



Church of the Nativity, Hamilton

Holy Eucharist

The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 17th, 2025



WEB EDITION

Called to Life — Compelled to Love



We will strive to live up to our responsibilities as members of the Dish with One Spoon wampum, first established between the Anishinaabek and Haudenosaunee to set out how this part of Turtle Island would be shared.

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.

We try to minimize individuals' appearances on camera for the stream.

Prelude

Music is offered to provide a time for quiet prayer and preparation.

Territorial Acknowledgment

Opening Hymn

607

*Come, Let Us to the Lord Our God*¹

**Come, let us to the Lord our God with contrite hearts return;
our God is gracious, nor will leave the desolate to mourn.**

**His voice commands the tempest forth and stills the stormy wave;
and though his arm be strong to smite, 'tis also strong to save.**

**Long hath the night of sorrow reigned; the dawn shall bring us light.
God shall appear, and we shall rise with gladness in his sight.**

**Our hearts, if God we seek to know, shall know him and rejoice;
his coming like the morn shall be, like morning songs his voice.**

**As dew upon the tender herb, diffusing fragrance round,
as showers that usher in the spring and cheer the thirsty ground,
so shall his presence bless our souls and shed a joyful light.
That hallowed morn shall chase away the sorrows of the night.**

Welcome ²

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.

Let us pray.

God of restless fire and urgent river's flow:
unsettle the false peace which hides our divisions;
unfold our hearts to sense your presence;
unloose your kingdom and make us one in Jesus Christ,
the first of many brothers and sisters.

Amen.

Unfolding the Scriptures

1st Reading ⁴

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

I will sing for my beloved
my love song concerning his vineyard:
My beloved had a vineyard
on a very fertile hill.
He dug it and cleared it of stones
and planted it with choice vines;
he built a watchtower in the midst of it
and hewed out a wine vat in it;
he expected it to yield grapes,
but it yielded rotten grapes.

And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem
and people of Judah,
judge between me
and my vineyard.

What more was there to do for my vineyard
that I have not done in it?
When I expected it to yield grapes,
why did it yield rotten grapes?

And now I will tell you
what I will do to my vineyard.
I will remove its hedge,
and it shall be devoured;
I will break down its wall,
and it shall be trampled down.
I will make it a wasteland;
it shall not be pruned or hoed,
and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns;
I will also command the clouds
that they rain no rain upon it.

For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts
is the house of Israel,
and the people of Judah
are his cherished garden;
he expected justice
but saw bloodshed;
righteousness
but heard a cry!

Isaiah 5. 1 – 7

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

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and come to help us.

You have brought a vine out of Egypt;
you cast out the nations and planted it.
You prepared the ground for it;
it took root and filled the land.

The mountains were covered by its shadow
and the towering cedar trees by its boughs.
You stretched out its tendrils to the sea
and its branches to the river.

Why have you broken down its wall,
so that all who pass by pluck off its grapes?
The wild boar of the forest has ravaged it,
and the beasts of the field have grazed upon it.

Turn now, O God of hosts, look down from heaven;
behold and tend this vine;
preserve what your strong hand has planted.
They burn it with fire like rubbish;
at the rebuke of your countenance let them perish.

Let your hand be upon the one at your side in honour,
the one you have made so strong for yourself.
And so will we never turn away from you;
give us life, that we may call upon your name.

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

2nd Reading ⁶

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. Others suffered mocking and flogging and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned to death; they were sawn in two; they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented — of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains and in caves and holes in the ground.

Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 11. 29 – 12. 2

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

The Gospel ⁷

Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah;

hal - le, hal - le - lu jah.

Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah;

hal - le, hal - le - lu jah.

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, "I have come to cast fire upon the earth, and how I wish it were already ablaze! I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what constraint I am under until it is completed! Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; they will be divided:

father against son
and son against father,
mother against daughter
and daughter against mother,
mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law
and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

Jesus also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, 'It is going to rain,' and so it happens. And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat,' and it happens. You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?

Luke 12. 49 – 56

The Gospel of Christ.

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

Homily

Let us affirm the faith we share.

