



# Church of the Nativity, Hamilton

## Holy Eucharist

Second Sunday of Advent

December 7<sup>th</sup>, 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*

# 103

*On Jordan's Bank, the Baptist's Cry* <sup>1</sup>

**On Jordan's bank, the Baptist's cry  
announces that the Lord is nigh;  
awake and hearken, for he brings  
glad tidings of the King of kings.**

**Then cleansed be every breast from sin;  
make straight the way for God within.  
Prepare we in our hearts a home,  
where such a mighty guest may come.**

For thou art our salvation, Lord,  
our refuge and our great reward;  
without thy grace we waste away,  
like flowers that wither and decay.

To heal the sick stretch out thine hand,  
and bid the fallen sinner stand;  
shine forth, and let thy light restore  
earth's own true loveliness once more.

All praise, eternal Son, to thee  
whose advent doth thy people free;  
whom with the Father we adore  
and Holy Ghost for evermore.

Greeting

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

Advent Responsory <sup>2</sup>

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 <sup>3</sup>



1. Hope is a star that shines in the night,  
2. Peace is a rib-bon that cir - cle the earth,



lead - ing us on till the morn-ing is bright.  
giv - ing a prom - ise of safe - ty and worth.

### *Refrain*



When God is a child there's joy in our song.



The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,



and none shall be a - fraid. \_\_\_\_\_

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.**

Let us pray.

God of the keen blade,  
which cuts the roots of arrogant power:  
you raise voices of promise in the dry lands of our desire,  
and children of faith from the stones of the earth.  
Make us ready to receive the Spirit and the fire of love,  
wild and fierce and free;  
through Jesus Christ, the one who is to come.  
**Amen.**

## Unfolding the Scriptures

1<sup>st</sup> Reading <sup>6</sup>

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.  
The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.  
His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide by what his ears hear;  
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;  
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,

and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.  
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,  
and a little child shall lead them.  
The cow and the bear shall graze,  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.  
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.  
They will not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain;  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD  
as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the  
nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

*Isaiah 11. 1 – 10*

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

Give the king your justice, O God,  
and your righteousness to the king's son;  
**that he may rule your people righteously  
and those living in poverty with justice;**

that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,  
and the little hills bring righteousness.

**He shall defend the needy among the people,  
rescuing the poor and crushing the oppressor.**

He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure,  
from one generation to another.

**He shall come down like rain upon the mown field,  
like showers that water the earth.**

In his time shall the righteous flourish;  
there shall be abundance of peace  
till the moon shall be no more.

**Blessed are you, Lord God, the God of Israel,  
for you alone do wondrous deeds!**

And blessed be your glorious name for ever  
and may all the earth be filled with your glory.

**Amen. Amen.**



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

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy.

As it is written,

‘Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,  
and sing praises to your name’;

and again he says,

‘Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people’;

and again,

‘Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,  
and let all the peoples praise him’;

and again Isaiah says,

‘The root of Jesse shall come,  
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;  
in him the Gentiles shall hope.’

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

*Romans 15. 4 – 13*

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

**Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel <sup>9</sup>

*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 Matthew.

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

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.'

This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

"Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight." '

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

'I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

*Matthew 3. 1 – 12*

The Gospel of Christ.

♪ Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ. ♪

Homily

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](mailto:donations.nativity@gmail.com)*

Offertory Hymn

# 106

*There's a Voice in the Wilderness* <sup>11</sup>

**There's a voice in the wilderness crying,  
a call from the ways untrod:  
prepare in the desert a highway,  
a highway for our God!  
The valleys shall be exalted,  
the lofty hills brought low;  
make straight all the crooked places,  
where the Lord our God may go!**

**O Zion, give voice to good tidings,  
ascend to the heights and sing!  
Proclaim to a desolate people  
the coming of their King.  
The works of pride all perish,  
like flowers they shall decay;  
the power and pomp of nations  
shall pass like a dream away.**

But your word, O God, is faithful,  
your arm, O Lord, is strong;  
you stand in the midst of nations,  
and you will right the wrong.  
You will feed your flock like a shepherd,  
and fold the lambs to your breast;  
in pastures of peace you'll lead them,  
and give to the weary rest.

There's a voice in the wilderness crying,  
a call from the ways untrod:  
prepare in the desert a highway,  
a highway for our God!  
The valleys shall be exalted,  
the lofty hills brought low;  
make straight all the crooked places,  
where the Lord our God may go!

Prayer over the Gifts <sup>12</sup>

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.**

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.

