



Church of the Nativity, Hamilton

Holy Eucharist

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 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 # 98 *Hark the Glad Sound! The Saviour Comes* ¹

**Hark the glad sound! The Saviour comes, the Saviour promised long:
let every heart prepare a throne, and every voice a song.**

**Christ comes, the prisoners to release in Satan's bondage held;
the gates of brass before him burst; the iron fetters yield.**

**Christ comes, the broken heart to bind, the bleeding soul to cure,
and from the treasuries of grace to bless the humble poor.**

**Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace, thy welcome shall proclaim;
and heaven's eternal arches ring with thy beloved name.**

Greeting

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

Amen.

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.

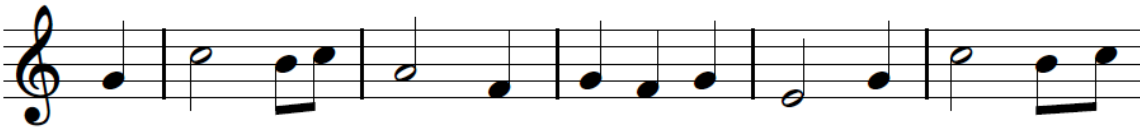


1. Hope is a star that shines in the night,
2. Peace is a rib - bon that cir - cles the earth,
3. Joy is a song that wel - comes the dawn,
4. Love is a flame that burns in our heart.



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.
Je - sus has come and will nev - er de - part.

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 made known in the friendship of women,
the word of greeting and unseen life enwombed:
give us the courage of the teenage mother
who brings into the world a song of joyful revolt
and a God who needs her love;
through Jesus Christ,
the one who is to come.

Amen.

Unfolding the Scriptures

1st Reading

A reading from the prophet Micah.

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labour has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;
and he shall be the one of peace.

Micah 5.2-5^a

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

O King of the nations, and their desire,
the cornerstone making both one:

**Come and save the human race,
which you fashioned from clay.**

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord;
my spirit rejoices in God my saviour,
for you, Lord, have looked with favour on your lowly servant
and from this day, all generations will call me blessed.
**You, O Most Mighty, have done great things for me
and holy is your name.**

You have mercy on those who fear you
from generation to generation.

**You have shown the strength of your arm
you have scattered the proud in their conceit.**

You have cast down the mighty from their thrones
and have lifted up the lowly.

**You have filled the hungry with good things
and the rich you have sent away empty.**

You have come to the help of your people
for you have remembered your promise of mercy,
**the promise you made to our forbears
to Abraham and his children forever.**

Glory to God, Source of all being, Eternal Word, and Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

O King of the nations, and their desire,
the cornerstone making both one:

**Come and save the human race,
which you fashioned from clay.**

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,
'Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body you have prepared for me;
in burnt-offerings and sin-offerings
you have taken no pleasure.

Then I said, "See, God, I have come to do your will, O God"
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me).'

When he said above, 'You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt-offerings and sin-offerings' (these are offered according to the law), then he added, 'See, I have come to do your will.' He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Hebrews 10.5-10

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 those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

Luke 1. 39 – 45

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily

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

362 *Tell Out, My Soul*⁷

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;
tender to me the promise of his word;
in God my Savior shall my heart rejoice.**

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name!
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
his mercy sure, from age to age the same;
his holy name, the Lord, the mighty one.**

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!
Powers and dominions lay their glory by.
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.**

**Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
to children's children and forevermore!**

Prayer over the Gifts ⁸

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 ⁹

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.

**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.”

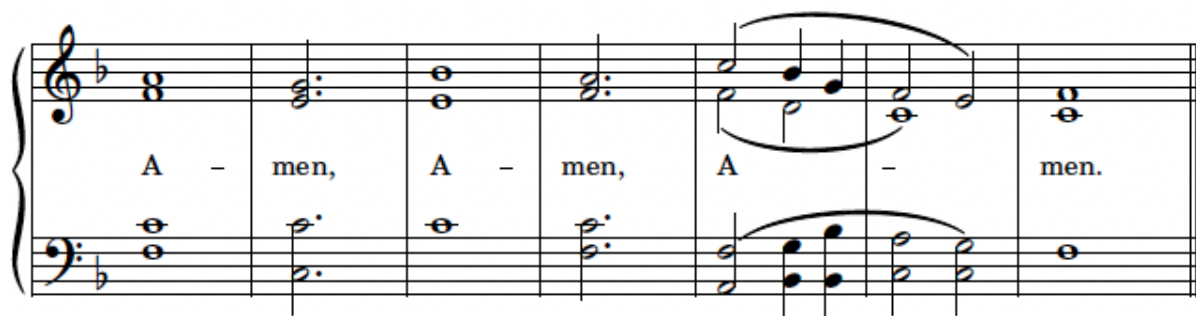
We now obey your Son's command.
**We remember his death,
we proclaim his resurrection,
we await his coming in glory;**

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 ¹⁰

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 ¹¹

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 ¹²:

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.

