



Church of the Nativity, Hamilton

Holy Eucharist

The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 7th, 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

Where Charity and Love Prevail ¹

Where charity and love prevail,
there God is ever found;
brought here together by Christ's love,
by love are we thus bound.

With grateful joy and holy fear
his charity we learn;
let us with heart and mind and soul
now love him in return.

Forgive we now each other's faults
as we our faults confess;
and let us love each other well
in Christian holiness.

Let strife among us be unknown,
let all contention cease;
be his the glory that we seek,
be ours his holy peace.

Let us recall that in our midst
dwells God's begotten Son;
as members of his body joined,
we are in him made one.

Love can exclude no race or creed
if honoured be God's name;
our common life embraces all
whose Father is the same.

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.

The Collect of the Day ³

Let us pray.

Jealous God,
you call us to hate the life
that is an echo of death and a whisper of fear:
give us the courage to pass through shadows
and count the cost of a love beyond measure;
through Jesus Christ,
the one who is fully alive.

Amen.

Unfolding the Scriptures

1st Reading ⁴

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah.

The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: “Come, go down to the potter’s house, and there I will let you hear my words.” So I went down to the potter’s house, and there he was working at his wheel. The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter’s hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as seemed good to him.

Then the word of the Lord came to me: Can I not do with you, O house of Israel, just as this potter has done? says the Lord. Just like the clay in the potter’s hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel.

‘At one moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it, but if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turns from its evil, I will change my mind about the disaster that I intended to bring on it. And at another moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will build and plant it, but if it does evil in my sight, not listening to my voice, then I will change my mind about the good that I had intended to do to it.

Now, therefore, say to the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem: Thus says the Lord: Look, I am a potter shaping evil against you and devising a plan against you. Turn now, all of you, from your evil way, and amend your ways and your doings.

Jeremiah 18. 1 – 11

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

Lord, you have searched me out and known me.
You know my sitting down and my rising up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.
**You trace my journeys and my resting-places
and are acquainted with all my ways.**

Indeed, there is not a word on my lips,
but you, O Lord, know it altogether.
**You press upon me behind and before
and lay your hand upon me.**

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.
**For you yourself created my inmost parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.**

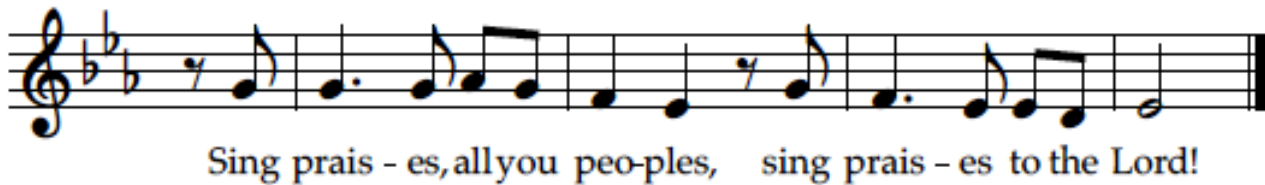
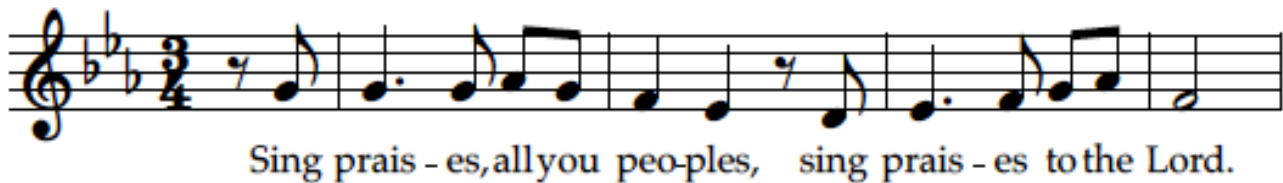
I will thank you because I am marvellously made;
your works are wonderful, and I know it well.
**My body was not hidden from you,
while I was being made in secret
and woven in the depths of the earth.**

Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb;
all of them were written in your book;
**they were fashioned day by day,
when as yet there was none of them.**

How deep I find your thoughts, O God!
How great is the sum of them!
**If I were to count them,
they would be more in number than the sand;**

to count them all,
my life span would need to be like yours.

The Gospel ⁶



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.** ♪

Now large crowds were traveling with him, and Jesus turned and said to them, "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' Or what king, going out to wage war against

another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace.

So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.

Luke 14. 25 – 33

The Gospel of Christ.

♪ Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ. ♪

Epistle Reading ⁷

A reading of the letter of Paul to Philemon.

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,
To our beloved coworker Philemon, to our sister Apphia, to our fellow soldier Archippus, and to the church in your house:
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I thank my God always when I mention you in my prayers, because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. I pray that the partnership of your faith may become effective as you comprehend all the good that we share in Christ. I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

For this reason, though I am more than bold enough in Christ to command you to do the right thing, yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus.

