



Church of the Nativity, Hamilton

Holy Eucharist

The Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany

February 23rd, 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

372 *Praise to the Holiest in the Height*¹

**Praise to the Holiest in the height, and in the depth be praise;
in all his words most wonderful, most sure in all his ways.**

**O loving wisdom of our God! When all was sin and shame,
a second Adam to the fight and to the rescue came.**

**O generous love! that flesh and blood, which did in Adam fail,
should strive afresh against the foe, should strive and should prevail:**

**and that the highest gift of grace should flesh and blood refine;
God's presence and his very self, and essence all-divine;**

**who in the garden secretly, and on the cross on high,
should teach his followers, and inspire to suffer and to die.**

**Praise to the Holiest in the height, and in the depth be praise;
in all his words most wonderful, most sure in all his ways.**

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

Perfect Light of revelation,
**as you shone in the life of Jesus,
so shine in us and through us,
that we may become beacons of truth and compassion,
enlightening all creation with deeds of justice and mercy.**

Amen.

Let us pray.

God of kindness,

interrupting our vicious cycles of resentment and revenge:
teach us to walk the way of forgiveness beyond all accounting
and to love the gift that has no measure;
through Jesus Christ, who died for all,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.

Amen.

Unfolding the Scriptures

1st Reading

A reading from the book of Genesis.

Joseph said to his brothers, 'I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?' But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

Then Joseph said to his brothers, 'Come closer to me.' And they came closer. He said, 'I am your brother Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither ploughing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of

Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, “Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.” And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

Genesis 45. 3 – 11, 15

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 37. 1 –11, 39 – 40

Noli æmulari ⁴

Do not fret yourself because of evildoers;
do not be jealous of those who do wrong.
**For they shall soon wither like the grass,
and like the green grass fade away.**

Put your trust in the Lord and do good;
dwell in the land and feed on its riches.
**Take delight in the Lord,
who shall give you your heart’s desire.**

Commit your way to the Lord
and put your trust in the Holy One who will bring it to pass.
**God will make your righteousness as clear as the light
and your just dealing as the noonday.**

Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for God.

Do not fret yourself over the one who prospers,
the one who succeeds in evil schemes.

**Refrain from anger, leave rage alone;
do not fret yourself; it leads only to evil.**

For evildoers shall be cut off,
but those who wait upon the Lord shall possess the land.

**In a little while the wicked shall be no more;
you shall search out their place, but they will not be there.**

But the lowly shall possess the land;
they will delight in abundance of peace.

**But the deliverance of the righteous comes from the Lord,
who is their stronghold in time of trouble.**

The Lord will help them and rescue them;
**rescuing them from the wicked and delivering them,
because they seek refuge in God.**

2nd Reading

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

But someone will ask, 'How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?' Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonour, it is raised in glory.

It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. Thus it is written, 'The first man, Adam, became a living being'; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

1 Corinthians 15. 35 – 38, 42 – 50

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel

Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est!
 Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

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, 'But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who

abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you.

‘If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

‘Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.’

Luke 6. 27 – 38

The Gospel of Christ.

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

Homily

The Prayers of the People

✠ God of grace,
✠ receive our prayer.

Confession and Absolution

Let us confess our sins to God.

Merciful God,
you speak blessing and compassion into the world.
Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference.
We ignore the needs of our neighbours;
we resist your call to oppose injustice;
we give in to scarcity and fear;
we assume the worst about one another.
Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp.
Show us your loving-kindness.
Restore our hearts and repair your world,
that we may live in Christ's ways.
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 Song

*Look Forward in Faith*⁵

**Look forward in faith – all time is in God's hand.
Walk humbly with him, and trust his future plan.
God has wisely led his people by his power.
Look forward in hope, he gives us each new hour.**

**Look forward in faith – the world is in God's care.
His purpose of love he calls on us to share.
In our neighbour's need the Lord is present still.
He blesses the meek! The earth will know God's will.**

**Look forward in faith – God gives us life each day.
Go onward with Christ, the Spirit guides our way.
Now God lets us live within the sphere of grace.
Trust ever, in him – God rules o'er earth and space!**

Prayer over the Gifts ⁶

God of grace,
your love reaches to the heavens,
and your abundance to the depths of the seas.
Bless what we offer to your service:
our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts.
Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always.
Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving ⁷

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.