**Heavenly message, brought by an angel,
coming to lift the hopes of the earth;
bringing to Mary humble and lowly,
God's invitation to give the Christ birth.**

Refrain:

**Mary we hail you, full of God's favour,
blessed are you, and blessed your son;
he will be called the child of the highest,
Saviour of all, the holy one.**

**Mary replied to Gabriel's message,
"I am the servant, maid of the Lord.
Let it be done just as you have spoken.
My soul rejoices in God's saving word."**

Refrain...

**In the beginning, when God had spoken,
through God's own Word all things came to be;
now by that Word, embodied through Mary,
God's glory blazes, that our eyes may see.**

Refrain...

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

**Herald! Sound the note of judgment,
warning note of right and wrong,
turning us from sin and sadness
till once more we sing the song.**

Refrain

**Sound the trumpet! Tell the message!
Christ the Saviour King, has come!**

**Herald! Sound the note of gladness!
Tell the news that Christ is here;
make a pathway through the desert
for the one who brings God near.**

Refrain

**Herald! Sound the note of pardon!
Those repenting are forgiven;
God restores the wayward children,
and to all new life is given.** *Refrain*

**Herald! Sound the note of triumph!
Christ has come to share our life,
bringing God's own love and power,
granting victory in our strife.** *Refrain*

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 loving memory of Grace Gallagher;
remembered by Brian, Eleanor, Michael and Meghan.*

Christmas Eve (December 24th)

at 4 pm: Christmas Crèche and Communion

We'll tell the Christmas story in bite-sized chunks, interspersed with carols. We'll set the figures in the crèche, and we'll celebrate the eucharist. It's a full celebration of Christmas, and if some folk can't sit still, that's ok! Jesus as a child wandered off, too!

at 8 pm: Choral Holy Eucharist

With choir in a darkened church, we gather to marvel at God coming among us in Jesus's birth. We'll celebrate the eucharist, sing *Silent Night* by candlelight, and enjoy a musical treat.

Christmas Day (December 25th)

at 10 am: A quiet celebration of the Eucharist

We'll gather in the church for a said service on Christmas morning, giving thanks that the Light of the World is in our midst.

Your Daily Prayers are Requested:

For the Church:

For Susan our bishop;
and for & all the people of the Diocese of Niagara;
For the Dunn parish;
For Anne, our Metropolitan Archbishop and Acting Primate;
For the worldwide Anglican Communion,
remembering the Church of the Province of Uganda;

For those in our parish cycle of prayer:

For David; for Theresa; for Randy, Kelly, Rachel, and Andrew;

For the needs of the world:

For peace:

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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1831 King St. East
Hamilton, ON L8K 1V8



(905) 549-4335



admin@worshipwithnativity.org

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 this morning is a Coptic icon of the Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth.

¹ Text: Philip Doddridge (1702—51), alt. Music: Thomas Ravenscroft (1590?—1634?), *Whole Book of Psalmes*, 1621. 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 *Common Worship, The Church of England. cf. Revelation 4.8, 11; 5.9; 22.17, 20.*

⁷ Text: *Song of Mary* (Luke 1.46-56); para. Timothy Dudley-Smith (1926—a). © 1962, 1990 Hope Publishing Co. alt. Music: Walter Greatorex (1877—1949); desc. David Iliff (1939—); altern harm. Derek Homan (1931—2019). *Melody & harmony* © Oxford UP. Desc. © 1982 Hope Publishing Co. Used under OneLicense A-604280.

⁸ *Sundays and Seasons*.

⁹ *Eucharistic Prayer 2. The Scottish Liturgy, 1982. The Scottish Episcopal Church.*

¹⁰ *Book of Alternative Services*, alt.

¹¹ *Sundays and Seasons*.

¹² Selected from the prayers provided for this use in “A Celebration of the Holy Eucharist with Spiritual Communion,” Diocese of Niagara, 2020.

¹³ Text: Paul Gibson (1932—2022), ©. Music: Basque trad.; harm. Patrick Wedd (1948—a), ©. Used under OneLicense A-604280.

¹⁴ *Sundays and Seasons. An Order for Holy Communion*, Church in Wales.

¹⁵ Text: Moir A.J. Waters (1906—80), alt. © Estate of Moir A.J. Waters. Music: Melody Joachim Neander (1650—80), alt. Used under OneLicense A-604280.