**We trust in God, who has created and is creating;
who came to us in Jesus, the word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new;
who works in us and others by the Holy Spirit.**

**We believe we are called to be God's people:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in creation, to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus' death and resurrection
by word and deed.**

**We live in hope because in life, in death,
in life beyond death, we are not alone:
God is with us. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

The Prayers of the People

**✠ Gracious God,
✠ graciously hear us.**

Dear friends in Christ,
God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy,
welcoming sinners and inviting us to this table.
Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

Merciful God,
you free us to love others,
but we neglect our neighbours and follow our own way.
You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace,
but we turn away from the abundant life you offer.
You surround us with patience, kindness,
and generosity,
but we grow weary in doing what is right.
In your mercy, forgive us.
Do not give up on us.
Heal us, break our bonds,
and show us the path of life.
Amen.

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 Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you!
And also with you.

Feasting at the Table

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

503

*Fight the Good Fight with All Thy Might*¹⁰

**Fight the good fight with all thy might,
Christ is thy strength and Christ thy right;
lay hold on life, and it shall be
thy joy and crown eternally.**

**Run the straight race through God's good grace;
lift up thine eyes and seek his face.
Life with its way before us lies;
Christ is the path, and Christ the prize.**

**Cast care aside, lean on thy guide;
his boundless mercy will provide;
trust, and the trusting soul shall prove
Christ is its life, and Christ its love.**

**Faint not nor fear, his arms are near;
he changeth not, and thou art dear.
Only believe, and thou shalt see
that Christ is all in all to thee.**

Prayer over the Gifts ¹¹

Creator God,
in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good
and the harvest is plentiful.
Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labour,
that we may work for the good of all;
through Jesus Christ, our Saviour.
Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving ¹²

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.

It is a good and joyful thing to give our thanks to you, faithful God,
because you have surrounded us with so great a cloud of witnesses
who have faithfully followed the path of your promises.

By faith your people crossed the Red Sea
when you brought them out of slavery.

By faith your Son endured the cross, disregarding its shame.

By faith your apostles endured chains and imprisonment,
testifying to the gospel.

By faith your martyrs suffered mockery and death for your glory alone.

And so with this cloud of witnesses from every age and time
we praise you with the angels and archangels
and all the company of heaven
as we join the unending hymn.



Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est,
ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bles-sed 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.

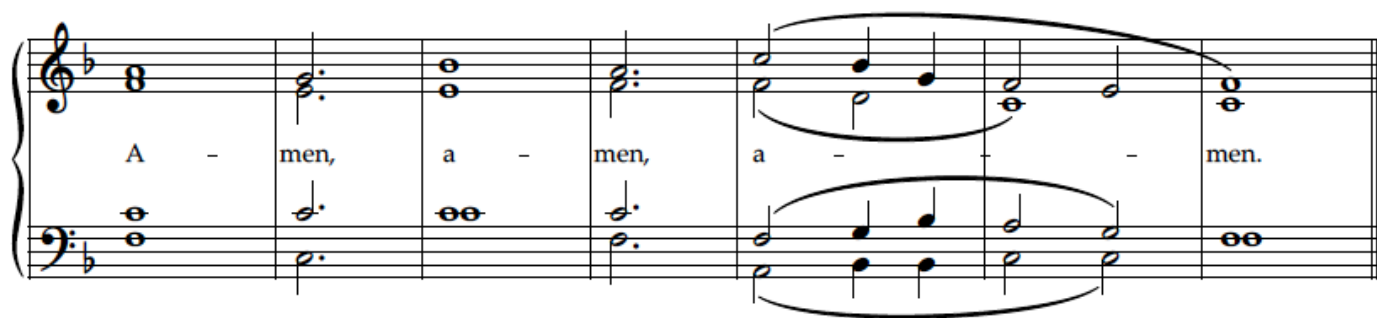
Righteous God, whose Son is the pioneer and perfecter of our faith,
make your church a vineyard of justice and peace.
Nourish your people with this fruit of the vine
and sanctify us with your Holy Spirit,
that we may bring forth the perfect fruit of your kingdom.
Send your Holy Spirit upon this bread and wine,
that they may be for us the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ;
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.

Redeeming God,
whose Son Jesus for the sake of heavenly joy won our salvation,
strengthen us to run with perseverance the race set before us.
Liberate your people in the midst of every sorrow
that they may hold fast to your unfailing mercy.
Raise up into your unending glory
every soul weighed heavy with struggle.

