitan Archbishop and Acting Primate;
For the worldwide Anglican Communion,
remembering the Episcopal Church of Tanzania;

For those in our parish cycle of prayer:

For Marc & Lyn; for John & Patty; for Joan;

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

¹ Text: Latin (9th c..?); tr. John Mason Neale (1818—66), alt. Music: Plainsong, Mode 1, *Processionale* (15th c.); arr. Healey Willan (1880—1968), alt. Used under OneLicense A-604280.

² Church of England. *Common Worship: Times and Seasons*.

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 *Common Lectionary Prayers*, Consultation on Common Texts.

⁶ Text: Eleanor Farjeon (1881—1965). © David Higham Associates Ltd. Music: Melody French trad.; harm. Martin Shaw (1875—1958), alt. © Oxford UP. Used under OneLicense A-604280.

⁷ *A Liturgical Psalter* (2016). General Synod from the Anglican Church of Canada.

⁸ Text: Charles Wesley (1701—88), alt. Music: Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy (1809—47); adapt. William Hayman Cummings (1831—1915). Used under OneLicense A-604280.

⁹ Text: Isaac Watts (1674—1748). Music: Georg Frederic Handel (1685—1759); adapt. William Holford, *Voce de Melodia*, 1835. Used under OneLicense A-604280.

¹⁰ Text: American (19th cent.). Music: William James Kirkpatrick (1838—1921); adapt. Used under OneLicense A-604280.

¹¹ *Common Worship*. The Church of England. Canticle 31. *Isaiah 60.1–3, 11a, 18, 19, 14b*

¹² Text: Christopher Idle (1938—). Music: Melody *Piae Cantiones*, 1582. Used under OneLicense A-604280.