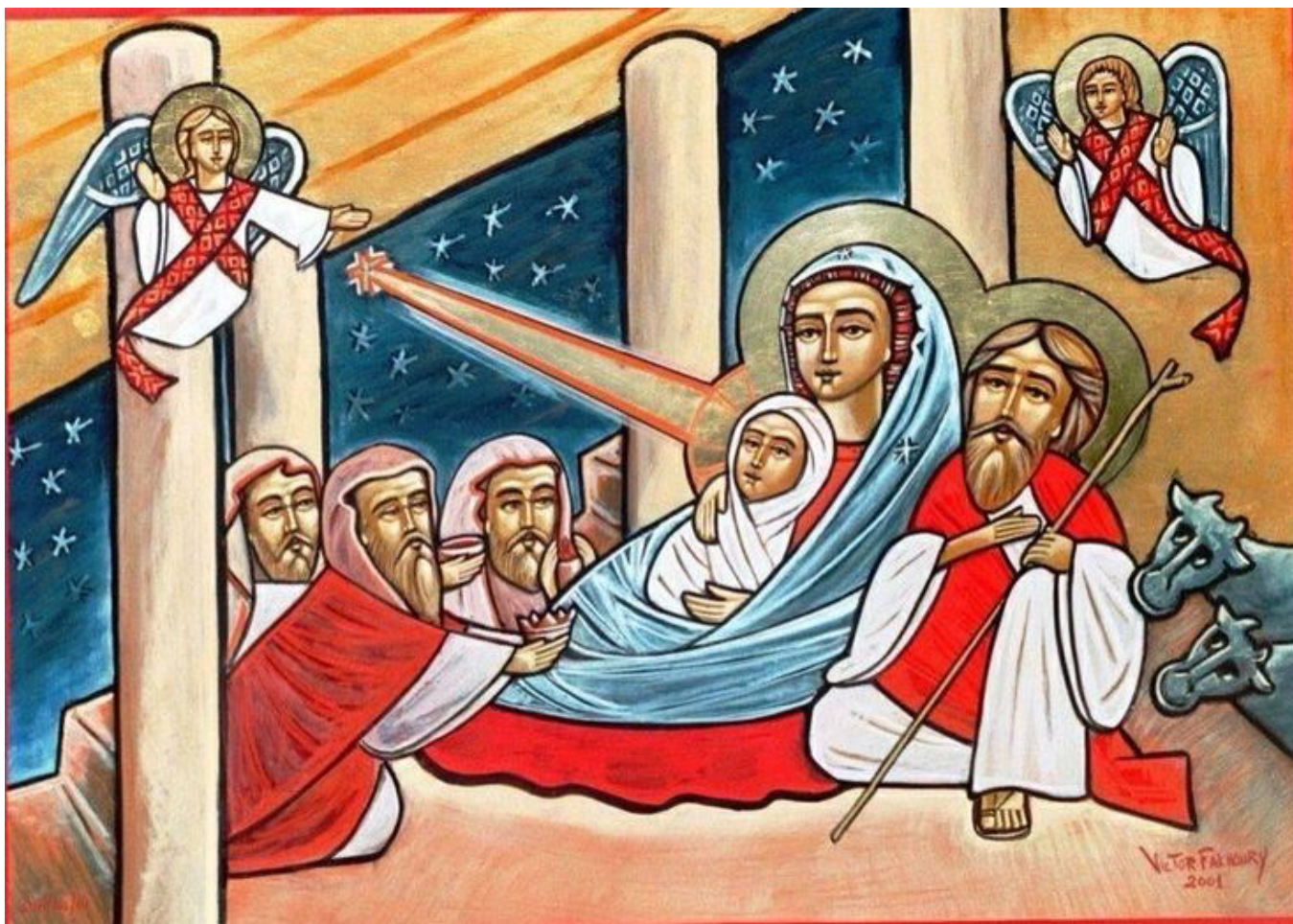




**Church of the Nativity, Hamilton**  
**Holy Eucharist**  
**Christmas Eve**

December 24<sup>th</sup> at 8 <sup>PM</sup>



**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

Opening Carol

*O Come, All Ye Faithful* <sup>1</sup>

**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 <sup>2</sup>

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.**

Opening Acclamation <sup>3</sup>

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.**

## Lighting the Christ Candle <sup>4</sup>



1. Hope is a star that shines in the night,  
2. Peace is a rib - bon that cir - cles the earth,  
3. Joy is a song that wel - comes the dawn,  
4. Love is a flame that burns in our heart.



lead - ing us on till the morn - ing is bright.  
giv - ing a prom - ise of safe - ty and worth.  
tell - ing the world that the Sav - iour is born.  
Je - sus has come and will nev - er de - part.

