



Church of the Nativity, Hamilton

Holy Eucharist

The 9th Sunday after Pentecost

July 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.

Prelude

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

A bell is rung, and the service begins.

Processional Hymn # 350 All People That On Earth Do Dwell 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

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.

The Collect ²

Let us pray.

Loving God,
you sow weeds among the crop,
raise bread with impure yeast,
offer treasure without price
and cast a net that catches good and bad:
throw down our idols of purity and possession,
so that you might reveal in us
your wide-branching love;
through Jesus Christ, the stumbling block,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.

Amen.

Unfolding the Scriptures

1st Reading

A reading from the book of Genesis.

Then Laban said to Jacob, ‘Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?’ Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. Leah’s eyes were lovely, and Rachel was graceful and beautiful. Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, ‘I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel.’ Laban said, ‘It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me.’ So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her.

Jacob said to Laban, ‘Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed.’ So Laban gathered together all the people of the place, and made a feast. But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her. (Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.) When morning came, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, ‘What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?’ Laban said, ‘This is not done in our country—giving the younger before the firstborn. Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me for another seven years.’ Jacob did so, and completed her week; then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife.

Genesis 29.15—28

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

Give thanks to the Lord and call upon the divine name;
make known the deeds of the Lord among the peoples.

**Sing to the Lord, sing praises,
and speak of all the marvellous works of the Lord.**

Glory in the holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

**Search for the strength of the Lord;
continually seek the face of God.**

Remember the marvels the Lord has done,
the wonders and the judgements of the mouth of the Lord,
**O offspring of Abraham the servant of God,
O children of Jacob the chosen of the Lord.**

The Lord is our God,
whose judgements prevail in all the world,
**who has always been mindful of the covenant,
the promise made for a thousand generations:**

**the covenant made with Abraham,
the oath sworn to Isaac,**

established as a statute for Jacob,
an everlasting covenant for Israel,
**saying, “To you will I give the land of Canaan
to be your allotted inheritance.” Hallelujah!**

A reading from the letter to the followers of Jesus in Rome.

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written,

‘For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.’

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8.26—39

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.



The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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

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

Jesus put before them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.'

He told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.'

'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.'

‘Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

‘Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

‘Have you understood all this?’ They answered, ‘Yes.’ And he said to them, ‘Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.’

Matthew 13.31—33, 44—52

The Gospel of Christ.

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

Homily

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

V God of grace,
R 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 neighbour, 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 Hymn # 328

Lo, God Is Here! Let Us Adore⁶

**Lo, God is here! let us adore,
and own how awesome is this place;
let all within us feel God's power
and bow before the hidden face.
Redeeming Lord, your grace we prove,
serve you with awe, with reverence love.**

**Lo, God is here! Both day and night
united choirs of angels sing;
to God, enthroned above all height,
heaven's host their noblest praises bring;
d disdain not, Lord, our meaner song,
who praise you with a stammering tongue.**

**Being of beings, may our praise
your courts with grateful fragrance fill;
still may we stand before your face,
still hear and do your sovereign will;
to you may all our thoughts arise,
ceaseless, accepted sacrifice.**

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 ⁷

God of field and forest, sea and sky,
you are the giver of all good things.
Sustain us with these gifts of your creation,
and multiply your graciousness in us,
that the world may be fed with your love,
through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.
Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving ⁸

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.

Sovereign God,
you foreknew us,
before the universe was created.
In Abraham and Sarah and in Moses and Miriam
you called us to be your people.
You predestined us through the power of your Holy Spirit
to be conformed to the image
of your crucified and risen Son.
In Jesus, you justified us by your grace,
and on the last day you will glorify us
to live with you forever.
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 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.**

You, Lord God,
are like a merchant who sacrifices everything
because you above all want us, your pearl,
buried in the world's field.
And in that field also you grow grain and grape
to feed us from your heart now and for ever.
Come among us now through the power of your Spirit,
that we may be transformed into your likeness
and that these gifts of bread and wine
may become for us the body and blood of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord;
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.

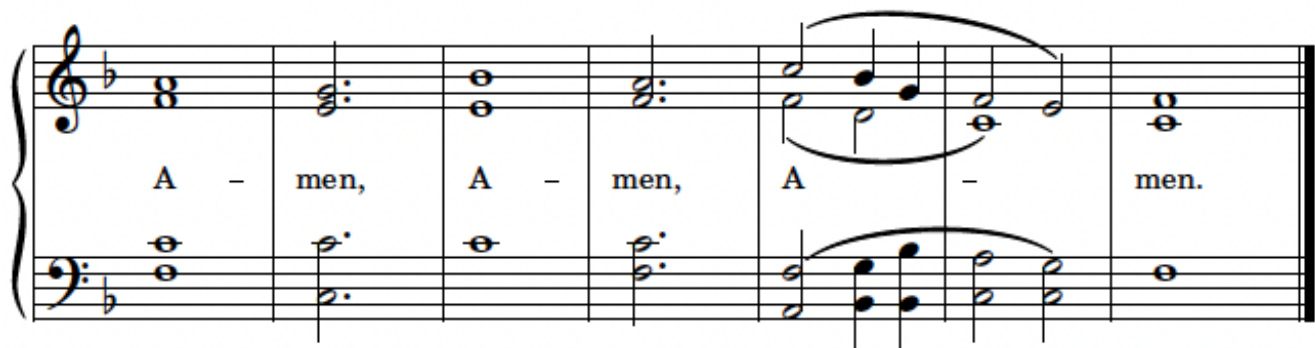
Christ will come again.

