

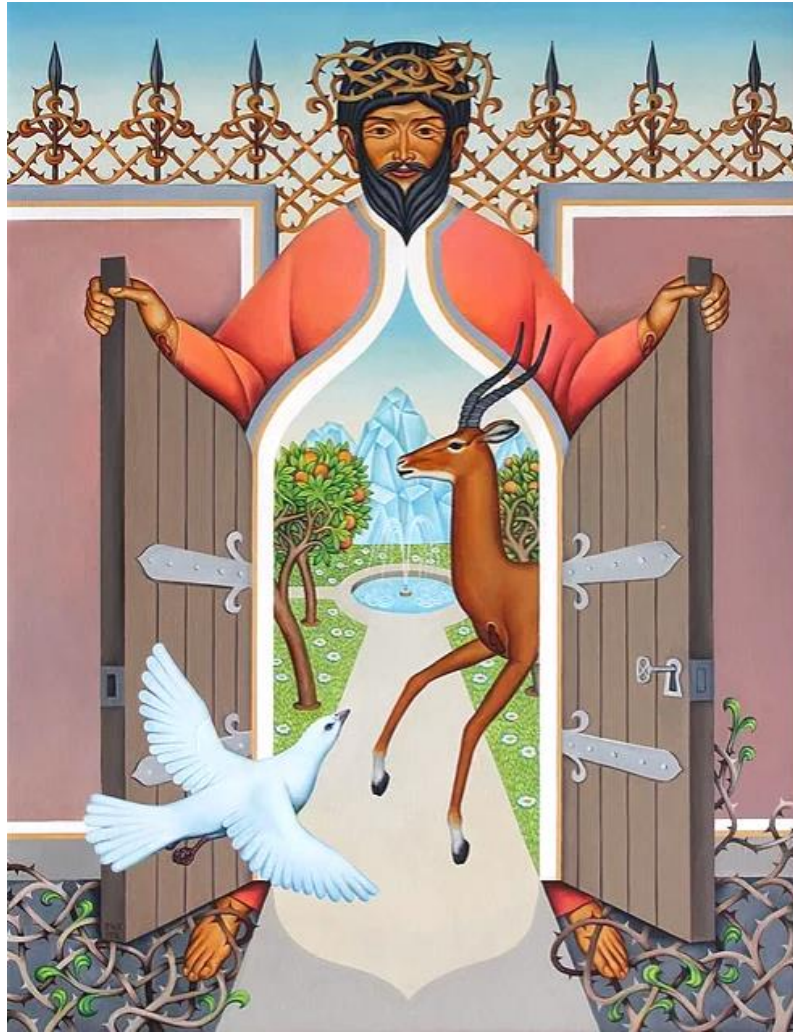


Church of the Nativity, Hamilton

Holy Eucharist

Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 26, 2026



WEB EDITION

Called to Life — Compelled to Love



The territory where the Church of the Nativity resides has long been tended by many Indigenous peoples including the Neutrals, the Mississauga, the Anishinaabe, and the Haudenosaunee. With them, we are members of the Dish with One Spoon wampum, and we will strive to live up to our responsibility as treaty members and respect the history, spirituality, and culture of the nations of this place and the heritage and gifts of Métis people.

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.

Prelude

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

A bell is rung, and the service begins.

Processional Hymn # 508

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say¹

**I heard the voice of Jesus say,
“Come unto me and rest;
lay down, thou weary one,
lay down thy head upon my breast.”
I came to Jesus as I was,
so weary, worn, and sad;
I found in him a resting place,
and he has made me glad.**

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
“Behold, I freely give
the living water; thirsty one,
stoop down and drink and live.”
I came to Jesus, and I drank
of that life-giving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
and now I live in him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
“I am this dark world’s light;
look unto me, thy morn shall rise,
and all thy day be bright.”
I looked to Jesus, and I found
in him my star, my sun;
and in that light of life I’ll walk
till traveling days are done.

Welcome

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!

May Christ’s grace and peace be with you.
May Christ fill our hearts with joy.

The Collect ²

Let us pray.

O God of peace,
who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ,
that great shepherd of the sheep,
by the blood of the eternal covenant,
make us perfect in every good work to do your will,
and work in us that which is well-pleasing in your sight;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Unfolding the Scriptures

1st Reading

In the Acts of the Apostles we hear what daily life was like among the earliest followers of Christ.

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Acts 2.42 — 47

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 23 ³

Dominus regit me

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

**You make me lie down in green pastures
and lead me beside still waters.**

You revive my soul
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.
**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall fear no evil;**

for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
**You spread a table before me
in the presence of those who trouble me;**

you have anointed my head with oil,
and my cup is running over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

2nd Reading

Peter exhorts us to follow Christ's example when we suffer for doing what is right.