### *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 pray.

God of David's fragile house of hope and expectation:  
in the time of empires,  
your word is born to those who have no place  
and sung to those who watch in the wild;  
may his birth unsettle our world  
with hidden glory and untold peace;  
through Jesus Christ, the Child of Promise,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

## Unfolding the Scriptures

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

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

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.  
You have multiplied the nation,  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.

For the yoke of their burden,  
and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.  
For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
and all the garments rolled in blood  
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

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.  
He 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 – 7*

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

Sing to the Lord a new song;  
sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.

**Sing to the Lord and bless the divine name;  
proclaim the good news of our salvation from day to day.**

Declare the glory of the Lord among the nations  
and the wonders of God among all peoples.

**For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised,  
more to be feared than all gods.**

As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;  
but it is you, O Lord, who made the heavens.

**Oh, the majesty and magnificence of your presence!  
Oh, the power and the splendour of your sanctuary!**

Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples;  
ascribe to the Lord honour and power.

**Ascribe to the Lord the honour due the divine name;  
bring offerings and come into the courts of the Lord.**

Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;  
let the whole earth tremble before God.

**Tell it out among the nations: "The Lord reigns!"**

The Lord who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the peoples with equity."

**Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;  
let the sea thunder and all that is in it;  
let the field be joyful and all that is therein.**

Then shall all the trees of the wood  
shout for joy before the Lord who is coming,  
who is coming to judge the earth.  
**The Lord will judge the world with righteousness  
and the peoples with truth.**

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading <sup>8</sup>

A reading from the letter to Titus.

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

*Titus 2. 11 – 14*

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





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.** ♪

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.

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 he favours!’

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. 1 – 20*

The Gospel of Christ.

♪ Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ. ♪

Homily

Let us join together  
in affirming the Church's faith in Jesus Christ.

We believe and declare  
**that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God,  
is both divine and human.**

God, of the being of the Father,  
the only Son from before time began;  
human from the being of his mother, born in the world;  
**fully God and fully human;  
human in both mind and body.**

As God he is equal to the Father,  
as human he is less than the Father.  
**Although he is both divine and human  
he is not two beings but one Christ.**

One, not by turning God into flesh,  
but by taking humanity into God;  
**truly one, not by mixing humanity with Godhead,  
but by being one person.**

For as mind and body form one human being  
so the one Christ is both divine and human.  
**The Word became flesh and lived among us;  
we have seen his glory,  
the glory of the only Son from the Father,  
full of grace and truth.**

## The Prayers of the People

✠ Hear us, O God.

✠ Your mercy is great.

## Confession & Absolution <sup>11</sup>

Trusting in God's steadfast love and faithfulness,  
let us confess our sin.

Reconciling God,  
we yearn for your presence to transform  
our grief, pain, and despair.  
We confess that we have not always prepared  
room in our hearts for your love;  
we have not always recognized  
your presence among us;  
we have not always embraced your message of peace.

We cry out, weary with the burden of violence,  
oppression, and fear.  
We confess our failure to make room  
for those seeking refuge;  
our participation in violent systems  
that harm your innocent ones;  
our reluctance to embody your good news.

Be born in us today  
and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation.  
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

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given,  
and his name shall be called the Prince of 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](mailto:donations.nativity@gmail.com)*

Offertory Carol

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* <sup>12</sup>

**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 <sup>13</sup>

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 <sup>14</sup>

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, Holy God,  
in every place and at all times.  
You made us, all the people of the world,  
and everything that is.  
You give us the daylight.  
Your Word lights up our minds.  
Jesus was born among us to be light in our darkness.  
Your Spirit lives in us  
so that we can look at the world with your eyes.

One day we will be with you in heaven,  
but already we laugh with the saints and angels,  
and sing their joyful song:



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. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

Gracious God,  
you never forget us or turn away from us,  
even when we fail you.  
You sent your Son Jesus who gave his life for us.  
Jesus healed those who were sick,  
cared for those who lived in poverty,  
and cried with those who were sad.  
He forgave sinners and taught us to forgive.



For all your love  
we give you thanks in the way that Jesus showed us.

On the night before Jesus died,  
while he was having supper with his friends,  
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, Jesus took the cup, 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.”