Blessed above all are you, Lord God of creation,
for in the beginning you formed the earth in magnificent splendour,
and from humble dust you raised up a man made in your image.
You brought forth your Adam, together with Eve,
from earthly dust to human life.
From the beginning you sought the very people you had made,
yearning to share your life with them.
Your Christ of heaven came among your people of dust,
to raise us up out of the dust of sin,
that in our earthly life we might bear the image of heaven.
And so we join our voices with angels and archangels,
praising your name and joining their unending hymn.



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.**

Providing God,
 you look with mercy upon the hungry
 and meet famine with your plenty.
 Show us your eternal provision of plenteous grace around this table.
 Send your Holy Spirit upon your church,
 and make your people merciful as you are merciful.
 Sanctify this bread and cup
 that they may be for us the body and blood of your Son;
 who, at supper with his disciples, took bread,
 gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying,
 "Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you;
 do this in remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup.

Again he gave you thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying,
“Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

Great is the mystery of faith.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Merciful God, by the cross of Christ

you transform hatred into love, curse into blessing, and evil into good.
Meet your children anew today with the power of your Holy Spirit,
that wherever there is hatred, they may live love;
wherever there are enemies, they may do good;
wherever there are beggars, they may give grace;
wherever there are persecutors, they may bring blessing.

Make your resurrecting power known

through the grace you give your people
to love in the face of fear with forgiveness that passes understanding.

Raise us on the last day with all the saints

who have made your kingdom their one sure hope
and your grace their imperishable trust,
ever-living God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever.



A - men, a - men, a - men.

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 Bread ⁸

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.**

Communion ⁹

The joy of the Lord is our strength.
Come, eat this meal of gladness.
Thanks be to God!

Spiritual Communion

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 ¹⁰:

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.

**There's a quiet understanding
when we're gathered in the Spirit,
it's a promise Jesus gives us,
when we gather in his name.**

**There's a love we feel in Jesus,
There's a manna that he feeds us,
it's a promise Jesus gives us
when we gather in his name.**

**And we know when we're together,
sharing love and understanding,
That our brothers and our sisters
feel the oneness Jesus brings.**

**Thank you, Jesus, thank you Jesus,
for the way you love and feed us,
for the many ways you lead us,
thank you, gracious Lord.**

Prayer after Communion ¹²

Nourishing God,
at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink.
Strengthen us for service,
and send us out to embody
your good news of liberation and healing
for the sake of the world.
In the name of Christ we pray.
Amen.

Doxology ¹³

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

...
Amen.

**The love of Jesus calls us our joyous praise to sing;
our deeply felt thanksgivings we now together bring,
for all God's many blessings, unasked yet still received,
and for the generations who faithfully believed.**

**The love of Jesus calls us, that we may always be
companions on a journey, where all the world may see
that serving Christ is freedom which time does not destroy;
where Christ's command is duty, and every duty joy.**

**The love of Jesus calls us to go where he would go,
to challenge all that limits, to change, to learn, to grow,
to know that Christ has freed us, that prisons are no more;
for those who seek his kingdom, Christ opens every door.**

**The love of Jesus calls us in swiftly changing days,
to be God's co-creators in new and wondrous ways;
that God with men and women may so transform the earth,
that love and peace and justice may give God's kingdom birth.**

Dismissal

Go in peace; live in hope.
Thanks be to God!

Postlude

*The flowers at the altar are given to the glory of God,
and in loving memory of Irene MacDonald,
given by her daughter Gayle.*

Announcements, announcements, ANNOUNCEMENTS!

Boiler Bonus

Many of us have been receiving a \$200 cheque in the mail, courtesy of the provincial government. One parishioner thought— "hey, I can put that to good use, what with the church's boiler troubles!"

They've donated their cheque to the church—and they've made an offer—they'll make an additional contribution for each additional parishioner who donates their cheque, too.

On the table in the narthex, you'll find a blue envelope labeled "Bonus Boiler Bucks" if you want to join in!



Joint Lenten Series!

The Hamilton Anglican churches are putting on a joint series for Lent! Once the season that prepared people for baptism at Easter, we'll be able to visit other parishes and reflect together on key aspects of our faith.

Check out the poster in the narthex and pick up a bookmark that has times and places for each session!

Lenten Resource Launch - Living into God's Dream

Want something for Lent that you can do from home?