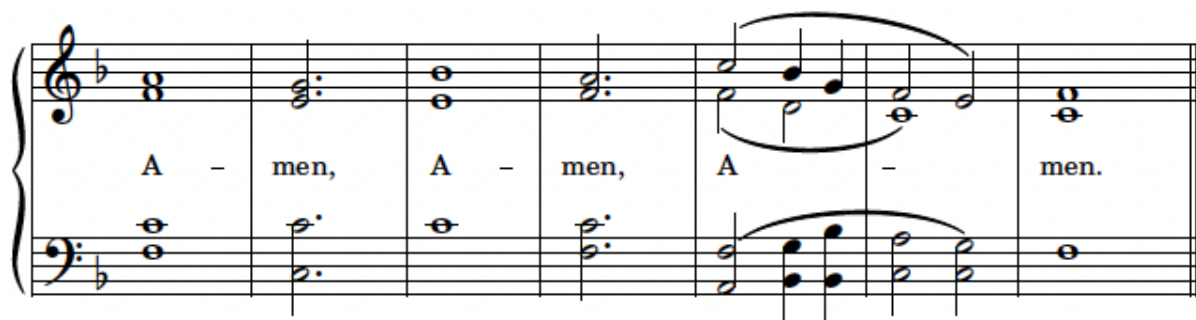
Help us, who are baptised into the fellowship of Christ's Body  
to live and work to your praise and glory;

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 <sup>14</sup>

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 <sup>15</sup>

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 <sup>16</sup>:*

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.

*"Your Kingdom Come" – On Bended Knee* <sup>17</sup>

**"Your kingdom come" – on bended knee  
the passing ages pray;  
and faithful souls have yearned to see  
on earth that kingdom's day.**

**But the slow watches of the night  
not less to God belong,  
and for the everlasting right  
the silent stars are strong.**

**And lo, already on the hills  
the flags of dawn appear.  
Gird up your loins, ye prophet souls,  
proclaim the day is near:**

**the day in whose clear-shining light  
all wrong shall stand revealed,  
when justice shall be throned with might,  
and every heart be healed:**

**when knowledge, hand in hand with peace,  
shall walk the earth abroad --  
the day of perfect righteousness,  
the promised day of God.**

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

*Herald! Sound the Note of Judgement* <sup>19</sup>

**Herald! Sound the note of judgment,  
warning note of right and wrong,  
turning us from sin and sadness  
till once more we sing the song.**

*Refrain*

**Sound the trumpet! Tell the message!  
Christ the Saviour King, has come!**

**Herald! Sound the note of gladness!  
Tell the news that Christ is here;  
make a pathway through the desert  
for the one who brings God near. *Refrain***

**Herald! Sound the note of pardon!  
Those repenting are forgiven;  
God restores the wayward children,  
and to all new life is given. *Refrain***

**Herald! Sound the note of triumph!  
Christ has come to share our life,  
bringing God's own love and power,  
granting victory in our strife. *Refrain***

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 16<sup>th</sup>** 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 12<sup>th</sup>. 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. Michael in Hamilton.  
For Anne, our Metropolitan Archbishop and Acting Primate;  
For the worldwide Anglican Communion,  
remembering the Church of Bangladesh;

## ***For those in our parish cycle of prayer:***

For Randy, Kelly, Rachel & Andrew; for Jen; for Mary & Bill.

## ***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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*Parish Administrator*

Mrs. Jan Collinson  
Mr. David Eccles  
Ms. Gayle MacDonald  
Mr. Derek Smith

*Wardens*

## Sources

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<sup>1</sup> Text: Charles Coffin (1676 – 1749); tr. John Chandler (1806 – 76), alt. Music: Melody *Musicalisches Hand-Buch*, Hamburg, 1690; harm. William Henry Monk (1823 – 89), alt. Used under OneLicense A-604280.

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

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

<sup>4</sup> *Sundays and Seasons*.

<sup>5</sup> 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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<sup>7</sup> *A Liturgical Psalter* (2016). General Synod from the Anglican Church of Canada.

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

<sup>11</sup> Text: Isaiah 40. 3 – 11; para. James Lewis Milligan (1876 – 1961), alt. Music: Henry Hugh Bancroft (1904 – 88). © Estate of Henry Hugh Bancroft. Used under OneLicense A-604280.

<sup>12</sup> *Sundays and Seasons.*

<sup>13</sup> *Eucharistic Prayer 2. The Scottish Liturgy, 1982. The Scottish Episcopal Church.*

<sup>14</sup> *Book of Alternative Services, alt.*

<sup>15</sup> *Sundays and Seasons.*

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

<sup>17</sup> Text: Frederick Lucian Hosmer (1840 – 1929), alt. Music: *Hymns and Sacred Poems*, Dublin, 1749. Used under OneLicense A-604280.

<sup>18</sup> *Sundays and Seasons. An Order for Holy Communion*, Church in Wales.

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