



Church of the Nativity, Hamilton

Holy Eucharist

4th Sunday after the Epiphany

February 1st, 2026



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 Hymn # 350

*Stand Up and Bless the Lord*¹

**Stand up and bless the Lord,
you people of God's choice;
stand up and bless the Lord of hosts
with heart and soul and voice.**

**Though high above all praise,
above all blessing high,
who would not fear God's holy name,
and laud and magnify!**

**O for the living flame
from God's own altar brought,
to touch our lips, our minds inspire,
and wing to heaven our thought!**

**God is our strength and song,
who makes salvation ours;
then be God's love in Christ proclaimed
with all our ransomed powers.**

**Stand up and bless the Lord;
the Lord your God adore;
stand up and bless the glorious name
henceforth for evermore.**

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

Perfect Light of revelation,
as you shone in the life of Jesus,
so shine in us and through us,
that we may become beacons of truth and compassion,
enlightening all creation with deeds of justice and mercy.

The Collect of the Day ³

Let us pray.

God of the prophets
you shame the strong through the weakness of love
and turn upside down the wisdom of the world:
may your blessing dwell with the poor and hungry,
the grieving and abused;
may your peaceful revolution be our joy and our reward;
through Jesus Christ, the power of God.

Amen.

Unfolding the Scriptures

1st Reading ⁴

A reading from the prophet Micah.

Hear what the LORD says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD,
and you enduring foundations of the earth;
for the LORD has a controversy with his people,
and he will contend with Israel.

‘O my people, what have I done to you?

In what have I wearied you? Answer me!
For I brought you up from the land of Egypt,
and redeemed you from the house of slavery;
and I sent before you Moses,
Aaron, and Miriam.

O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.’

‘With what shall I come before the LORD,
and bow myself before God on high?

Shall I come before him with burnt-offerings,
with calves a year old?

Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
with tens of thousands of rivers of oil?

Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,

the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?'
He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

Micah 6. 1 – 8

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 15

Domine, quis habitabit ⁵

Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle?
Who may abide upon your holy hill?
**Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right,
who speak the truth from their heart.**

There is no guile upon their tongue;
they do no evil to a friend;
they do not heap contempt upon a neighbour.
**In their sight the wicked are rejected,
but they honour those who fear the Lord.**

They have sworn to do no wrong
and do not take back their word.
**They do not give their money in hope of gain,
nor do they take a bribe against the innocent.**
Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

A reading from Paul's letter to the followers of Jesus in Corinth.

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning
I will thwart.'

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, 'Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.'

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel ⁷



Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry in the high-est!
Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!

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. ♪

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

‘Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

‘Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

‘Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

‘Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

‘Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

‘Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

‘Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

‘Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

‘Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Matthew 5. 1 – 12

The Gospel of Christ.

♪ Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ. ♪

Homily

Y Merciful God,
R receive our prayer.

Confession and Absolution ⁸

Dear friends in Christ,

God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy:
welcoming sinners and inviting them to this table.

Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we have sinned against you

**in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.**

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

**For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us,
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your name. 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 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 Song

Christ, Be Our Light ⁹

**Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
Light for the world to see.**

Refrain:

**Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts, shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church, gathered today.**

**Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us.
Make us your living voice. Refrain...**

**Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
Shared until all are fed. Refrain...**

**Longing for shelter, many are homeless,
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering other,
walls made of living stone.** *Refrain...*

**Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come.** *Refrain...*

Prayer over the Gifts ¹⁰

God of majesty,
no eye has seen, no ear has heard
what you have prepared for those who love you,
yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy.
Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God come near,
Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.
Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving ¹¹

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.

Blessed are you, Lord God,
 for you have been everything you call us to be.
 You have been pure in heart,
 for you called Israel to be your people
 in whom all would find a blessing.
 You have been merciful,
 for in your tender mercy you made the dawn from on high
 to break upon your people,
 to guide us in the ways of peace.
 You have been a peacemaker,
 for in Jesus you broke down the dividing wall of hostility.
 And so we gladly thank you,
 with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven,
 singing the hymn of you unending praise.



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.

God our companion,
in Jesus you comfort those who mourn
and replenish those who hunger and thirst.

Fill your people now, by the power of your Holy Spirit,
that your children may be sanctified by your grace,
and these gifts of bread and wine may be for us
the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ;

who, at supper with his disciples,
took bread, gave you thanks,
broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying,
“Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.”

After supper he took the cup.
Again he gave you thanks,
and gave it to his disciples, saying,
“Drink this, all of you:
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

Great is the mystery of faith.
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

God of glory, you promise that the meek will inherit the earth,
 and that to the poor in spirit belongs the kingdom of heaven.
 Visit now those who are persecuted for your righteousness
 and reviled on account of your name.
 Shape your church to reflect the image of those you call blessed,
 and lead all whom you call blessed to find a home in your church,
 that the church may be full of your prophets,
 and your prophets may be full of your grace,
 until all tongues cease and tears are shed no more,
 in the presence and communion of you, O Holy Trinity,
 Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, ever one God.



A - men,
 a - men,
 a - men.

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 ¹²

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**We, being many, are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.**

Communion ¹³

Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!
Come to the table; taste and see.
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.