I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me. I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. I wanted to keep him with me so that he might minister to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel, but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back for the long term, no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge that to me. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

One thing more: prepare a guest room for me, for I am hoping through your prayers to be restored to you.

Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends greetings to you, and so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my coworkers.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

Philemon

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

Homily

Let us affirm our faith together.

We believe and trust in God.

**We believe and trust in God,
the Source of all being and life,
in whom and for whom we exist.**

**We believe and trust in God,
the Word of God incarnate,
who took our human nature,
who died for us and was raised
so that we might be children of God.**

**We believe and trust in God,
the Advocate and Guide,
who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in all the world.
This is the God in whom we believe and trust.**

The Prayers of the People

✠ God of grace,
✠ receive our prayer.

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin
in the presence of God and of one another.

Merciful and loving God,
we are your stiff-necked people.
We trample on the needy.
We grumble about your grace to others.
We turn away from the poor.
Have mercy on us and forgive our sins.
Rejoice over us
as ones who were lost and have been found.
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

585

Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service ¹⁰

**Lord, whose love in humble service
bore the weight of human need,
who upon the cross, forsaken,
worked your mercy's perfect deed:
we, your servants, bring the worship
not of voice alone but heart;
consecrating to your purpose
every gift which you impart.**

**Still your children wander homeless;
still the hungry cry for bread;
still the captives long for freedom;
still in grief we mourn our death.
As you, Lord, in deep compassion,
healed the sick and freed the soul,
by your Spirit send your power
to our world to make it whole.**

**As we worship, grant us vision
till your love's revealing light
in its height and depth and greatness
dawns upon our quickened sight,
making known the needs and burdens
your compassion bids us bear,**

**stirring us to ardent service,
your abundant life to share.**

Prayer over the Gifts ¹¹

Lord of the harvest,
we return to you a portion of what you have given to us.
Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches,
but on you, who richly provides for us.
Multiply what we have gathered
to bless all who are suffering and in need,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving ¹²

May God be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to God.

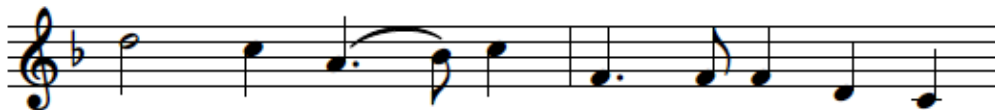
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Praise be unto you, God of the prophets,
for you have taken into your own hands the redemption of your world
and refashioned us from brokenness into life everlasting with you.
Like a potter you fashioned your chosen people,
making them into a vessel worthy of your glory.

When that vessel was spoiled
 you called your people to repentance
 and sent prophets to renew their faith.
 In the fullness of time, through the resurrection of your Son,
 you reworked the clay like a potter at a wheel,
 and remade a vessel
 revealing your goodness and grace through the forgiveness of sins,
 raising us up from the dust of the earth
 to the hope of everlasting life.
 And so with angels and archangels
 and all the company of heaven
 we praise your name and join 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.

God of love,
you welcome us at this table as siblings in a new family.
Shape our life together
by the way we belong to one another in you.
Send your Holy Spirit upon your church
to make us faithful witnesses to your beloved community.
Sanctify this bread and cup
that they may be for us the body and blood of our Lord 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.”

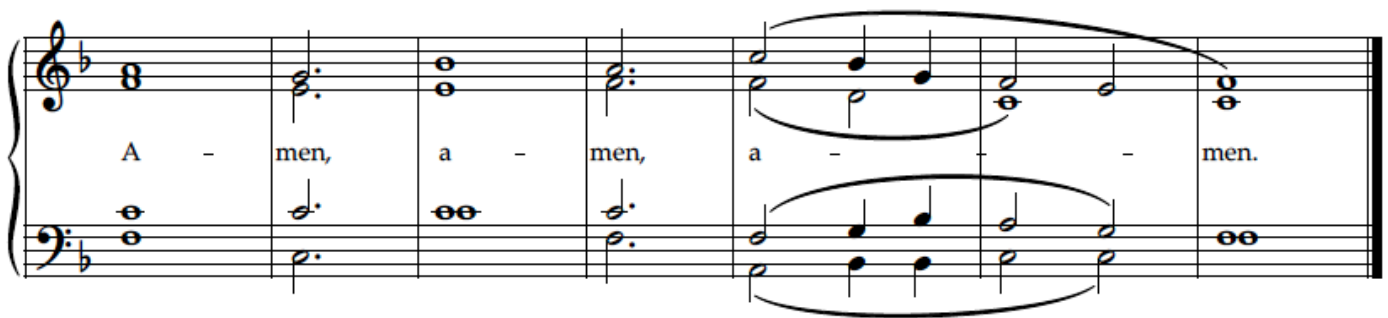
Great is the mystery of faith.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Creating and re-creating God,
you are the potter and we are the clay.
Renew your church today in the touch of your hands.
Search and know
the places that are broken and the hearts that long to be mended.
Form your people in faithfulness to Jesus.
Shape us to be his disciples,
to take up our cross and follow him.
Have your own way with us, Lord:
mold us and make us, search us and try us,
touch us and heal us,
till all shall see Christ only, always, living in us.
Bring us at last to the blessed day
when we are one with the family of saints gathered around your throne,
in the company of the Holy Spirit,
in union with Christ,
O Father most holy, 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

Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them.

