

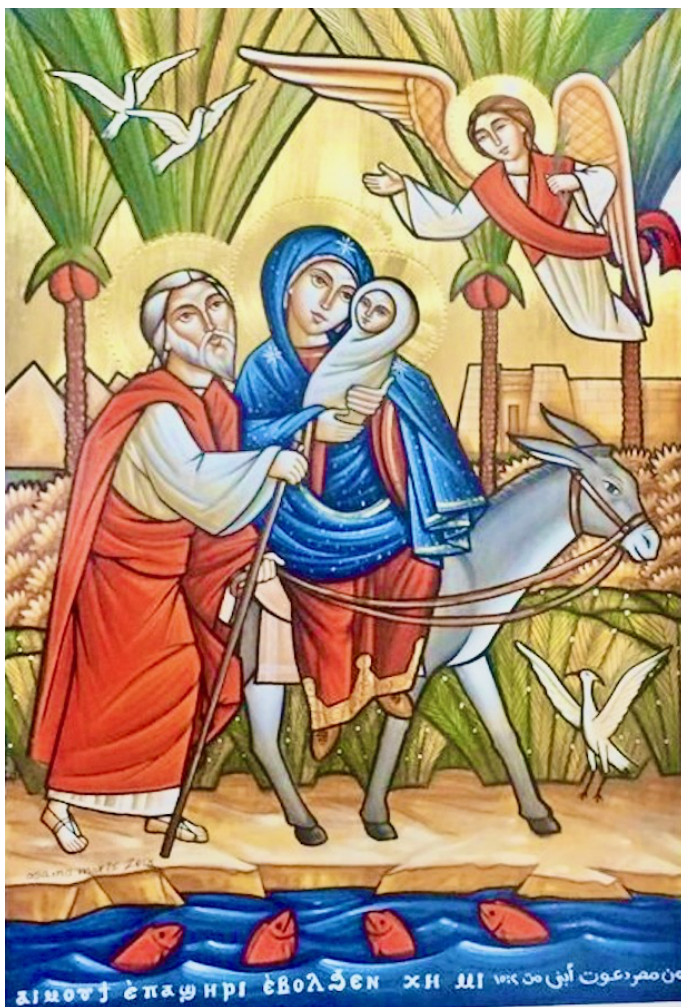


Church of the Nativity, Hamilton

Holy Eucharist

First Sunday after Christmas

December 28th, 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

Opening Carol

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*¹

**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.

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.

Opening Acclamation ³

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.

Let us pray.

God of the refugees,
sharing the exile road
with all who flee the violence that enslaves and kills:
as your Son sought asylum in a foreign land
make us ready to welcome the refugee
and receive from her a new language of life and hope;
through Jesus Christ, Rachel's child.
Amen.

Unfolding the Scriptures

1st Reading ⁵

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

I will recount the gracious deeds of the LORD,
the praiseworthy acts of the LORD,
because of all that the LORD has done for us,
and the great favor to the house of Israel
that he has shown them according to his mercy,
according to the abundance of his steadfast love.

For he said,

“Surely they are my people,
children who will not deal falsely”;

and he became their saviour in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

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

Psalm 148

Laudate Dominum ⁶

Alleluia! Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise God in the heights.
**Praise the Lord all you angels;
sing praises, all you heavenly host.**

Praise the Lord, sun and moon;
sing praises, all you shining stars.
**Praise the Lord, heaven of heavens,
sing praises, you waters above the heavens.**

Let them praise the name of the Lord;
who gave the command and they were created,
**who made them stand fast for ever and ever,
who gave them a law which shall not pass away.**

Praise the Lord from the earth,
you sea-monsters and all deeps;
**fire and hail, snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, doing God's will;**

mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;
wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and wingèd birds;
**sovereigns of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the world;**

young men and young women,
old and young together.

**Let them praise the name of the Lord,
whose name only is exalted,
whose splendour is over earth and heaven.**

The Lord has raised up strength for this people
and praise for all loyal servants,
the children of Israel, a people who are near to the Lord.
Alleluia!

2nd Reading ⁷

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying,

“I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters,
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.”

And again,

“I will put my trust in him.”

And again,

“Here am I and the children whom God has given me.”

Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy

the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham.

Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Hebrews 2. 10 – 18

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel ⁸



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.** ♪

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by

night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.”

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

“A voice was heard in Ramah,
wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.”

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.” Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, “He will be called a Nazorean.”

Matthew 2. 13 – 23

The Gospel of Christ.

