



Church of the Nativity, Hamilton

Holy Eucharist

The 5th Sunday after Pentecost

July 28, 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.

Prelude

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

A bell is rung, and the service begins.

Processional Hymn # 607

Come, Let Us to the Lord Our God¹ Verses 1, 2, 5, & 6

**Come, let us to the Lord our God with contrite hearts return;
our God is gracious, nor will leave the desolate to mourn.**

**His voice commands the tempest forth and stills the stormy wave;
and though his arm be strong to smite, 'tis also strong to save.**

**As dew upon the tender herb, diffusing fragrance round,
as showers that usher in the spring and cheer the thirsty ground,**

**so shall his presence bless our souls and shed a joyful light.
That hallowed morn shall chase away the sorrows of the night.**

Welcome

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.

Let us pray.

Almighty God,
whose wisdom and whose love are over all,
accept the prayers we offer for our nation.
Give integrity to its citizens
and wisdom to those in authority,
that harmony and justice may be secured
in obedience to your will;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Unfolding the Scriptures

1st Reading

A reading from the book of Isaiah.

(pause)

See, a king will reign in righteousness, and princes will rule with justice. Each will be like a hiding place from the wind,
a covert from the tempest, like streams of water in a dry place, like the shade of a great rock in a weary land.
Then the eyes of those who have sight will not be closed,
and the ears of those who have hearing will listen.
The minds of the rash will have good judgment, and the tongues of stammerers will speak readily and distinctly.
A fool will no longer be called noble nor a villain said to be honorable.
Then justice will dwell in the wilderness
and righteousness abide in the fruitful field.

The effect of righteousness will be peace, and the result of righteousness, quietness and trust forever. My people will abide in a peaceful habitation, in secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places.

Isaiah 32: 1-5, 16-18

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 85 vs 7-13

Show us your steadfast love, O Lord,
and grant us your salvation.

**Let me hear what God the Lord will speak,
for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him
in their hearts.**

Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him,
that his glory may dwell in our land.

**Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;
righteousness and peace will kiss each other.**

Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down
from the sky.

The Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.

Righteousness will go before him and will make a path for his steps.

A reading from the letter to the followers of Colossae.

Therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Colossians 3:12-17

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah;
hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah.
Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah;
hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ,
according to John.

♪ **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing, but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me, but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you

whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

John 15: 12-17

The Gospel of Christ.

♪ **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.** ♪

Homily

Affirmation of Faith

Let us affirm the faith we share.

**We trust in God, who has created and is creating;
who came to us in Jesus, the word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new;
who works in us and others by the Holy Spirit.**

**We believe we are called to be God's people:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in creation, to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus' death and resurrection
by word and deed.**

**We live in hope because in life,
in death,
in life beyond death,
we are not alone:
God is with us.**

Thanks be to God. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

✠ God of Grace,
✠ hear our prayer.

Dear friends in Christ,
God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy,
welcoming sinners and inviting us to this table.
Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

Steadfast and faithful God,
**you have revealed the ways of justice,
yet we fail to follow you.**
We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering.
We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others.
**For the harm we have caused,
known and unknown, forgive us.**
**For the unjust demands we place on others
and your creation, forgive us.**
**For the ways we turn away
from you and our neighbor, forgive us.**
**Lead us back to you and set us on the right path;
in the name of Jesus Christ, our Saviour. 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 Song # 32

Walls that Divide

Though ancient walls may still stand proud
and racial strife be fact,
though boundaries may be lines of hate,
proclaim God's saving act!

Refrain:

Walls that divide are broken down; Christ is our unity!
Chains that enslave are thrown aside; Christ is our liberty!

When vested power stands firm entrenched
and breaks another's back,
when waste and want live side by side,
it's gospel that we lack.

The truth we seek in varied scheme,
the life that we pursue,
unites us in a common quest
of self and world made new.

