



Church of the Nativity, Hamilton
Holy Eucharist
Christmas Eve

December 24th, 2025 at 4 pm



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 live-streaming of the service.

This service is designed for all to enter the Christmas story.

Children and young people
are the **"sacrament that won't sit still."**

Please know that **ALL** are welcome to participate
in **whatever ways** work best for each person.

It truly is okay to move about and make noise
and be the people we are!

All who seek Christ in their lives are welcome
to the bread and wine that we share at this table.

Everything you need to take part in the service
is found in this leaflet.

A very holy and happy Christmas
to you and all in your heart!

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

Territorial Acknowledgment

Opening Carol

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*¹

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem:
come and behold him, born the King of Angels;**

Refrain

**O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.**

**God of God, Light of Light,
lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
very God, begotten, not created:**

Refrain

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God, glory in the highest:**

Refrain

**See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps;**

Refrain

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.

Lighting the Christ Candle

Opening Acclamation

Son of God, child of Mary,
born in the stable at Bethlehem,
be born again in us this day
that through our lives and worship
the world may know the wonder of your love.
Amen.

The Collect of the Day ³

Let us pray.

God of rough hands and hardened feet,
giving light to the children of earth
in agony of birth and gentleness of newborn skin,
may we discover your ordinary beauty in the heart of our longing world;
through Jesus Christ, the Icon of the Unseen God,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

Hearing of God Coming into the World

*The prophet Isaiah tells the people of Israel
of God's promise of a saviour. ⁴*

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. God will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Isaiah 9. 2, 6 – 7

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

We remain seated and sing Once in Royal David's City ⁵

**Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed.
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.**

**He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall.
With the poor and mean and lowly lived on earth our Saviour holy.**

**And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love,
for that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above;
Jesus leads his children on to the place where he is gone.**

The promise is kept: Saint Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.⁶

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Luke 2. 1 – 7

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

We remain seated and sing:⁷

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright

Round yon virgin mother and child.

Holy Infant, so tender and mild,

sleep in heavenly peace. Sleep in heavenly peace.

Shepherds come to adore the new baby in the manger.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.'

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

'Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom God favours!'

Luke 2. 8 – 14

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

We remain seated and sing ⁸

**Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight,
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Saviour, is born! Christ, the Saviour, is born!**

The shepherds find everything as God had promised.

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Luke 2. 15 – 20

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

We remain seated and sing

**Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at thy birth. Jesus, Lord at thy birth.**

The Nativity Scene is Set

Let us affirm the faith we share.

We believe in God.

**We believe in God,
from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in Jesus,
the Son of God and son of Mary,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
fills us with love,
and teaches us how to live.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit who guides us,
who helps us to love,
who makes us holy,
who leads us to know God better,
and who strengthens us with power from on high.**

**We believe that our faith in God
asks us to live for justice, peace, and unity
with all our fellow people,
and that God gives us the grace to live this way.**

The Prayers of the People

✠ God of grace,
✠ receive our prayer.

My friends in Christ, God loves without limits.
God invites and welcomes everyone to this table.

Let us trust in God, and ask God to forgive us for all the ways
that we have not loved as God loves us.

Gracious God,
out of love for you,
I am sorry for all the ways
that I have fallen short of sharing your love with others,
and all the ways that my choices
have caused hurt and pain.
I leave those ways behind.

Help me to turn again to you,
to walk in your ways,
and to share your love which we meet in Jesus the Christ.
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 Carol

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing ¹¹

**Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King,
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."**

**Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord;
late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail, the incarnate Deity,
pleased as one of us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."**

**Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings,
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."**

Prayer over the Gifts ¹²

God of glory,
great are your wonders among us
and many are the blessings you bestow.
Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world,
that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace,
through Christ our Saviour.
Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving ¹³

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 give you praise and thanksgiving Lord our God,
because on this holy night
you lit up the darkened skies with stars and angels.
You filled the silence of the nighttime with songs and shouts of joy.
You called shepherds to leave their flocks
and Magi to leave their country,
to glimpse your face through Jesus,
a tiny baby born to Mary and Joseph,
wrapped in swaddling clothes and laying in a manger.
Joining with those angels, we sing together:



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

Walking among us,
as God had promised through the prophets and stories of old,
the child Jesus would grow up:
 a baby, seeking refuge in another land;
 a child, found by his parents teaching in the temple;
 and calling friends, disciples like us, to follow him;
to share your love with the world,
even when the cost of loving us
 would lead him to death upon the cross.