Everlasting God,
you have promised that nothing
can separate us from your love.
Be with your children who know hardship, distress, or persecution;
visit your beloved who experience famine, nakedness, peril, or sword;
abide with us in death, as in life;

give us nothing to fear from angels or rulers,
from things present, or things to come,
or in the face of powers, or height, or depth,
or anything else in all creation.

Knowing that you did not withhold your own Son,
but gave him up for all of us,
inscribe in us faith that you will with him
bestow upon us everything as well.

We pray in unison with Christ in the power of your Holy Spirit,
who helps us in our weakness,
and intercedes with sighs too deep for words,
Father of all, now and for ever.



Amen, Amen, Amen.

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.

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 ¹⁰:

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 Song # 66

There's a Quiet Understanding ¹¹

There's a quiet understanding
when we're gathered in the Spirit,
it's a promise Jesus gives us,
when we gather in his name.
There's a love we feel in Jesus,
There's a manna that he feeds us,
it's a promise Jesus gives us
when we gather in his name.

And we know when we're together,
sharing love and understanding,
That our brothers and our sisters
feel the oneness Jesus brings.
Thank you, Jesus, thank you Jesus,
for the way you love and feed us,
for the many ways you lead us,
thank you, gracious Lord.

Communion Song # 83

Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God ¹²

Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and God's righteousness
and all these things shall be added unto you.
Alleluia, alleluia.

We do not live by bread alone, but by every word
that proceeds from the mouth of God. Alleluia, alleluia.

Ask and it shall be given unto you; seek and you shall find;
knock and the door shall be opened unto you.
Alleluia, alleluia.

Prayer after Communion ¹³

We thank you, generous God,
for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table.
Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world,
through the one who is our dearest treasure,
Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.
Amen.

Doxology ¹⁴

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

Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken¹⁵

**Glorious things of thee are spoken, Zion, city of our God;
he whose word cannot be broken formed thee for his own abode.
On the rock of ages founded, what can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded, thou mayest smile at all thy foes.**

**See! The streams of living waters, springing from eternal love,
well supply thy sons and daughters and all fear of want remove.
Who can faint, when such a river ever flows their thirst to assuage?
Grace, which like the Lord, the giver, never fails from age to age.**

**Round each habitation hovering, see the cloud and fire appear
for a glory and a covering – showing that the Lord is near.
Thus they march, the pillar leading, light by night, and shade by day;
daily on the manna feeding which God gives them when they pray.**

**Saviour, if of Zion's city I through grace a member am,
let the world deride or pity, I will glory in thy name.
Fading is the world's best pleasure, all its boasted pomp or show:
solid joys and lasting treasures none but Zion's children know.**

Dismissal

Go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit!

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 parish of The Church of
Our Saviour the Redeemer, Stoney Creek
For Anne, our Metropolitan Archbishop;
and for Shane, our Primate;
For the worldwide Anglican Communion,
and especially the Anglican Church of Tanzania

For those in our parish cycle of prayer:

For Harold; For Yvonne; For Leanne, Mark, Xavier, Shayleigh, Abbygayle, Alyxandra,
Brooklyn & Kyra

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

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¹ Text: James Montgomery (1771—1854). Music: Aaron Williams (1731—76). Used under OneLicense A-604280.

² *Prayers for an Inclusive Church* (2008), alt. From *Alternative Collects* from the Anglican Church of Canada.

³ *A Liturgical Psalter* (2016). General Synod from the Anglican Church of Canada.

⁴ *Celebrate God's Presence* (2000), The United Church of Canada.

⁵ *Invitation & Absolution: Book of Alternative Services*. Confession: *Sundays and Seasons*.

⁶ Text: Gerhard Tersteegen (1697—1769); tr. John Wesley (1703—91). Music: Henri F. Hemy (1818—88); adapt. James G. Walton (1821—1905). Used under OneLicense A-604280.

⁷ *Sundays and Seasons*.

⁸ *Eucharistic Prayers* (2006). Samuel Wells & Abigail Kocher.

⁹ *Book of Alternative Services*, alt.

¹⁰ Selected from the prayers provided for this use in “A Celebration of the Holy Eucharist with Spiritual Communion,” Diocese of Niagara, 2020.

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¹² Words & Music: Karen Lafferty (1948—), 1972, rev. © 1972 Maranatha! Music. Used under OneLicense A-604280.

¹³ *Sundays and Seasons*.

¹⁴ Church of Wales.

¹⁵ Text: John Newton (1725—1807), alt. Music: Franz Josef Haydn (1732—1809). Used under OneLicense A-604280.