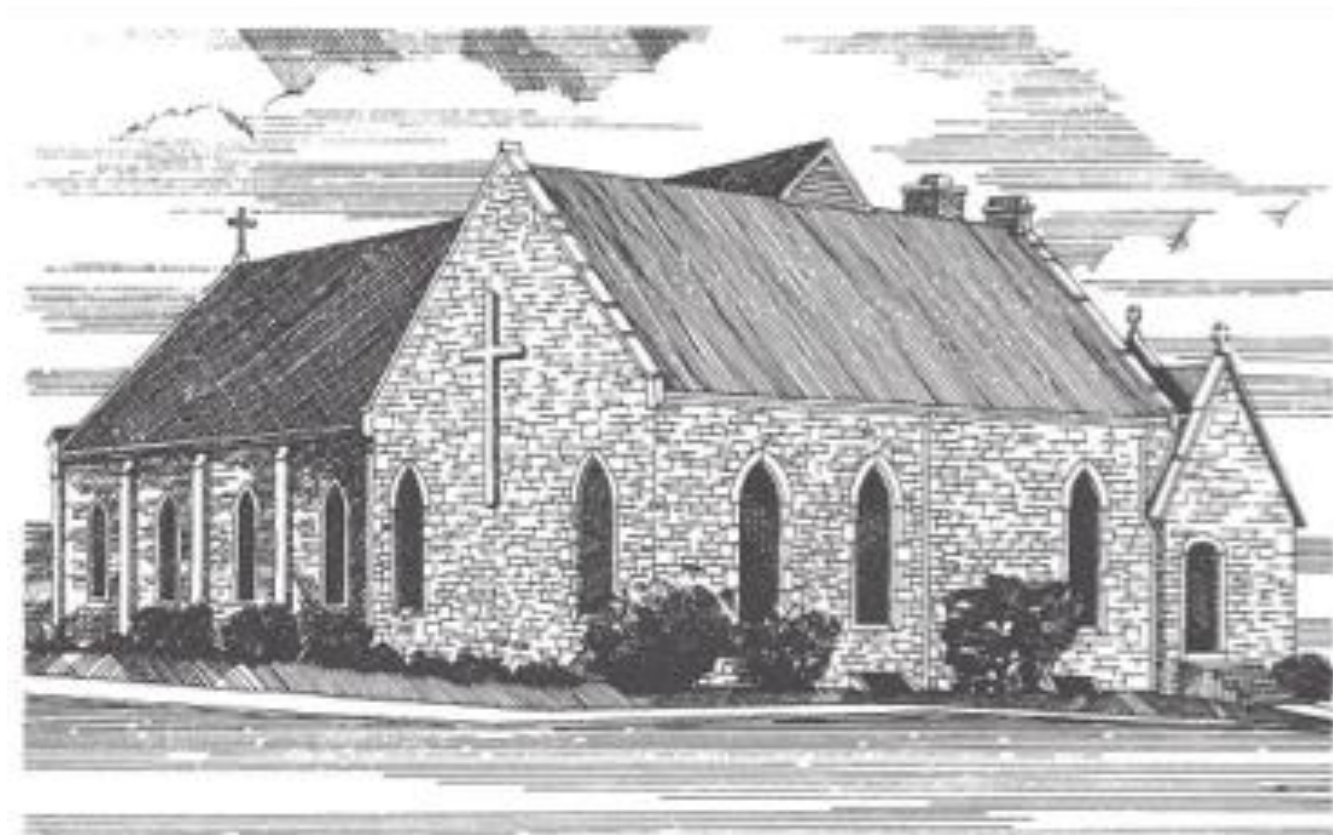




Church of the Nativity, Hamilton

Holy Eucharist

Thanksgiving on the Anniversary of
the Church of the Nativity
September 27, 2026



Called to Life — Compelled to Love



Gathering

Prelude

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

A bell is rung, and the service begins.

Please stand for the Land Acknowledgement.

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.

