



Church of the Nativity, Hamilton

Holy Eucharist

5th Sunday after the Epiphany

February 8th, 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 # 645

*Come Down, O Love Divine*¹

**Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardour glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.**

**O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine ever on my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illumining.**

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing:
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

And so the yearning strong, with which the soul will long,
shall far out-pass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till we become the place
wherein the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.

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.

Let us pray.

God of Israel,
giver of love's law,
in whom there is no blandness,
no dullness of oppression:
liberate us from all that numbs compassion,
so that we may find in your commands
light undimmed and flavour undiminished;
through Jesus Christ, fulfiller of the law.

Amen.

Unfolding the Scriptures

1st Reading ⁴

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Shout out, do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.

Yet day after day they seek me

and delight to know my ways,

as if they were a nation that practised righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgements,
they delight to draw near to God.

'Why do we fast, but you do not see?

Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?'

Look, you serve your own interest on your fast-day,
and oppress all your workers.

Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.

Such fasting as you do today
will not make your voice heard on high.

Is such the fast that I choose,
a day to humble oneself?

Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Will you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the LORD?

Is not this the fast that I choose:
 to loose the bonds of injustice,
 to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
 and to break every yoke?

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
 and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them,
 and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
 and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you,
 the glory of the LORD shall be your rearguard.

Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
 you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

Isaiah 58. 1 – 9a

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

Alleluia! Happy are they who fear the Lord
and have great delight in the divine commandments!
Their descendants will be mighty in the land;
the generation of the upright will be blessed.

Wealth and riches will be in their house,
and their righteousness will last for ever.
Light shines in the darkness for the upright;
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.

It is good for them to be generous in lending
and to manage their affairs with justice.
For they will never be shaken;
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.

They will not be afraid of any evil rumours;
their heart is right; they put their trust in the Lord.
Their heart is established and will not shrink,
until they see their desire upon their enemies.

They have given freely to the poor,
and their righteousness stands fast for ever;
they will hold up their head with honour.
The wicked will see it and be angry;
they will gnash their teeth and pine away;
the desires of the wicked will perish.

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

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

But, as it is written,

'What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the human heart conceived,
what God has prepared for those who love him' –
these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.

1 Corinthians 2. 1 – 16

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

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. ♪

Jesus continued, saying, 'You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

'Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfil. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless

your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5. 13 – 20

The Gospel of Christ.

♪ Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ. ♪

Homily

The Prayers of the People

ꝝ Merciful God,
ꝝ receive our prayer.

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

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

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You Are Salt for the Earth ⁹

**You are salt for the earth, O people:
salt for the kingdom of God!
Share the flavour of life, O people:
life in the kingdom of God!**

Refrain: **Bring forth the kingdom of mercy,
bring forth the kingdom of peace;
bring forth the kingdom of justice,
bring forth the city of God!**

**You are a light on the hill, O people:
light for the city of God!
Shine so holy and bright, O people:
shine for the kingdom of God! *Refrain***

**You are a seed of the Word, O people:
bring forth the kingdom of God!
Seeds of mercy and seeds of justice
grow in the kingdom of God! *Refrain***

**We are a blest and a pilgrim people:
bound for the kingdom of God!
Love our journey and love our homeland:
love is the kingdom of God! *Refrain***

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.

