



Church of the Nativity, Hamilton
Holy Eucharist
The Feast of the Epiphany of Our Lord

observed January 5th, 2025



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

158 Earth Has Many a Noble City¹

**Earth has many a noble city; Bethlehem, thou dost all excel:
out of thee the Lord from heaven came to rule his Israel.**

**Fairer than the sun at morning was the star that told his birth,
to the world its God announcing seen in fleshly form on earth.**

**Eastern sages at his cradle make oblations rich and rare;
see them give, in deep devotion, gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.**

**Sacred gifts of mystic meaning: incense doth their God disclose,
gold the King of kings proclaimeth, myrrh his sepulcher foreshows.**

**Jesus, whom the Gentiles worshipped at thy glad Epiphany,
unto thee, with God the Father and the Spirit, glory be.**

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.

Opening Acclamation ²

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light.

For to us a child is born
to us a Son is given.

His name will be called
Wonderful counsellor, mighty God
the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

Glory to God in the highest
and peace among those whom God favours.

Let us pray.

Radiant Morning Star,
you are both guidance and mystery.
Visit our rest with disturbing dreams,
and our journeys with strange companions.
Grace us with the hospitality
to open our hearts and homes
to visitors filled with unfamiliar wisdom
bearing profound and unusual gifts;
through Jesus Christ who shines in our midst,
and who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Unfolding the Scriptures

1st Reading

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.
Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,

and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.
Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

Isaiah 60. 1 – 6^a

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the king's son;
**that he may rule your people righteously
and those living in poverty with justice;**

that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,
and the little hills bring righteousness.

**He shall defend the needy among the people,
rescuing the poor and crushing the oppressor.**

He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure,
from one generation to another.

**He shall come down like rain upon the mown field,
like showers that water the earth.**

In his time shall the righteous flourish; there shall be
abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

**The rulers of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute,
and the rulers of Arabia and Saba offer gifts.**

All rulers shall bow down before him,
and all the nations do him service.

**For he shall deliver those living in poverty
who cry out in distress
and the oppressed who has no helper.**

He shall have pity on the lowly and poor
and shall preserve the lives of the needy.

**He shall redeem their lives from oppression and
violence, and dear shall their blood be in his sight.**

A reading from the letter to the saints in Ephesus.

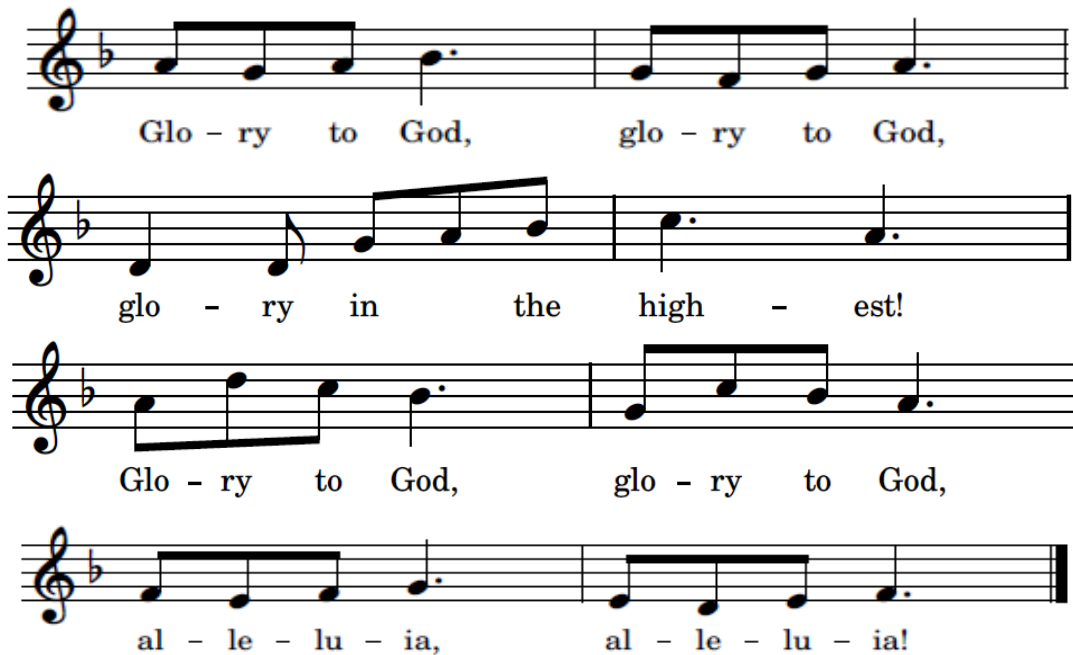
This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles— for surely you have already heard of the commission of God’s grace that was given to me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God’s grace that was given to me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

Ephesians 3. 1 – 12

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.