The church divided seeks that grace,
that newness we proclaim,
a unity of serving love
that lives praise to God's name.

This broken world seeks lasting health
and vital unity.
God's people, by God's Word renewed,
cast off all slavery.

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 ⁴

Judge eternal, accept all we offer you this day,
and grant to our nation unity and peace.
This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.

Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving ⁵

♪ 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, gracious God,
creator of heaven and earth;
you are the source of light and life for all your creation.
You made us in your image
and call us to a new life
in Jesus Christ our Savior.
We praise you, joining our voices
to proclaim the glory of your name.



Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry.
 Ho - san - na in the high - est,
 ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Bles-sed 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,
 heav'n and earth are full of your glory.
 Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.
 Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.
 Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

We give you thanks, Lord God, for the goodness and love you have shown us in creation, in the calling of Israel, your people, in your word proclaimed by the prophets, and above all, in the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, your only Son, our Lord.

For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Saviour and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night he was subjected to suffering and death, a death he freely accepted, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread, and, having given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take, eat of it, all of you: this is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, 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."

Therefore, Father, according to his command,

we remember his death,

we proclaim his resurrection,

we await his coming in glory;

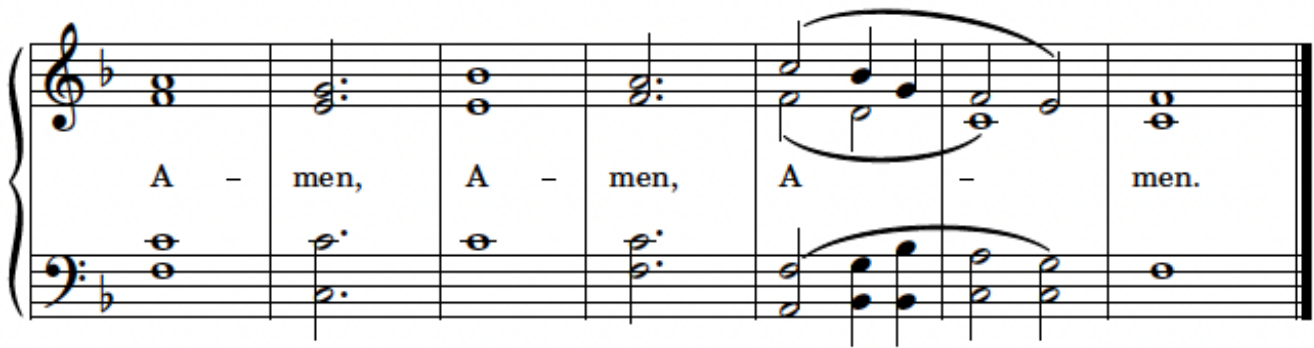
And we offer you this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, Lord of the universe, presenting you with this bread and wine, fruits of your creation.

We pray to you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts, that they may be the sacrament of the body of Christ and his blood of the new covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we, made acceptable in him, may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, reconcile and renew all things in Christ and lead us to the city of light, where you dwell with all your children, through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church and the author of our salvation;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father, 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.

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 the kingdom,
the power, and the glory
are yours, now and for ever.**

**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 ⁶

Creator of all, you gave us golden fields of wheat,
whose many grains we have gathered
and made into this one bread.

**So may your Church be gathered
from the ends of the earth
into your reign of justice and peace.**

All people are called to Christ's table.
Come, eat what is good.
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 ⁷:

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.

Just as I am, without one plea,
but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou biddest me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
sight, riches, healing of the mind,
yea, all I need, in thee to find,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt,
fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, and waiting not
to rid my soul of one dark blot,
to thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am—thy love unknown
has broken every barrier down—
now to be thine, yea thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Prayer after Communion⁹

God of love,
may we who have taken holy things
grow in unity and peace.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.
Amen.

Doxology¹⁰

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.