♪ Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ. ♪

Instead of a Homily

at 8:30

a Christmas Story

at 10:00

Christmas Carol-palooza

Affirmation of Faith ⁹

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 ¹⁰

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

Offertory Hymn

to be determined...

Prayer over the Gifts ¹¹

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 ¹²

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 glory. 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.

The musical score is written on four staves in a single system. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff ends with a double bar line. The second staff continues the melody. The third staff continues the melody. The fourth staff ends with a double bar line.

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.”

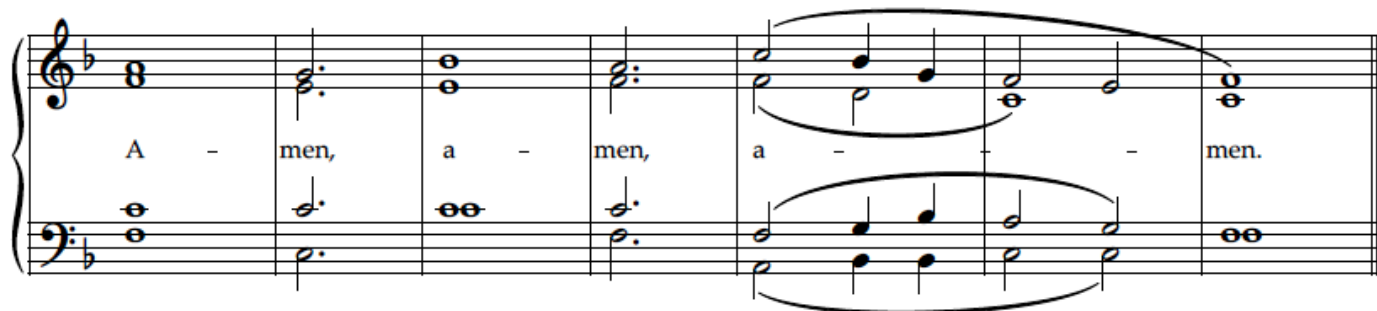
After supper, Jesus took the cup, offered you thanks,
and gave it to them saying:
“Drink this, all of you.
This is my Blood of the new covenant;
it is poured out for you, and for all,
that sins may be forgiven.
Do this in remembrance of me.”

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 ¹³

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 ¹⁴

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.

Communion Carol

It's up to the organist...

Prayer after Communion ¹⁶

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.

Doxology ¹⁷

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

Closing Carol

Who can say how the Spirit will move us to pick?

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!

Postlude

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 Christ Church, in Woodburn.
For Anne, our Metropolitan Archbishop,
and for Shane, our Primate;
For the worldwide Anglican Communion,
and especially us – the Anglican Church of Canada;

For those in our parish cycle of prayer:

For Marion; for Marjorie; for Vanessa, Brian & Owen;

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:

**Thank you for your daily prayers for the people, worship,
fellowship, and ministries of the Church of the Nativity**



The Church of the Nativity

worshipwithnativity.org



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1831 King St. East
Hamilton, ON L8K 1V8



(905) 549-4335



admin@worshipwithnativity.org

The Right Reverend Susan Bell

Bishop of Niagara

The Reverend Canon Matthew Griffin

Rector

The Reverend Canon David Linn

Honorary Assistant

The Reverend Deacon Larry Collinson

Parish Deacon

Mr. Peter Harding

Director of Music

Mrs. Laura Brintnell

Parish Administrator

Mrs. Jan Collinson

Mr. David Eccles

Ms. Gayle MacDonald

Mr. Derek Smith

Wardens

Sources

Our cover image is a Coptic icon of the Flight into Egypt, written by iconographer Osama Moris.

¹ Text: Phillips Brooks (1835 – 93), alt. Music: Who can say? The organist likes St. Louis; the rector likes Forest Green. Maybe it'll be to Henry Mancini's *Pink Panther Theme!* Whichever way we end up singing it, we do so under OneLicense A-604280.

² *Book of Alternative Services*.

³ *A New Zealand Prayer Book*.

⁴ 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.

⁵ 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>

⁶ *A Liturgical Psalter* (2016). General Synod from the Anglican Church of Canada.

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⁸ 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, see endnote 4.

⁹ *Common Worship*, The Church of England. E7. *From the Athanasian Creed*.

¹⁰ Introduction & Confession: *Sundays and Seasons*. Absolution: BAS, alt.

¹¹ *Book of Alternative Services*, 423.

¹² Preface: *Book of Alternative Services*, 221. Canon: *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, Prayer IV.

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 *Sundays and Seasons*.

¹⁷ *Book of Alternative Services*.