The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, ‘Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.’ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, ‘In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

“And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.” ’

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem,

saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Matthew 2. 1 – 12

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily

Bringing the Magi and the Gifts

Melchior is brought to the crèche, and the gold is placed before it.

We thank you God for making your home with us.

As gold is purified in the furnace,

purify our hearts and minds and strengthen us to be your royal priesthood,
in the name of Jesus the Christ.

Amen.

Caspar is brought to the crèche, and the frankincense is placed before it.

We praise you God for making your home with us.

Our prayer rises like incense before you,

and we raise our hands and offer ourselves in your service.

Amen.

Balthazar is brought to the crèche, and the myrrh is placed before it.

We thank you and praise you, God,
for making your home with us.

We remember Jesus anointed for burial,
and ask you to anoint us with your healing presence,
sending us to be your people to heal and reconcile the world.

Amen.

Affirmation of Faith ⁵

Let us join together in affirming the Church's faith in Jesus Christ.

We believe and declare
**that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God,
is both divine and human.**

God, of the being of the Father,
the only Son from before time began;
human from the being of his mother, born in the world;
**fully God and fully human;
human in both mind and body.**

As God he is equal to the Father,
as human he is less than the Father.
**Although he is both divine and human
he is not two beings but one Christ.**

One, not by turning God into flesh,
but by taking humanity into God;
**truly one, not by mixing humanity with Godhead,
but by being one person.**

For as mind and body form one human being
so the one Christ is both divine and human.

**The Word became flesh and lived among us;
we have seen his glory,
the glory of the only Son from the Father,
full of grace and truth.**

The Prayers of the People

✠ God of Grace,
✠ **receive our prayer.**

Confession and Absolution

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

God-with-us,
**we confess that we have turned away those seeking shelter,
claiming there is no room when we have plenty.
We have made power and wealth our idols,
while you show us true glory: a baby in a manger.
We have overlooked the shepherds,
expecting good news in prettier packaging.
Too often, we have valued violence
instead of your peace.
Turn us from our ways to your ways.
Grant us the grace to begin again.
Free us from all that keeps us bound,
and forgive our sin,
through Jesus Christ, who gives himself for us.
Amen.**

Almighty God have mercy upon you,
✠ pardon and deliver you from all your sin,
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

160 *As with Gladness Men of Old*⁶

**As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold;
as with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright;
so, most gracious Lord, may we evermore be led to thee.**

**As with joyful steps they sped to thy lowly manger-bed,
there to bend the knee before thee, whom heaven and earth adore;
so may we with willing feet ever seek the mercy-seat.**

**As they offered gifts most rare at that manger rude and bare;
so may we with joyful song, raising voices pure and strong,
all our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to thee, our heavenly king.**

**In the heavenly country bright need they no created light:
thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down;
there forever may we sing alleluias to our king.**

Prayer over the Gifts ⁷

God of heaven and earth,
from the beginning, you have called forth life,
in which you take delight.
The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy.
Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty,
that we may join the chorus of creation
to tell of your salvation from day to day.
Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving ⁸

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, Holy God,
in every place and at all times.
You made us, all the people of the world, and everything that is.
You give us the daylight.
Your Word lights up our minds.
Jesus was born among us to be light in our darkness.
Your Spirit lives in us so that we can look at the world with your eyes.
One day we will be with you in heaven,
but already we laugh with the saints and angels,
and sing their joyful song:





Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,



God of power and might,



heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Blessed 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,
heaven 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.**

Gracious God, you never forget us or turn away from us,
even when we fail you.

You sent your Son Jesus who gave his life for us.

Jesus healed those who were sick,
cared for those who lived in poverty,
and cried with those who were sad.

He forgave sinners and taught us to forgive.

For all your love we give you thanks
in the way that Jesus showed us.

On the night before Jesus died,
while he was having supper with his friends,
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, Jesus took the cup,
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.”

So, as we do what Jesus told us,
we open our hearts to him;

we remember how he died

and rose again

to live now in us.

