



Church of the Nativity, Hamilton

Holy Eucharist

First Sunday of Advent

December 1st, 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.

A bell is rung, and the service begins.

Opening Hymn

98

*Hark the Glad Sound! The Saviour Comes*¹

**Hark the glad sound! The Saviour comes,
the Saviour promised long:
let every heart prepare a throne,
and every voice a song.**

**Christ comes, the prisoners to release
in Satan's bondage held;
the gates of brass before him burst;
the iron fetters yield.**

Christ comes, the broken heart to bind,
the bleeding soul to cure,
and from the treasuries of grace
to bless the humble poor.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
thy welcome shall proclaim;
and heaven's eternal arches ring
with thy beloved name.

Greeting

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon.
Amen.

Advent Responsory ²

Pour down, O heavens, from above,
and let the skies rain down righteousness.
Arise, shine; for your light comes,
and the glory of the Lord rises upon us.

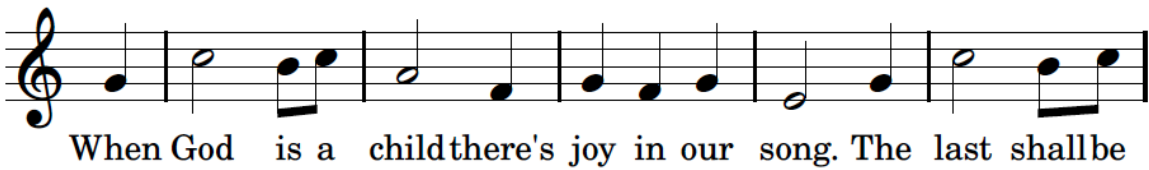
Though night still covers the earth
and darkness covers the nations,
over us will the Lord arise,
over us will the glory of God appear.

Pour down, O heavens, from above,
and let the skies rain down righteousness.

Lighting of Advent Candles ³



Refrain



Confession & Absolution ⁴

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

God of mercy,
we confess that we have sinned.
We trust earthly powers and human authority alone.
We grow fearful.
We cling to false comforts.

God of might,
we confess that we have sinned.
We have turned away from our neighbours.
We have trusted false promises.

God in our midst,
we confess that we have sinned.
We plead: come to us.
Bring your mercy to birth in us.

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 Collect ⁵

Let us pray.

Holy Thief,
you steal away our false securities and idle vanity.
Awaken us from the dull sleep
that clings to empty fear and vacant routine;
unfold on us the time of crisis
when love of truth floods a thirsty world;
through Jesus Christ, the one who is to come.
Amen.

Unfolding the Scriptures

1st Reading ⁶

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come
the mountain of the LORD's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.
Many peoples shall come and say,
'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.'
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,
and their spears into pruning-hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.
O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the LORD!

Isaiah 2. 1 – 5

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

I was glad when they said to me,
“Let us go to the house of the Lord.”
**Now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem.**

Jerusalem is built as a city that is at unity with itself.
To which the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord,
the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the Lord.
**For there are the thrones of judgement,
the thrones of the house of David.**

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
“May they prosper who love you.
**Peace be within your walls
and quietness within your towers.**

For my kindred and companions’ sake,
I pray for your prosperity.
**Because of the house of the Lord our God,
I will seek to do you good.”**

2nd Reading ⁸

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

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near.

Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy.

Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Romans 13. 11 – 14

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

The Gospel ⁹

The acclamation is sung

Pre - pare the way of the Lord, pre - pare the way of the Lord,
and all peo - ple will see the sal - va - tion of our God. Pre-

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 about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before

the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left.

“Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

Matthew 24.36 – 44

The Gospel of Christ.

♪ Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ. ♪

Homily

Affirmation of Faith ¹⁰

We say together in faith

**Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God almighty,
who was, and is, and is to come.**

We believe in God the Father, who created all things:
for by his will they were created and have their being.

We believe in God the Son, who was slain:
**for with his blood, he purchased us for God,
from every tribe and language, from every people and nation.**

We believe in God the Holy Spirit:

the Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come!'
Even so come, Lord Jesus! Amen.

The Prayers of the People

✠ God of grace,
✠ hear our prayer.

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

114

*Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending*¹¹

**Lo, he comes with clouds descending,
once for favoured sinners slain;
thousand thousand saints attending
swell the triumph of his train:
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!
God appears on earth to reign.**

Every eye shall now behold him,
robed in dreadful majesty;
all who set at nought and sold him,
pierced, and nailed him to the tree,
deeply grieving, deeply grieving, deeply grieving,
shall the true Messiah see.