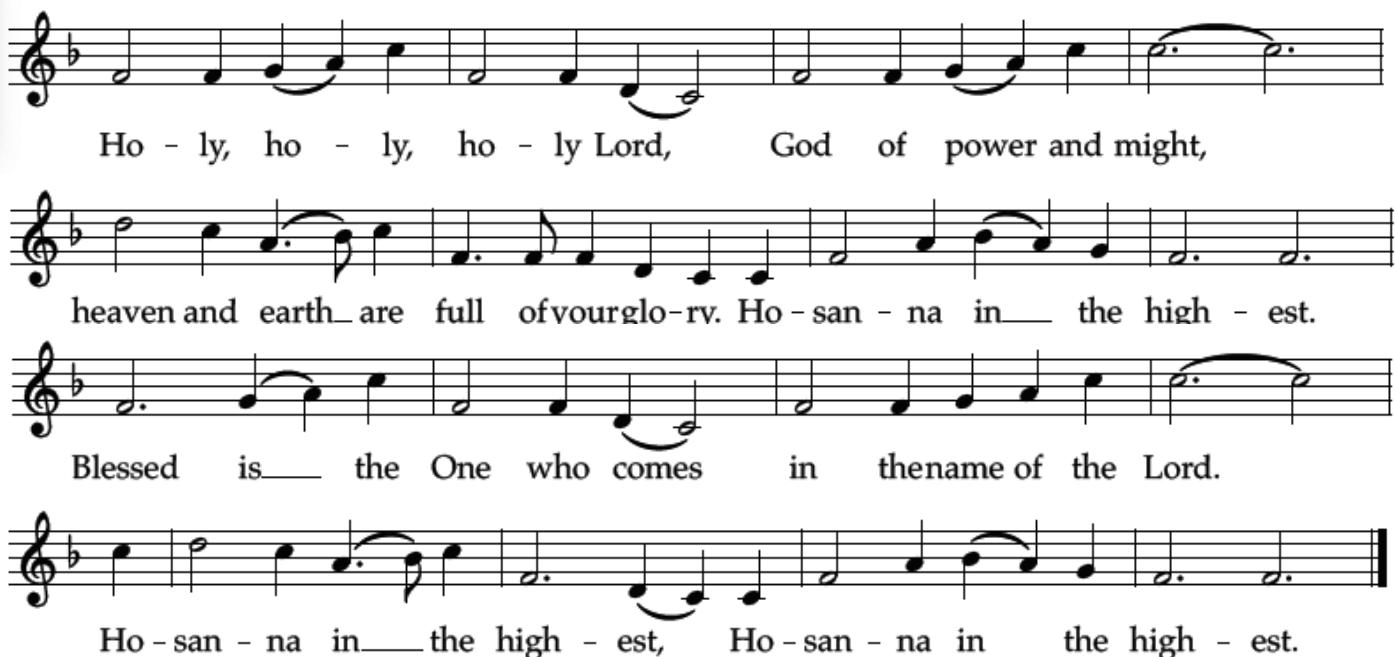
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Empowering God,
you established your creation like a watered garden,
and when your people's hopes lay in ruins
you answered their call
and removed the yoke from among them.

You guided them continually and
satisfied their needs in parched places.

In the death and resurrection of Christ
you repaired the breach between us and you
and opened the way of peace for all your people.

And so we gladly thank you, with angels and archangels,
and all the company of heaven, singing the hymn of your 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.

Eye has not seen nor ear heard, beckoning God,
what you have prepared for those who love you.
In Jesus you are the salt that preserves us with you forever,
and you are the light that transforms the darkness of death.
On his last evening with the disciples
your Son took the broken body and spilt blood of the cross
and turned them into the glory of resurrection.
Come among us now and turn the brokenness of our lives
and the spilt-ness of your world into the wonder of your new life.

Take these gifts of bread and wine and make them 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.

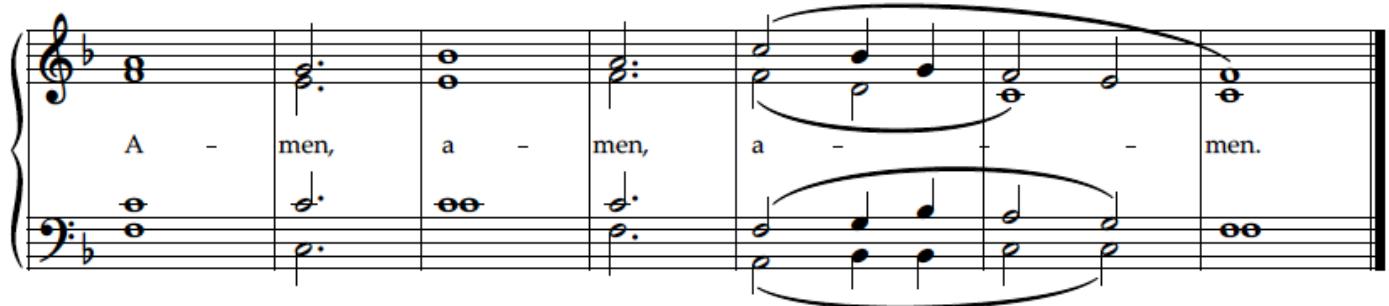
Christ will come again.

