

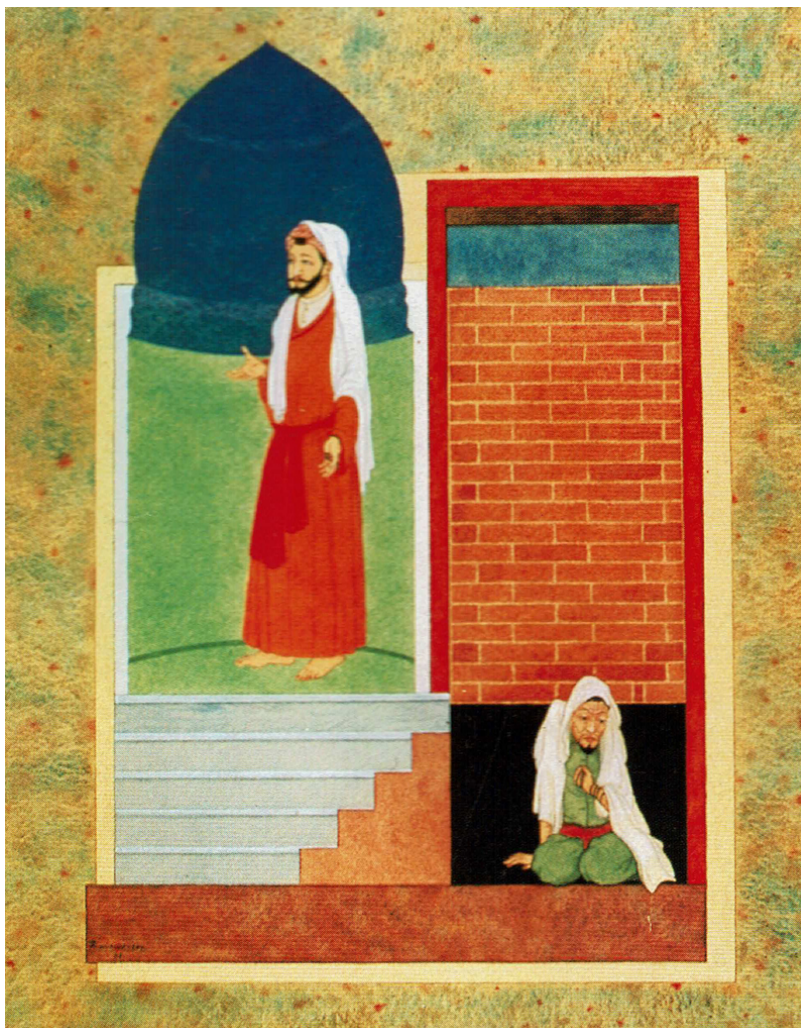


Church of the Nativity, Hamilton

Holy Eucharist

The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

October 26th, 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

Fight the Good Fight with All Thy Might ¹

**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.**

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.

Infinite God,

impatient with your otherness

we make you into an idol to serve our own needs:

humble our arrogance

by the strangeness of your coming and the wonder of your mercy;

through Jesus Christ,

the friend of Pharisees and tax collectors.

Amen.

Unfolding the Scriptures

1st Reading ⁴

A reading from the prophet Joel.

O children of Zion, be glad

and rejoice in the LORD your God;

for he has given the early rain for your vindication,

he has poured down for you abundant rain,

the early and the later rain, as before.

The threshing-floors shall be full of grain,

the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.

I will repay you for the years

that the swarming locust has eaten,

the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter,

my great army, which I sent against you.

You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied,
and praise the name of the LORD your God,
who has dealt wondrously with you. And my people shall never again
be put to shame.

You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel,
and that I, the LORD, am your God and there is no other.
And my people shall never again be put to shame.

Then afterwards

I will pour out my spirit on all flesh;
your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
your old men shall dream dreams,
and your young men shall see visions.
Even on the male and female slaves,
in those days, I will pour out my spirit.

I will show portents in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire
and columns of smoke. The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon
to blood, before the great and terrible day of the LORD comes. Then
everyone who calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved; for in Mount
Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as the LORD has
said, and among the survivors shall be those whom the LORD calls.