Now redemption, long expected,
see in solemn pomp appear;
all his saints, on earth rejected,
thrill the triumph sound to hear:
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!
See the day of God appear!

Yea, amen, let all adore thee,
high on thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power and glory;
claim the kingdom for thine own:
O come quickly! O come quickly! O come quickly!
Hallelujah! Come, Lord, come!

Prayer over the Gifts ¹²

Nourishing God,
you are water in the wilderness
and streams in the desert.
Through this meal,
satisfy our parched places,
that we may rejoice
and be for the world signs of your kingdom come.
Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving ¹³

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, God our maker.
Out of nothing, you called all worlds to be,
and still you draw the universe to its fulfilment.
Dawn and evening celebrate your glory till time shall be no more.

In Christ your Son the life of heaven and earth were joined,
sealing the promise of a new creation, given, yet still to come.

Taught by your Spirit,
we who bear your threefold Likeness look for the City of Peace
in whose light we are transfigured and the earth transformed.

As children of your redeeming purpose
who await the coming of your Son,

we offer you our praise,
with angels and archangels and the whole company of heaven
singing the hymn of your unending glory:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
Lord God of power and might,
heav'n and earth are full,
full of your glor - ry.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na,
ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is the One who comes,
who comes in the name of the Lord.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na,
ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of power and might,
heav'n and earth are full, full of your glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the One who comes, who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Glory and thanksgiving be to you, most loving God.
Our hope is built on Jesus,
the first, the last, the living one.
Obedient, even to accepting death,
Jesus opened the gate of glory
and calls us now to share the life of heaven.

Before Jesus was given up to suffering and death,
alight with the vision of a feast that heralded a kingdom yet to come,
at supper with his disciples 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, he took the cup, he 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."

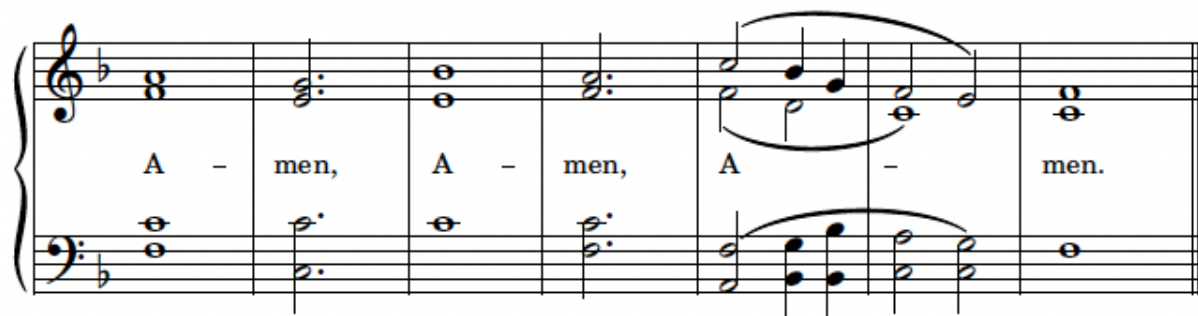
We now obey your Son's command.
We remember his death,
we proclaim his resurrection,
we await his coming in glory;

Made one with him,
we offer you these gifts and with them ourselves,

a single, holy, living sacrifice.
Hear us, most gracious God,
and send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and this wine,
that, overshadowed by his life-giving power,
they may be the Body and Blood of your Son,
and we may be kindled with the fire of your love
and renewed for the service of your reign.

Help us, who are baptised into the fellowship of Christ's Body
to live and work to your praise and glory;
may we grow together in unity and love until at last, in your new
creation,
we enter into our heritage in the company of the Virgin Mary,
the apostles, and prophets,
and of all our brothers and sisters living and departed.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be to you, Lord of all ages,



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 ¹⁴

God of promise,
you prepare a banquet for us in your reign of justice and peace.
Happy are those who are called to the Supper of the Lamb.

Communion ¹⁵

Here is life. God is with us. Come, receive what God has promised.
Thanks be to God!

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 ¹⁶:*

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.

O God, unseen yet ever near,
your presence may we feel;
and thus, inspired with holy fear,
around your table kneel.

Here may your faithful people know
the blessings of your love,
the streams that through the desert flow,
the manna from above.

We come, obedient to your word,
to feast on heavenly food;
to eat the body of the Lord,
and drink his precious Blood.