Give your children a heart to see through every trial of life
to a deeper joy that is possible only in you.
Grant us wisdom in the midst of conflict
to discern your ways of peace.
Bring us all to the day when we are made perfect in your love
and rejoice in your promise fulfilled,
beholding Christ our Lord seated at your right hand on high
in the power of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and always.



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 ¹³

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
We, being many, are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.

Communion ¹⁴

The kingdom of God is set before you. Eat and rejoice.
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:*

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.

Before I Take the Body of My Lord ¹⁶

Before I take the body of My Lord,
before I share his life in bread and wine,
I recognise the sorry things within—these I lay down.

The words of hope I often failed to give,
the prayers of kindness buried by my pride,
the signs of care I argued out of sight, these I lay down.

The narrowness of vision and of mind,
the need for other folk to serve my will,
and every word and silence meant to hurt, these I lay down.

Of those around in whom I meet my Lord,
I ask their pardon and I grant them mine
that every contradiction to Christ's peace might be laid down.

Lord Jesus Christ, companion at this feast,
I empty now my heart and stretch my hands,
and ask to meet you here in bread and wine—which you lay down.

Prayer after Communion ¹⁷

Mothering God,
you gathered us to your table
and we drank deeply of your grace.
Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbours as ourselves
and proclaim your love in Jesus' name.
Amen.

Doxology ¹⁸

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.

Announcements

Blessing

Singing songs of expectation,
onward goes the pilgrim band,
through the night of doubt and sorrow,
marching to the promised land.
Clear before us through the darkness
gleams and burns the guiding light:
trusting God, we march together
stepping fearless through the night.

One the light of God's own presence,
o'er his ransomed people shed,
chasing far the gloom and terror,
brightening all the path we tread:
one the object of our journey,
one the faith which never tires,
one the earnest looking forward,
one the hope our God inspires.

One the strain the lips of thousands
lift as from the heart of one;
one the conflict, one the peril,
one the march in God begun:
one the gladness of rejoicing
on the far eternal shore,
where the one almighty Father
reigns in love for evermore.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.
Thanks be to God!

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 community of St. George, St. Catharines;
For Anne, our Metropolitan Archbishop,
and for Shane, our Primate;
For the worldwide Anglican Communion,
and especially the Scottish Episcopal Church;

For those in our parish cycle of prayer:

For Robert, Tiffany, Reid & Hudson; for Bob & Nancy; for Jim;

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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Mr. David Eccles
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Wardens

Sources

Our cover image is a photograph by the Rev'd Canon Mike Deed, shot outside Benevento in Campania, Italy.

¹ Text: Hosea 6.1 – 4, para. John Morison (1749 – 98). Music: Melody *Tochter Sion*, Köln, 1741. Used under OneLicense A-604280.

² *Book of Alternative Services*.

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 New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition. © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. <http://nrsvbibles.org>

⁵ *A Liturgical Psalter* (2016). General Synod from the Anglican Church of Canada.

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⁷ Gospel Acclamation: *Heleluyan*. Text and music as sung by the Muscogee Creek Nation. Transcr. Kenneth Hull, 2020. ©. Used under OneLicense A-604280. For biblical copyright information, see endnote 4.

⁸ *Celebrate God's Presence*. United Church of Canada, 2000.

⁹ Introduction & Absolution: *BAS*, alt. Confession: *Sundays and Seasons*.

¹⁰ Text: John Samuel Bewley Monsell (1811 – 75). Music: William Boyd (1847 – 1928). Used under OneLicense A-604280.

¹¹ *Sundays and Seasons*.

¹² *Eucharistic Prayers*. Samuel Wells & Abigail Kocher.

¹³ *Book of Alternative Services*, alt.

¹⁴ *Sundays and Seasons*.

¹⁵ Selected from the prayers provided for this use in "A Celebration of the Holy Eucharist with Spiritual Communion," Diocese of Niagara, 2020.

¹⁶ Text and music: John L. Bell (1949 –). © 1989 WGRG The Iona Community (Scotland). Used under OneLicense A-604280.

¹⁷ *Sundays and Seasons*.

¹⁸ *An Order for the Holy Eucharist*. The Church in Wales.

¹⁹ Text: Bernard Severin Ingemann (1789 – 1862); tr. Sabine Baring-Gould (1834 – 1924), alt. Music: Melody *The Columbian Harmony*, Cincinnati, 1825. Used under OneLicense A-604280.