So, as we do what Jesus told us,  
we open our hearts to him;  
**we remember how he died  
and rose again to live now in us.**

Together with Jesus we offer you these gifts:  
**in them we give you ourselves.**

Send your Holy Spirit on us  
and on this bread and this wine,  
that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ,  
and that, sharing your life,  
we may travel in your company to our journey's end. With all your  
people we give you thanks and praise  
through the Son and in the Spirit,  
now and for 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 <sup>15</sup>

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 <sup>16</sup>

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.

O little town of Bethlehem how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;  
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary; and, gathered all above  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the King, and Peace to all the earth.

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given  
as love imparts to human hearts the blessings of God's heaven!  
No ear may hear his coming; but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin and enter in; be born to us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

'Twas in the moon of wintertime, when all the birds had fled,  
that mighty Gitchi Manitou sent angel choirs instead;  
before their light the stars grew dim,  
and wandering hunters heard the hymn:  
Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born, *in excelsis gloria*.

Within a lodge of broken bark the tender Babe was found;  
a ragged robe of rabbit skin enwrapped his beauty round,  
but, as the hunter braves drew nigh,  
the angel song rang loud and high:  
Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born, *in excelsis gloria*.

The earliest moon of wintertime is not so round and fair  
as was the ring of glory on the helpless infant there.  
The chiefs from far before him knelt  
with gifts of fox and beaver pelt.  
Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born, *in excelsis gloria*.

O children of the forest free, the kin of Manitou,  
the holy child of earth and heaven is born today for you.  
Come kneel before the radiant boy,  
who brings you beauty, peace and joy.  
Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born, *in excelsis gloria*.

A Musical Offering

*"Pretty Paper"*

composed by Willie Nelson  
performed by Mr. Derek Smith, O.N.

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

**Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
you who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:  
come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn king.**

**Shepherds, in the field abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing; yonder shines the infant Light:  
come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn king.**

**Sages, leave your contemplations; brighter visions beam afar;  
seek the great desire of nations; you have seen his natal star:  
come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn king.**

**Saints, before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear,  
suddenly the Lord, descending, in his temple shall appear:  
come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn king.**

**Though an infant now we view him, he shall fill the eternal throne,  
gather all the nations to him; every knee shall then bow down:  
come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn king.**

Dismissal

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

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



**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.**

**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.**

**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.**

Postlude



# The Church of the Nativity

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Mrs. Jan Collinson

Mr. David Eccles

Ms. Gayle MacDonald

Mr. Derek Smith

*Wardens*

## Sources

Our cover image this morning is a Coptic icon of the Nativity.

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<sup>1</sup> 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).

<sup>2</sup> *Book of Alternative Services*.

<sup>3</sup> *A New Zealand Prayer Book*.

<sup>4</sup> Text: Brian Wren, 1985. Music: Joan Collier Fogg, 1987. Text & music © 1989 Hope Publishing Co. Used under OneLicense A-604280.

<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.

<sup>6</sup> 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>

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

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<sup>9</sup> Gospel Acclamation: Gloria, Gloria in Excelsis Deo. Text: Luke 2.14a; 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.

<sup>10</sup> *Common Worship*, The Church of England. E7. *From the Athanasian Creed*.

<sup>11</sup> Introduction & Confession: *Sundays and Seasons*. Absolution: BAS, alt.

<sup>12</sup> Text: Charles Wesley (1701 – 88), alt. Music: Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy (1809 – 47); adapt. William Hayman Cummings (1831 – 1915).

<sup>13</sup> *Sundays and Seasons*.

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<sup>14</sup> Eucharistic Prayer 3. *The Scottish Liturgy*, 1982. The Scottish Episcopal Church.

<sup>15</sup> *Book of Alternative Services*, alt.

<sup>16</sup> *Sundays and Seasons*.

<sup>17</sup> Selected from the prayers provided for this use in “A Celebration of the Holy Eucharist with Spiritual Communion,” Diocese of Niagara, 2020.

<sup>18</sup> Text: Phillips Brooks (1835 – 93), alt. Music: Lewis Henry Redner (1831 – 1908). Used under OneLicense A-604280.

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<sup>20</sup> *The Book of Alternative Services*.

<sup>21</sup> Text: James Montgomery (1771 – 1854), alt. Music: Henry Thoas Smart (1813 – 79); desc. Craig Sellar Lang (1891 – 1971). Desc. © 1953 Novello & Co. Used under OneLicense A-604280.

<sup>22</sup> 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).