Together with Jesus we offer you these gifts:

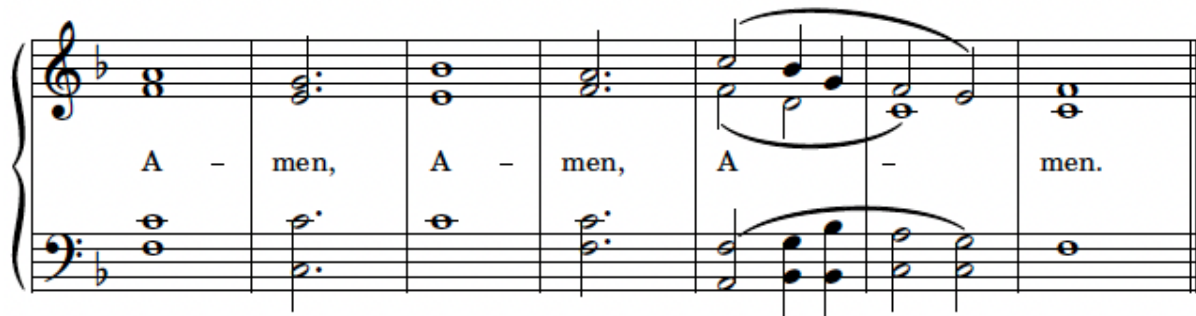
in them we give you ourselves.

Send your Holy Spirit on us and on this bread and this wine,
that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ,

and that, sharing your life,

we may travel in your company to our journey's end.

With all your people we give you thanks and praise
through the Son and in the Spirit, now and for ever.



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 Bread⁹

We break the bread of life,
and that life is the light of the world.
**God here among us, light in the midst of us,
bring us to light and life.**

Communion¹⁰

A child has been born for us, a Son given to us.
Come, receive the gift of Jesus.
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.

**Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing Christ, the babe, is Lord of all.
Swift are winging angels singing, nowells ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the babe is Lord of all, Christ the babe is Lord of all!**

**Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new
saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the babe was born for you, Christ the babe was born for you!**

Prayer after Communion ¹³

Merciful God,
we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food.
Strengthened by this goodness,
send us forth to announce your peace,
comfort the afflicted,
and share the good news of great joy.
Amen.

Doxology ¹⁴

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 of the Chalk

Let us pray.

Loving God,
bless this chalk which you have created,
that it may be helpful to your people;
and grant that, through the invocation of your most Holy Name,
all who use it in faith to write upon the doors of their homes
the names of your saints, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar,
may receive health of body and protection of soul
for all who dwell in or visit their home;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Blessing

**See amid the winter's snow,
born for us on earth below,
see, the tender Lamb appears,
promised from eternal years!**

Refrain:

**Hail, thou ever-blessed morn!
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem,
Christ is born in Bethlehem.**

**Lo, within a manger lies
he who built the starry skies,
who enthroned in height sublime
sits amid the cherubim. *Refrain...***

**Say, ye humble shepherds, say
what your joyful news today;
wherefore have ye left your sheep
on the lonely mountain steep? *Refrain...***

**“As we watched at dead of night,
lo, we saw a wondrous light;
angels singing ‘Peace on earth’
told us of the Saviour's birth.” *Refrain...***

**Sacred infant, all divine,
what a mighty love was thine,
thus to come from highest bliss
down to such a world as this! *Refrain...***

Dismissal

Alleluia! Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly.
Thanks be to God! Alleluia!

Postlude

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 Holy Trinity, Fonthill;
For Anne, our Metropolitan Archbishop and Acting Primate;
For the worldwide Anglican Communion,
remembering the Church in Wales;

For those in our parish cycle of prayer:

For Jen; for Bill & Mary; for Evelyn;

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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The Right Reverend Susan Bell
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The Reverend Canon David Linn
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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 from the Jesus MAFA project: the “Visit of the Three Wise Men.”¹⁶

¹ Text: Aurelius Clemens Prudentius (347—413?); tr. Edward Caswall (1814—78). Music: Melody *Psalmodia Sacra*, Gotha, 1715; adapt. Henry John Gauntlett (1895—76). Used under OneLicense A-604280.

² “A Song of the Messiah” from *Common Worship: Daily Prayer*, adapted from Isaiah 9. 2 – 7. Church of England.

³ *Revised Common Lectionary Prayers*.

⁴ *A Liturgical Psalter* (2016). General Synod from the Anglican Church of Canada.

⁵ *Common Worship*, The Church of England. E7. *From the Athanasian Creed*.

⁶ Text: William Chatterton Dix (1837—98), alt. Music: Konrad Kocher (1786—1872). Used under OneLicense A-604280.

⁷ *Sundays and Seasons*.

⁸ Eucharistic Prayer 3. *The Scottish Liturgy*, 1982. The Scottish Episcopal Church.

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: Polish carol (*W Złobie Lezy*); tr. Edith M.G. Reed (1885—1933). Music: Polish trad.; harm. David Hugh Jones (1900—83). Used under OneLicense A-604280.

¹³ *Sundays and Seasons*.

¹⁴ *Book of Alternative Services*.

¹⁵ Text: Edward Caswall (1814 – 78), alt. Music: John Goss (1800 – 80). Used under OneLicense A-604280.

¹⁶ JESUS MAFA. Visit of the Three Wise Men, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

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