PWRDF (Alongside Hope), has launched a new Lenten resource. The Reverend Johnathan Rowe of the Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland offers a rich tapestry for this year's resource. Titled Living into God's Dream, Rowe entwines the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the Anglican Marks of Mission, with scripture, prayer, and reflection. [The resource will be emailed daily](#) through Lent and offers the reader the opportunity to reflect on personal and corporate questions and learn more about Alongside Hope's partners.



WALKING THROUGH THE CATECHUMENATE



CHRIST'S CHURCH
CATHEDRAL

all
saints
church



CHURCH
OF THE NATIVITY

Invitation to a Holy Lent

Rev. Andrew Rampton
Wed, Mar 12 @ the Cathedral
7-9pm

The Lord's Prayer

Very Rev. Tim Dobbin and Rev. Monica Green
Wed, Mar 19 @ All Saint's Church
7-9pm

The Apostle's Creed

Rev. Dr. Peter Widdicombe
Wed, Mar 26 @ Church of the Nativity
7-9pm

Prayer

Rev. Canon Mike Deed
Wed, Apr 2 @ St. John the Evangelist
7-9pm

Easter Vigil

Sat, Apr 19 @ the Cathedral
9-11pm

Baptism

Rev. Canon Matthew Griffin
Sat, Apr 12 @ Church of the Ascension
10am - Noon



ST. JOHN
THE EVANGELIST

THE ROCK ON LOCKE



CHURCH OF THE
ASCENSION

A 2025
Lenten
Program
for the
Anglican
Churches
of
Downtown
Hamilton



To be presented at the Annual Meeting of the Vestry
February 23, 2025

worshipwithnativity.org
[nativityhamilton](https://www.instagram.com/nativityhamilton)
Church of the Nativity

Vestry

Our Annual Vestry Meeting will be held next Sunday (February 23rd), following the 10 o'clock service in Bartonville Hall. Copies of the Vestry Report are available today in the narthex.

Vestry meets to receive accounts from the previous year, and to elect and appoint Churchwardens and Lay Representatives.

Shrove Tuesday Pancakes March 4th

Lunch AND Supper

Enjoy pancakes this year at lunch OR supper! Shrove Tuesday is March 4th
Lunch will be served from 12 noon to 1^{pm},
and supper will be served from 5^{pm} until
6^{pm}

Invite your friends, neighbours, and
family!



Adults \$10; children 12 and \$5; children under 5 are free

We are selling tickets in advance to assist with planning.

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. James & St. Brendan, Port Colborne;

For Anne, our Metropolitan Archbishop and Acting Primate;

For the worldwide Anglican Communion,

remembering the Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil;

For those in our parish cycle of prayer:

For Saj; for Peter & Michelle; for Pat;

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:

For the repose of the soul of Tom Irwin, and consolation for his family;

**Thank you for your daily prayers for the people, worship,
fellowship, and ministries of the Church of the Nativity**



The Church of the Nativity

worshipwithnativity.org



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[youtube.com/@nativityniagara](https://www.youtube.com/@nativityniagara)



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 is “Love Your Enemies.”¹⁵

¹ Text: John Henry Newman (1801 – 90). Music: John Bacchus Dykes (1823 – 76). Used under OneLicense A-604280.

² *Revised Common Lectionary Prayers*.

³ 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.

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

⁵ Text: Andrew J. Scobie (1935—2010), © 2005. Music: Melody Cardross, Andrea A. Steele (1945—), © . Used under OneLicense A-604280.

⁶ *Sundays and Seasons*.

⁷ *Eucharistic Prayers*. Samuel Wells & Abigail Kocher.

⁸ *Book of Alternative Services*, alt.

⁹ *Sundays and Seasons*.

¹⁰ Selected from the prayers provided for this use in “A Celebration of the Holy Eucharist with Spiritual Communion,” Diocese of Niagara, 2020.

¹¹ Words & Music: Tedd Smith (1927—2023), 1973. From *Songs for a Gospel People*. Wood Lake Books, Winfield BC, 1987. Used under OneLicense A-604280.

¹² *Sundays and Seasons*.

¹³ *Book of Alternative Services*.

¹⁴ Text: Herbert O’Driscoll (1928 – 2024). Music: Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1810 – 76). Used under OneLicense A-604280.

¹⁵ Our cover image is “Love Your Enemies,” from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

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