For it is to your credit if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, where is the credit in that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

'He committed no sin,
and no deceit was found in his mouth.'

When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

1 Peter 2.19 — 25

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

The Apostles' Creed

Let us confess the faith of our baptism,
as we say,
**I believe in God,
the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again
to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

The Prayers of the People

℣ Merciful God,
℟ receive our prayer.

Dear friends in Christ,
God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy;
he welcomes sinners
and invites them to his 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

Offertory Hymn # # 415

All Things Bright and Beautiful ⁴

Refrain:

**All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful,
the Lord God made them all.**

**Each radiant flower that opens,
each vibrant bird that sings,
God made their glowing colours,
God made their lively wings. *Refrain...***

**The cold wind in the winter,
the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruit in the garden,
God made them every one. *Refrain...***

**The rocky mountain splendour,
the loon's wild, haunting call,
the great lakes and the prairies,
the forest in the fall. *Refrain...***

**God gave us eyes to see them,
and lips that we might tell
how great is the Creator,
who has made all things well. *Refrain...***

If you wish to make a monetary gift, you can do so at any time by mailing a cheque to the church (1831 King Street East, Hamilton, ON L8K 1V8) or via e-transfer to donations.nativity@gmail.com

Prayer over the Gifts ⁵

Generous God, in this meal you offer your very self.
We give thanks for these gifts of the earth.
In the breaking of this bread reveal to us the Risen One.
In the pouring of this wine pour us out in service to the world;
through Jesus the Christ, our Saviour and Lord.
Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving ⁶

- ♪ 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.**

It is right to give you thanks and praise,
O Lord, our God, sustainer of the universe,
you are worthy of glory and praise.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be:
the vast expanse of interstellar space,
galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses,
and this fragile earth, our island home;
by your will they were created and have their being.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

From the primal elements
you brought forth the human race,
and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill;
you made us the stewards of creation.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

But we turn against you, and betray your trust;
and we turn against one another.

Again and again you call us to return.

Through the prophets and sages
you reveal your righteous law.

In the fullness of time you sent your Son,
born of a woman, to be our Saviour.

He was wounded for our transgressions,
and bruised for our iniquities.

By his death he opened to us
the way of freedom and peace.

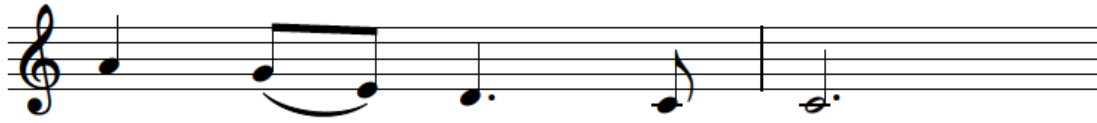
Glory to you for ever and ever.

Therefore we praise you,
joining with the heavenly chorus,
with prophets, apostles, and martyrs,
and with those in every generation
who have looked to you in hope,
to proclaim with them your glory,
in their unending hymn:





Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord



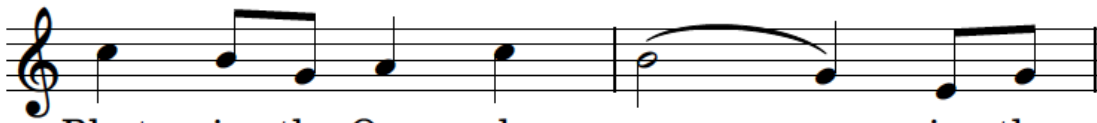
God of pow'r and might.



Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry,



Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Blest 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.

Blest is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed are you, Lord our God,
for sending us Jesus, the Christ,
who on the night he was handed over
to suffering and death,
took bread, said the blessing,
broke the bread, gave it to his friends,
and said, “Take this, and eat it:
this is my body which is given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.”

In the same way, after supper,
he took the cup of wine;
he gave you thanks,
and said, “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.
Whenever you drink it,
do this for the remembrance of me.”

Glory to you for ever and ever.

Gracious God,
we recall the death of your Son Jesus Christ,
we proclaim his resurrection and ascension,
and we look with expectation for his coming
as Lord of all the nations.

We who have been redeemed by him,
and made a new people by water and the Spirit,
now bring you these gifts.