Joel 2. 23 – 32

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

Praise is your due O God in the holy city;
promises made to you shall be fulfilled;
prayer you always listen to.

**You accept all who come to you with shame;
sin would overwhelm us, but you wash it away.**

Blest is anyone you choose to live with you;
your house is an inspiration, a hallowed place.
**You spread your justice, God our Saviour,
across the world to the farthest oceans.**

You have laid down the mountain ranges and set them fast;
you make the seas calm and the sounds peaceful;
you reconcile the peoples who dwell here.
**So in this corner of the earth we wonder at your deeds;
at the meeting of east and west we sing your praise.**

You water the land and make it flourish,
from your own bursting river.
**To provide our crops, you plough and irrigate the land,
softening it with rain to make it fruitful;
a record harvest is achieved,
and the stores are overflowing.**

The tussock land becomes pasture
and the brown hills turn green;
**the paddocks are crowded with sheep
and the plains thick with wheat:
the world itself a canticle of praise.**

A reading from the second letter to Timothy.

As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

At my first defence no one came to my support, but all deserted me. May it not be counted against them! But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and save me for his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

2 Timothy 4.6 – 8, 16 – 18

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.



Sing prais - es, all you peo - ples, sing prais - es to the Lord.



Sing prais - es, all you peo - ples, sing prais - es to the Lord!

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 also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven but was beating his breast and saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other, for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted."

Luke 18. 9 – 14

The Gospel of Christ.

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

Affirmation of Faith ⁸

Let us affirm the faith we share.

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 those living in poverty.
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

3

*Morning Has Broken*¹⁰

**Morning has broken like the first morning;
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!**

**Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,
like the first dewfall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness where his feet pass.**

**Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning
born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, praise every morning,
God's recreation of the new day!**

Prayer over the Gifts¹¹

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.

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.

We lift our hearts to you in thanks and praise, God of truth,

because you have dealt wondrously with us,

pouring down the abundant rain

of forgiveness, reconciliation, and healing.

Constantly you meet your people in their shame

and restore to them the years the swarming locusts have eaten.

You rescued the children of Abraham from slavery

and made a covenant with them to be your people;

you called Judah home from exile;

and when your people were still bereft,

you sent your Son to be the fullness of your grace among us.

From the shame of the cross and the abandonment of the tomb

you raised him to glorious life,

and sent your Holy Spirit that the young might prophesy

and the old might learn to dream again.

And so we join all heaven in the everlasting song of praise.





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.

We gather expectantly in your midst, God of grace,
because you promise

that your people will eat in plenty and be satisfied.

Send your Spirit on your Church

that all who call upon your name may be saved.

Breathe your Holy Spirit on this bread and this 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.

We wait humbly on your mercy, God of peace.

Look with favour on all who know

they have fallen short of your grace and scorned your love
and yet seek you with hope and with penitent hearts.

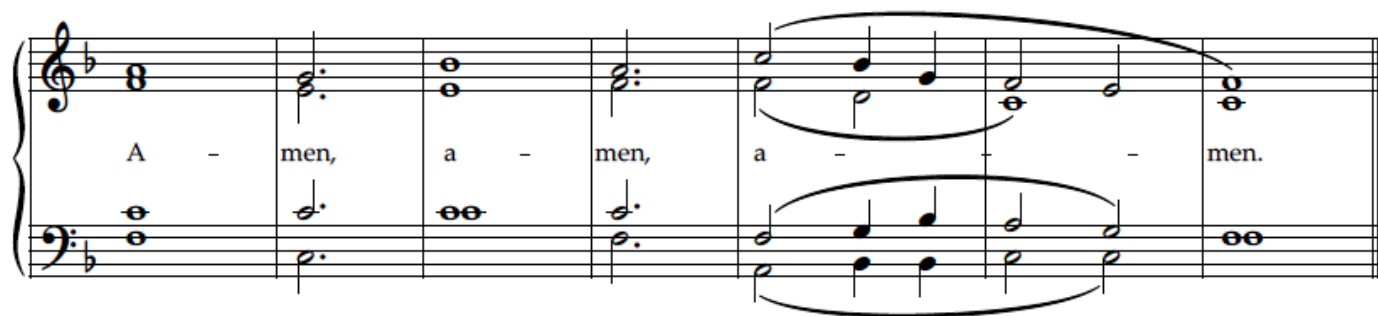
Show compassion to your children who cannot say

they have fought the good fight, or finished the race,
or kept the faith.