Inspiring God, you instill in us the wisdom of your Son's cross,
and you send us the Spirit
who searches the depths of your heart
and the depths of ours.

Shape your people in the image of your Son to be repairers of the breach;
send us to be beside those who cry,
among any who are afflicted,
alongside all whose foundations lie in ruins.

Bless your church that it may bear the marks
of its risen and ascended Lord.

Raise up saints to embody your truth in our midst,
loose the bonds of injustice, undo the thongs of the yoke,
and let the oppressed go free, until the day when you are all in all,
one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.



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

oo oo oo oo

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.

**Let us break bread together on our knees.
Let us break bread together on our knees.**

Refrain:

**When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord have mercy on me.**

**Let us drink wine together on our knees.
Let us drink wine together on our knees. *Refrain...***

**Let us praise God together on our knees.
Let us praise God together on our knees. *Refrain...***

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

*Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*¹⁸

**Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.**

**Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains high soaring above
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.**

**To all life thou givest, to both great and small;
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
then wither and perish, but nought changeth thee.**

**Great Source of all glory and wisdom and light,
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
all laud we would render: O help us to see
'tis only the splendour of light hideth thee.**

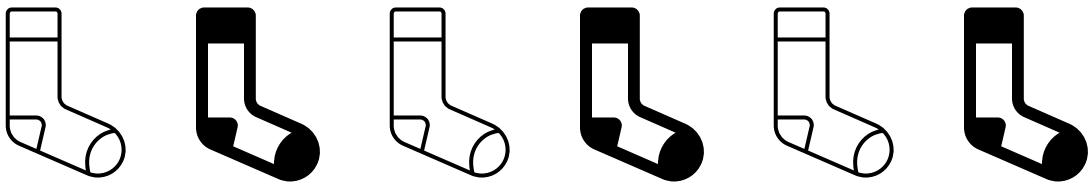
Dismissal

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Announcements



Sock It to Me Sunday

(Last week)

Thank you! You have made 343 people warmer with the socks you brought in last week! The men's socks were distributed this week to the Cathedral Café, and the women's socks to Willow's Place, Mission Services, Good Shepherd and to De Mozenod Door

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. George, in Georgetown.
For Anne, our Metropolitan Archbishop,
and for Shane, our Primate.
For the worldwide Anglican Communion,
and especially the Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui.

For those in our parish cycle of prayer:

For Sean, Sylvia, Grace, Gwenyth & George; for Erin & Grace; for Bob & Margaret.

For the needs of the world:

For peace:

For the people of Venezuela, Ukraine, Gaza, Iran, and all places ravaged by conflict.

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

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The Reverend Canon David Linn
The Reverend Deacon Larry Collinson
Mr. Peter Harding
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*Bishop of Niagara
Rector
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 a photograph of salt and light, taken in the chapel by the rector.

¹ Text: Bianco da Siena (1350? – 1434?); tr. Richard Frederick Littledale (1833 – 90), alt. Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872 – 1958). © Oxford University Press. 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.

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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 Text and music: Marty Haugen (1950 –). © 1986 GIA Publications. 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 African American Spiritual. Used under OneLicense A-604280.

¹⁶ *The Book of Alternative Services*.

¹⁷ *The Book of Alternative Services*.

¹⁸ Text: Walter Chalmers Smith (1824 – 1908), alt. Music: Melody Welsh trad.; adapt. John Roberts of Henllan (1808 – 76), *Caniadau y Cyssegr* 1839. Used under OneLicense A-604280.