Send your Holy Spirit upon us
and upon this offering of your Church,
that we who eat and drink at this holy table
may share the divine life of Christ our Lord.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

Pour out your Spirit upon the whole earth

and make it your new creation.
Gather your Church together
from the ends of the earth into your kingdom,
where peace and justice are revealed,
that we, with all your people,
of every language, race, and nation,
may share the banquet you have promised;
through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ,
all honour and glory are yours,
creator of all.

Glory to you for ever 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,

who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy 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.

Amen.

We keep silent and pray for a short time.

Lord, we died with you on the cross.
Now we are raised to new life.

We were buried in your tomb.
Now we share in your resurrection.
Live in us, that we may live in you.

Jesus Christ, risen from the dead,
gives everyone a place at the welcome table.
Alleluia! Come to the feast, for all is now ready.
Thanks be to God! Alleluia!

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.

The Breaking of the Bread ⁷

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 ⁸:

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 Hymn # 519

The Lord's My Shepherd ⁹

**The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want:
he makes me down to lie
in pastures green; he leadeth me
the quiet waters by.**

**My soul he doth restore again,
and me to walk doth make
within the paths of righteousness,
even for his own name's sake.**

**Yea, though I walk through death's dark vale,
yet will I fear none ill;
for thou art with me, and thy rod
and staff me comfort still.**

**My table thou hast furnished
in presence of my foes;
my head thou dost with oil anoint,
and my cup overflows.**

**Goodness and mercy all my life
shall surely follow me,
and in God's house for evermore
my dwelling place shall be.**

Communion Song # 134

To Show by Touch and Word

Prayer after Communion ¹⁰

God of steadfast love,
watch over the Church redeemed by the blood of your Son.
May we who share in these holy mysteries
come safely to your eternal kingdom,
where there is one flock and one shepherd.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the risen Lord.
Amen.

Doxology ¹¹

Generous God,
you have fed us at your heavenly table.
Kindle us with the fire of your Spirit
that when the Lord comes again
we may shine as lights before him,
who is alive and reigns in glory for ever.
Amen.

Parish Announcements

Blessing

Recessional Hymn # 231

That Eastertide with Joy Was Bright ¹²

That Eastertide with joy was bright;
the sun shone out with fairer light,
alleluia, alleluia!
when, to their longing eyes restored,
the apostles saw their risen Lord.
Alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

He bade them see his hands, his side,
where yet the glorious wounds abide;
alleluia, alleluia!
the tokens true which made it plain
their Lord indeed was risen again.
Alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

From every weapon death can wield
thine own redeemed forever shield:
alleluia, alleluia!
O Lord of all, with us abide
in this our joyful Eastertide.
Alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus, the king of gentleness,
do thou thyself our hearts possess,
alleluia, alleluia!
that we may give thee all our days
the tribute of our grateful praise.
Alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Dismissal

Alleluia! Go in peace! Serve the Risen One!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

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 parish of St. Jude, Oakville
For Anne, our Metropolitan Archbishop;
and for Shane, our Primate;
For the worldwide Anglican Communion,
and especially The Church of Nigeria

For those in our parish cycle of prayer:

For Jeanette; For Sue & Carl; For Gwen

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

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The Right Reverend Susan Bell	Bishop of Niagara
The Reverend Brian Galligan	Interim Priest
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

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¹ Text: Horatius Bonar (1808—89). To the tune KINGSFOLD. Music: Melody English trad.; coll. Lucy Broadwood (1858—1929).

² *Prayers for an Inclusive Church* (2009), alt. From *Alternative Collects* from the Anglican Church of Canada.

³ *A Liturgical Psalter: General Synod 2016 Edition*. Anglican Church of Canada.

⁴ Text: Donald Fishel (1950—). Music: Donald Fishel (1950—); arr. Betty Carr Pulkingham (1928—2019). © 1973 Word of God Music. Used under OneLicense A-604280.

⁵ *Sundays and Seasons*.

⁶ *Eucharistic Prayers*. Samuel Wells & Abigail Kocher.

⁷ *Book of Alternative Services*, alt.

⁸ Selected from the prayers provided for this use in “A Celebration of the Holy Eucharist with Spiritual Communion,” Diocese of Niagara, 2020.

⁹ Text: Psalm 23; para. Scottish Psalter, 1650. Music: Jessie Seymoud Irvine (1836—87). Used under OneLicense A-604280.

¹⁰ *Sundays and Seasons*.

¹¹ Church of Wales.

¹² Text: Latin (*Aurora lucis rutilat*, part 3, 5th c?); tr. John Mason Neale (1818—1866). Music: to the tune LASST UNS ERFREUEN, Melody: *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623. Used under OneLicense A-604280.