Make your church a place of second beginnings,

gentle hearts, kind understanding, and a forgiving spirit,
where all saints know they have a past
and all sinners discover they have a future.

Raise to new life all whose heads have been bowed down with shame,
and reserve for them your crown of righteousness;
until the day when you humble the exalted and exalt the humble,
and your Spirit enlivens all flesh,
through Christ our Lord, Father most holy.



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

Creator of all, you gave us golden fields of wheat,
whose many grains we have gathered and made into this one bread.
**So may your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth
into your reign of justice and peace.**

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.

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.

All your works praise you, O Lord.
And your faithful servants bless you.

Gracious God
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
May we, who share his body, live his risen life;
we, who drink his cup, bring life to others;
we, whom the Spirit lights, give light to the world.

Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,
so that we and all your children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise your name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Announcements

Blessing

*Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*¹⁸

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation.
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation:
All ye who hear, brothers and sisters draw near,
praise him in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth
shelters thee under his wings, yea, so gently sustaineth:
hast thou not seen how thy entreaties have been
granted in what he ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;
surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend thee:
ponder anew what the Almighty can do,
if with his love he befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord, who, when tempests their warfare are waging,
who, when the elements madly around thee are raging,
biddeth them cease, turneth their fury to peace,
whirlwinds and waters assuaging.

Praise to the Lord, who when darkness of sin is abounding,
who when the godless do triumph, all virtue confounding,
sheddeth his light, chaseth the horrors of night,
saints with his mercy surrounding.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath come now with praises before him!
Let the Amen sound from his people again:
gladly for aye we adore him.

Dismissal

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

Postlude

*The flowers at the altar are given to the Glory of God,
and in loving memory of
the Reverend Jack Pearce
(October 26th, 1933 – April 19th, 2016)
given by loving wife June and family.
Always loved, never forgotten.*

F.Y.I.

The Nativity Marketplace is Nov. 8th!

Just under a fortnight from now!

- ☐ Have you invited all of your friends?
- ☐ Have you invited your neighbours?
- ☐ Can you bake something more for the bake table?

Don't forget to tell

EVERYONE YOU KNOW

about the Marketplace,
and get them to come check it out!

High Tea

Monday, November 17th, from 1 pm to 3 pm



only \$5!

2026 Calendars:

2026 is the 120th year of the Canadian Church Calendar!

This year's theme is "Arise, shine!"



Reserve a copy today by signing up in the narthex!

POP CAN THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who brings in pop cans:
you've helped raise \$286.20
for the maintenance of the church building.

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. John the Divine in Cayuga;
For Anne, our Metropolitan Archbishop,
and for Shane, our Primate;
For the worldwide Anglican Communion,
and especially the Church in Wales,
and for their new Archbishop, Cherry Vann,
who will be enthroned on November 8th;

For those in our parish cycle of prayer:

For Sandy; for Giselle and Seth and Ares & Cersei; for Andy, Laura, Lily,
and Daphne;

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 Antoinette McIntosh;

**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
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

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¹ Text: John Samuel Bewley Monsell (1811 – 75). Music: William Boyd (1847 – 1928). 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 New Zealand Prayer Book*. 1988.

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⁷ 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 for the gospel reading, see endnote 4.

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: Eleanor Farjeon (1881 – 1965). © *David Higham Associates Ltd.* Music: Melody Gaelic trad.; arr. C. Richard Hunt (1930 –) ©. 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 *The Book of Alternative Services.*

¹⁸ Text: Joachim Neander (1650 – 80); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827 – 78), alt. Music: *Ernewerten Gesangbuch*, Straslund, 1665, alt. Used under OneLicense A-604280.