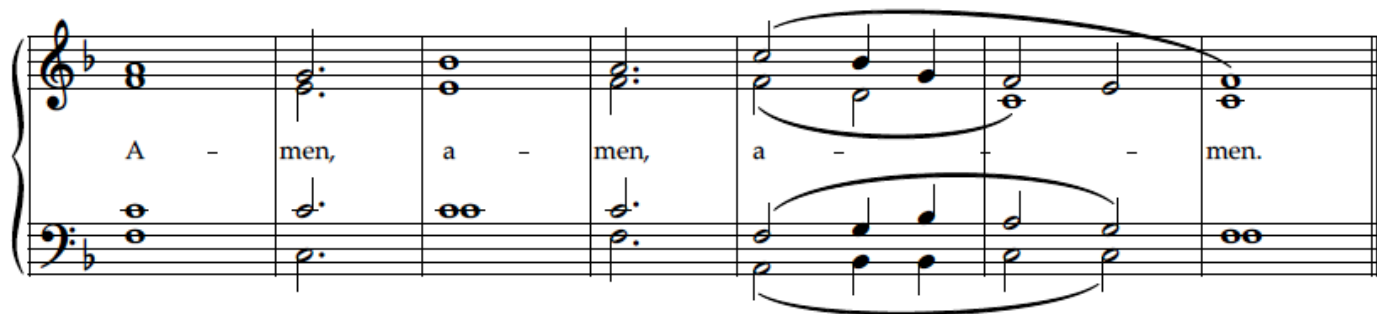
The night before he died,
he gathered his friends together
to remind them how much he loved them.
He took bread, blessed it, gave it to his friends and said:
 ‘This is my body; take it and share it to remember me.’

Then he took wine, blessed it, gave it to his friends and said:
 ‘This is my blood; take it and share it to remember me.’

As we share this bread and wine,
send your Holy Spirit to us,
so that we might live our lives with the joy of the angels,
the faithfulness of the Magi,
the excitement of the shepherds
and the love of Mary and Joseph,
carrying always in our hearts the peace of the Christ child.

We praise you, O God, through Jesus the Christ,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God forever and ever.



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

We break the bread of life,
and that life is the light of the world.
**God here among us, light in the midst of us,
bring us to light and life.**

Communion ¹⁵

God is now in flesh appearing. Come to the feast of joy!
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.

What Child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping?

Refrain: This, this is Christ, the king,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the Babe, the son of Mary!

Why lies he in such mean estate,
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading. *Refrain...*

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
come, peasant, king to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him. *Refrain...*

Incarnate God, you are among us at this table.
May we treasure this gift
and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence.
Move us to discover the wonders of your love
in the everyday moments of our lives,
through Christ born in us.
Amen.

Glory to God,
whose power, working in us,
can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.
Glory to God from generation to generation,
in the Church and in Christ Jesus,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

Blessing

May we who have been touched by the Word made flesh
be his body for the world,
his hands to bring blessing,
his senses to glory,
in the promise of creation restored;
✠ and the blessing of God,
Source of all being, eternal Word, and Holy Spirit,
be with you this night and evermore.
Amen.

**Joy to the world! the Lord is come:
let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

**Joy to the world! the Saviour reigns;
let us our songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness,
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.**

Dismissal

**Glory to God in the highest!
And peace to God's people on earth!**

**Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.
Thanks be to God.**



The Church of the Nativity

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Wardens

Sources

¹ Text: st. 1, 2, 3, 5: John Francis Wade (1711 – 86); st. 4 Étienne-Jean-François Borderies, 1822; st. 5a *Thesaurus Animae Christianae*, 1850?; st. 1,2,3,5 tr. Frederick Oakley (1802 – 80), st. 4 & 5a tr. William T. Brooke (1848 – 1917). Music: Melody attrib. John Francis Wade (1711 – 86). 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 Text: Cecil Frances Alexander (1818 – 95), alt. Music: Henry John Gauntlett (1805 – 76). Used under OneLicense A-604280.

⁶ See endnote #4.

⁷ Text: Joseph Mohr (1792 – 1848); tr. John Freeman Young (1820 – 85). Music: Melody Franz Xavier Gruber (1787 – 1863), alt.; harm. Carl H. Reinecke (1824 – 1910). Used under OneLicense A-604280.

⁸ See endnote #7.

⁹ *Common Worship*, 2000. The Church of England. Creeds and Authorized Expressions of Faith. E12 (cf. Ephesians 3).

¹⁰ Invitation & Confession: Church of Wales *An Order for the Holy Eucharist* 2004. Absolution: *Book of Alternative Services*. Confession: *Sundays and Seasons*.

¹¹ Text: Charles Wesley (1701 – 88), alt. Music: Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy (1809 – 47); adapt. William Hayman Cummings (1831 – 1915). Used under OneLicense A-604280.

¹² *Sundays and Seasons*.

¹³ *Eucharistic Prayers for Children's Services*, as authorized in the Diocese of Niagara (2025). Prayer 5, prepared by the Reverend Canon Mike Deed.

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: William Chatterton Dix (1837 –98). Music: Melody English trad.; arr. *Christmas Carols New and Old*, 1871, alt. Used under OneLicense A-604280.

¹⁸ *The Book of Alternative Services*.

¹⁹ Text: Isaac Watts (1674 – 1748). Music: Georg Frederic Handel (1685 – 1759); adapt. William Holford, *Voce de Melodia*, 1835. Used under OneLicense A-604280.