Come to this meal of mercy.

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.

Take My Life, and Let It Be ¹⁶

Take my life, and let it be
consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days,
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands, and let them move
at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet, and let them be
swift and purposeful for thee.

Take my lips, and let them be
filled with messages from thee;
take my intellect, and use
every power as thou shalt choose.

Take my will, and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine;
take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love: my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

Prayer after Communion ¹⁷

O God,
through this meal you have strengthened us
and appointed us to be your servants.
Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need.
We ask this 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

Sister, Let Me Be Your Servant ¹⁹

**Sister, let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.**

**We are pilgrims on a journey, fellow travellers on the road;
we are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.**

**I will hold the Christ-light for you in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.**

**I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh, I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow till we've seen this journey through.**

**When we sing to God in heaven, we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony.**

**Brother, let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I might have the grace to let you be my servant, too.**

Dismissal

**Go in peace. Do not lose heart.
Thanks be to God!**

Postlude

*The flowers at the altar today are given to the glory of God,
and in loving memory
of our cherished son and brother Scott.
Remembered always by
John, Patty, Brett, and Bradley Costen.*

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. Barnabas, in Saint Catharines;
For Anne, our Metropolitan Archbishop,
and for Shane, our Primate;
For the worldwide Anglican Communion,
and especially the Anglican Church of Southern Africa;

For those in our parish cycle of prayer:

For Laurie; for Betty; for Allan;

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:

Remembering Scott Costen;

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

FYI

School Supplies:

We're continuing to gather supplies that will make life easier for students at local schools. Please bring in any donations promptly so that we can get them to our partners and into classrooms!

September 14th:

Next Sunday at coffee hour, join in birthday cake and champagne as we celebrate the Church of the Nativity's 19th birthday!

Community Lunch:

this month's community lunch will be on **Friday, September 19th** at noon. All are welcome for this delicious free meal and great time of companionship!

September 21st:

Plan to stay after church for a potluck lunch as we get back into the swing of fall activities! Bring along a dish if and as you're able, but make sure to bring yourself!



The Church of the Nativity

worshipwithnativity.org



facebook.com/Nativityniagara/



@NativityHamilton



[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

Bishop of Niagara

The Reverend Canon Matthew Griffin

Rector

The Reverend Canon David Linn

Honorary Assistant

The Reverend Deacon Larry Collinson

Parish Deacon

Mr. Peter Harding

Director of Music

Mrs. Laura Brintnell

Parish Administrator

Mrs. Jan Collinson

Mr. David Eccles

Ms. Gayle MacDonald

Mr. Derek Smith

Wardens

Sources

Our cover image is a photograph of a work by the French sculptor François Auguste René Rodin (1840 – 1917). Entitled “The Hand of God,” it “presents the inchoate figures of Adam and Eve cradled in God’s hand.”

The sculpture is on display at The Met Fifth Avenue in Gallery 800. The photograph is shared by the Metropolitan Museum of Art under the Creative Commons Zero license, and we are grateful to be able to use it.

¹ Text: Latin (9th cent.); tr. Omer Westendorf (1916 – 97), alt. © 1961, 1962 *World Library Publications, Inc.* Music: Attrib. Lucius Chapin (1769 – 1842). 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.

⁶ Gospel Acclamation: Laudate Omnes Gentes. Text: Ps 117.1. Eng. para. Taizé Community (France). Music Jacques Berthier (1923 – 94). Eng. para and music © 1991 Les Presses de Taizé. ©. Used under OneLicense A-604280.

For biblical copyright information, see endnote 4.

⁷ 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>

⁸ *Common Worship*, 2000. The Church of England. Creeds and Authorized Expressions of Faith. E1, alt.

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

¹⁰ Text: Albert Frederick Bayly (1901 – 84), alt. © 1961 Oxford UP. Music: Melody *The Sacred Harp*, Mason, 1844; attrib. Benjamin Franklin White (1800 – 79). 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: Frances Ridgley Havergal (1836 – 79). Music: composer unknown. Used under OneLicense A-604280.

¹⁷ *Sundays and Seasons*.

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

¹⁹ Text: Richard Gillard (1953 –). Music: Richard Gillard (1953 –); arr. Betty Carr Pulkingham (1928 – 2019). Text & Music © 1977 Scripture in Song. Used under OneLicense A-604280.