*Blest Are the Pure in Heart*¹⁵

**Blest are the pure in heart, for they shall see our God;
the secret of the Lord is theirs; their soul is Christ's abode.**

**The Lord, who left the heavens our life and peace to bring,
to dwell in lowliness with us, our pattern and our King,
still to the lowly soul his presence doth impart
and for a dwelling and a throne chooseth the pure in heart.**

**Lord, we your presence seek; may ours this blessing be:
give us a pure and lowly heart, a temple fit for thee.**

Prayers after Communion ¹⁶

Radiant God,
we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.
In the sacrament of his body and blood
you have drawn us to your heart.
Send us from this table with delight,
that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love,
and bear witness to all we have seen and heard,
through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.

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.

Announcements

Blessing

Closing Hymn # 537

In the Cross of Christ I Glory ¹⁸

In the cross of Christ I glory,
towering o'er the wrecks of time;
all the light of sacred story
gathers round its head sublime.

When the woes of life o'ertake me,
hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
never shall the cross forsake me;
lo, it glows with peace and joy.

When the sun of bliss is beaming
light and love upon my way,
from the cross the radiance streaming
adds more lustre to the day.

Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure,
by the cross are sanctified;
peace is there that knows no measure,
joys that through all time abide.

In the cross of Christ I glory,
towering o'er the wrecks of time;
all the light of sacred story
gathers round its head sublime.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Announcements

SOUPer Bowl Sunday

February 8th



NEXT SUNDAY!!!

The Superbowl needs parties.
And frankly, since it's not the Grey Cup,
it needs our help to be **more super!**

And there has to be something better than just cheering for the Seahawks* over the reviled team from somewhere near Foxborough, in Massachusetts... what if we made it a SOUP-er Bowl?

Join the 'competition'! On February 8th, we'll all bring in soup—and see which side of the church (north toward parking lot, south toward King St) can 'win' by feeding the most people!

* The choice of the Seahawks was clear and inevitable: a) it's not the team from somewhere in New England who've already won the Lombardi Trophy too many times; and b) the rector's sister likes them from when she lived in Vancouver and they were the close team. So, obviously.

Vestry & Farewell Celebration

February 22nd

On February 22nd, we will have only one service at 9:30. Following the service, we'll conduct our annual meeting of Vestry. Then we will have a farewell celebration and reception for Matthew, including lunch. (This is Matthew's final Sunday at the Nativity as our rector).

Tickets are \$25 per person (children under 12 are free). They are available from the office or one of the wardens and must be purchased *BEFORE* February 17th.

Lent Series

(mostly) Wednesdays in Lent!

The downtown Anglican parishes are putting on a joint Lenten Series!
This year the theme is “Maturing into the Fullness of Christ.”

(Saturday) Feb 21st from 1 – 3 @ St. John the Evangelist:

Exploring the Jewish-Christian Relationship Today

Wednesday Mar 4th from 7 – 8:30 @ the Nativity

Learning to Lament: Prayer Workshop

Wednesday Mar 11th from 7 – 8:30 @ St. Luke’s Mission

Evening Prayer with the Community of Common Prayer

Wednesday Mar 18th from 7 – 8:30 @ St. Paul’s, Westdale

Discipleship Lessons from Paul:

“Super Apostle” and “Worst of Sinners”

Wednesday Mar 25th from 7 – 8:30 @ the Cathedral

An Introduction to “Being With”

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 St. Matthew-on the Plain, in Burlington.

For Anne, our Metropolitan Archbishop,
and for Shane, our Primate.

For the worldwide Anglican Communion,
and especially the Church of England
and its new Archbishop Sarah Mullally.

For those in our parish cycle of prayer:

For Maureen; for Hugh & Georgia; for Karen & David;

For the needs of the world:

For peace:

For the people of Venezuela, Ukraine, Gaza, and all places ravaged by 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 Audrey Laxton.

**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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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 is the painting “Sermon on the Mount” by the artist Laura James. She has granted permission for the non-commercial use of this image with attribution, and we’re grateful to be able to use it!

¹ Text: James Montgomery (1771 – 1854). Music: Aaron Williams (1731 – 76). 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 *A Liturgical Psalter* (2016). General Synod from the Anglican Church of Canada.

⁶ 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>

⁷ 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.

⁸ *Book of Alternative Services*

⁹ © 1993, 2000, Bernadette Farrell. Used under OneLicense A-604280.

¹⁰ *Sundays and Seasons*.

¹¹ *Eucharistic Prayers*. Samuel Wells & Abigail Kocher.

¹² *Book of Alternative Services*, alt.

¹³ *Sundays and Seasons*.

¹⁴ Selected from the prayers provided for this use in “A Celebration of the Holy Eucharist with Spiritual Communion,” Diocese of Niagara, 2020.

¹⁵ Text: St. 1, 4, John Keble (1792 – 1866), alt.; st. 2 – 3, *Mitre Hymn Book*, 1836, alt. Music: Melody Johann Balthasar König (1691 – 1758); adapt. William Henry Havergal (1793 – 1870); desc. Derek Holman (1931 – 2019) ©. Used under OneLicense A-604280.

¹⁶ *The Book of Alternative Services*.

¹⁷ *The Book of Alternative Services*.

¹⁸ Text: John Bowring (1792 – 1872). Music: John Stainer (1840 – 1901). Used under OneLicense A-604280.