Announcements

**O Canada! Our home and native land!
True patriot love in all of us command.
With glowing hearts, we see thee rise,
the true north strong and free!
From far and wide, O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.
God keep our land glorious and free!
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.**

**O Canada! Where pines and maples grow,
great prairies spread and lordly rivers flow,
how dear to us thy broad domain,
from east to western sea!
Thou land of hope for all who toil!
Thou true north strong and free!**

Refrain

**Ruler supreme, who hearest humble prayer,
hold our dominion in thy loving care.
Help us to find, O God, in thee a lasting rich reward,
as waiting for the better day, we ever stand on guard.**

Refrain

Prayer for Canada

Almighty God, you give us this good nation as our heritage.
May we prove ourselves a people
mindful of your generosity and glad to do your will.
Bless our land with honest industry,
truthful education, and an honourable way of life.
Save us from violence, discord, and confusion;
from pride and arrogance;
and from every evil course of action.
Make us who come from many nations
with many different languages
a united people.
Defend our liberties
and give those whom we have entrusted
with the authority of government
the spirit of wisdom,
that there may be justice and peace in our land.
When times are prosperous, let our hearts be thankful;
and, in troubled times, do not let our trust in you fail.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Blessing

Look Forward in Faith ¹¹

**Look forward in faith – all time is in God’s hand.
Walk humbly with him, and trust his future plan.
God has wisely led his people by his power.
Look forward in hope, God gives us each new hour.**

**Look forward in faith – the world is in God’s care.
His purpose of love he calls on us to share.
In our neighbour’s need the Lord is present still.
He blesses the meek! The earth will know God’s will.**

**Look forward in faith – God gives us life each day.
Go onward with Christ, the Spirit guides our way.
Now God lets us live within the sphere of grace.
Trust ever, in him – God rules o’er earth and space!**

Dismissal

**Go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit!
Thanks be to God!**

Postlude

**The flowers on the altar are given to the
Glory of God and in loving memory of
Roy and Dorothea Sharp.
We love and miss you.
*Remembered by Larry and Jan.***

Your Daily Prayers are Requested

For the Church:

For Susan our bishop;
and for all the people of the Diocese of Niagara;
For our diocesan leaders and all the staff as they faithfully and diligently seek to
serve us, and all parishes and missions;
For Anne, our Metropolitan Archbishop;
and for Shane, our Primate;
For the worldwide Anglican Communion,
and especially The Anglican Church of Southern Africa

For those in our parish cycle of prayer:

For Jim; For Jackie & Karen

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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Ms. Gayle MacDonald, Mr. Derek Smith

Bishop of Niagara
Interim Priest
Honorary Assistant
Parish Deacon
Director of Music
Parish Administrator
Wardens

Sources

Our cover image is from the Jesus MAFA project, of Jesus welcoming the children.

JESUS MAFA. Jesus welcomes the children, from *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=48395> [retrieved June 14, 2023]. Original source: <http://www.librairie-emmanuel.fr> (contact page: <https://www.librairie-emmanuel.fr/contact>).

¹ Text: Hosea 6.1—4, para. John Morison (1749—98). Music: *Melody Tochter Sion*, Köln, 1741. Used under OneLicense A-604280.

² *Revised Common Lectionary Prayers* (2002), alt. From *Alternative Collects* from the Anglican Church of Canada.

³ *Invitation & Absolution: Book of Alternative Services. Confession: Sundays and Seasons.*

⁴ *Sundays and Seasons.*

⁵ *Book of Alternative Services.*

⁶ *Book of Alternative Services*, alt.

⁷ Selected from the prayers provided for this use in “A Celebration of the Holy Eucharist with Spiritual Communion,” Diocese of Niagara, 2020.

⁸ Text & Music: Marty Haugen (1950—). © 1987 GIA Publications. Used under OneLicense A-604280.

⁹ *Sundays and Seasons.*

¹⁰ Church of Wales.

¹¹ Text: Andrew J. Scobie. Used under OneLicense A-604280.