O living Bread, enduring Vine,
your words we shall obey,
and go, renewed with strength divine,
rejoicing on our way.

God our host,
at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness.
Send us forth,
eager to share the feast,
welcome the stranger,
and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.
Amen.

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.

Parish Announcements

Blessing

**God of grace and God of glory, on your people pour your power,
now fulfill your church's story; bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
for the facing of this hour, for the facing of this hour.**

**Lo, the hosts of evil round us scorn your Christ, assail his ways.
Fears and doubts too long have bound us;
free our hearts to work and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
for the living of these days, for the living of these days.**

**Cure your children's warring madness. Bend our pride to your control.
Shame our wanton selfish gladness, rich in goods and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
lest we miss your kingdom's goal, lest we miss your kingdom's goal.**

**Set our feet on lofty places, gird our lives that they may be
armoured with all Christ-like graces in the fight for liberty.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
lest we fail ourselves and thee, lest we fail ourselves and thee.**

Dismissal

**Go in peace. Keep awake.
Thanks be to God!**

Postlude

Announcing:

Christmas Luncheon & Carol Sing-a-long

The Nativity Ladies are having their annual Christmas luncheon on **Tuesday, December 16th** at 12 noon with a short service at 11:30 am for those interested.

The cost is \$20 for a catered lunch followed by a festive sing-a-long with Peter! Be sure to let Blanche or the office know if you will be attending by December 12th. As part of their outreach efforts, toys for children or gifts for teenagers will be accepted and donated to St. Matthew's House.

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. John the Evangelist, Hamilton.
For Anne, our Metropolitan Archbishop and Acting Primate;
For the worldwide Anglican Communion,
remembering the Episcopal Church of South Sudan;

For those in our parish cycle of prayer:

For Brad & Julie Ann; for Diane; for Adele;

For the needs of the world:

For peace:

For peace especially in Ukraine, South Sudan, Yemen, Gaza, Palestine, Israel, and all places of conflict

For those we know in need of healing:

For those who have died, and those who mourn:

For the repose of the soul of Albert Jones;

**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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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 this morning is a photo entitled “one candle” from user “Candy’s Cake Candles” on flickr. We use it through the CC BY 2.0 Generic license.

¹ Text: Philip Doddridge (1702 – 51), alt. Music: Thomas Ravenscroft (1590? – 1634?), *Whole Book of Psalmes*, 1621. Used under OneLicense A-604280.

² “Rorate cœli.” Introit for the Fourth Sunday of Advent from the *Graduale Romanum*. Based on Isaiah 45.8.

³ Text: Brian Wren, 1985. Music: Joan Collier Fogg, 1987. Text & music © 1989 Hope Publishing Co. Used under OneLicense A-604280.

⁴ *Sundays and Seasons*.

⁵ 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.

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⁷ *A Liturgical Psalter* (2016). General Synod from the Anglican Church of Canada.

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⁹ Acclamation Details: Text: Luke 3.4, 6; para. Taizé Community (France). Music: Jacques Verthier (1923 – 94). Para. and music © 1982, 1983, 1984, Les Presses de Taizé. Used under OneLicense A-604280.

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¹⁰ *Common Worship, The Church of England*. cf. *Revelation* 4.8, 11; 5.9; 22.17, 20.

¹¹ Text: John Cennick (1718 – 55), Charles Wesley (1707 – 88), Martin Madan (1726 – 90), alt. Music: Melody attrib. Thomas Olivers (1725 – 99) and Martin Madan (1726 – 90). Used under OneLicense A-604280.

¹² *Sundays and Seasons*.

¹³ *Eucharistic Prayer 2. The Scottish Liturgy*, 1982. *The Scottish Episcopal Church*.

¹⁴ *Book of Alternative Services*, alt.

¹⁵ *Sundays and Seasons*.

¹⁶ Selected from the prayers provided for this use in “A Celebration of the Holy Eucharist with Spiritual Communion,” Diocese of Niagara, 2020.

¹⁷ Text: Edward Osler (1798 – 1863); rev. *Hymns for Today’s Church*. © 1982 Hope Publishing. Music: John Day (1522 – 84), *Psalmes*, 1562. Used under OneLicense A-604280.

¹⁸ *Sundays and Seasons. An Order for Holy Communion*, Church in Wales.

¹⁹ Text: Harry Emerson Fosdick (1878 – 1969), alt. Music: John Hughes (1873 – 1932). ©. Used under OneLicense A-604280.