Processional Hymn # 425

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

**Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
hearts unfold like flowers before thee,
opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
drive the dark of doubt away;
giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.**

**All thy works with joy surround thee,
earth and heaven reflect thy rays,
stars and angels sing around thee,
center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain
call us to rejoice in thee.**

**Thou art giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blest,
well-spring of the joy of living,
ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father and our Mother,
all who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other,
lift us to the joy divine.**

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.

Collect of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty God,
watchful and caring, our source and our end,
all that we are and all that we have are yours.
Accept us now, as we give thanks to you for this place where we have come
to praise your name,
to ask your forgiveness,
to know your healing power,
to hear your word,
and to be nourished by the body and blood of your Son.
Be present always to guide and to judge,
to illumine and to bless your people.
This we pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord
Amen.

Almighty God,
your eternal Word speaks to us
through the words of holy scripture.
Here we have read of your mighty acts
and purposes in history,
and here we have learned about those whom you have chosen to be agents
of your will.
Inspired by the revelation of your Son,
we seek your present purposes.
Give us ears to hear and hearts to obey.
This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Choir Anthem
Sing to the Lord a New Song

Unfolding the Scriptures

1st Reading

A reading from the first book of Kings.

Then Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in the presence of the whole assembly of Israel and spread out his hands to heaven. He said, “O Lord, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and steadfast love with your servants who walk before you with all their heart, the covenant that you kept for your servant my father David as you declared to him; you promised with your mouth and have this day fulfilled with your hand. Therefore, O Lord, God of Israel, keep for your servant my father David that which you promised him, saying, ‘There shall never fail you a successor before me to sit on the throne of Israel, if only your children look to their way, to walk before me as you have walked before me.’ Therefore, O God of Israel, let your word be confirmed that you promised to your servant my father David.

“But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Even heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you, much less this house that I have built! Regard your servant’s prayer and his plea, O Lord my God, heeding the cry and the prayer that your servant prays to you today, that your eyes may be open night and day toward this house, the place of which you said, ‘My name shall be there,’ that you may heed the prayer that your servant prays toward this place. Hear the plea of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray toward this place; O hear in heaven your dwelling place; hear and forgive.

1 Kings 8:22—30

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 84

How dear to me is your dwelling, O Lord of hosts!
My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the Lord;
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

**The sparrow has found her a house and the swallow
a nest where she may lay her young; by the side of your altars, O Lord of
hosts, my King and my God.**

Happy are they who dwell in your house,
they will always be praising you.

**Happy are the people whose strength is in you,
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims’ way.**

Those who go through the desolate valley will find it
a place of springs, for the early rains have covered it
with pools of water.

**They will climb from height to height,
and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.**

Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer;
hearken, O God of Jacob.

**Behold our defender, O God;
and look upon the face of your anointed.**

For one day in your courts is better
than a thousand in my own room,
and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God
than to dwell in the tents of the wicked.

**For the Lord God is both sun and shield;
he will give grace and glory;**

No good thing will the Lord withhold from those
who walk with integrity.

O Lord of hosts, happy are they who put their trust in you!

Let pray, God of pilgrims, teach us to recognize your dwelling-place in the love, generosity, and support of those with whom we share our journey, and help us to worship you in our response to those who need our care; for all the world is your temple and every human heart is a sign of your presence, made known to us in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

2nd Reading

A reading from the first letter of Peter.

Rid yourselves, therefore, of all malice and all guile, insincerity, envy, and all slander. Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 2.1—5, 9—10

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 John.

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

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

John 20.19—23

The Gospel of Christ.

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

Almighty God,
we have heard your words to us in holy scripture and know your call to each of us. In every age you have spoken through the voices of prophets, pastors, and teachers. We give you thanks that over the years we have heard you speak to us through the preaching of your word in this place. Grant that those who preach in this place may proclaim the crucified and risen Christ and interpret your word with sensitivity and insight, that we may hear that word inwardly and respond to it in all our life. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, your living Word.

Homily

Choir Anthem
Growing in God's Grace

Affirmation of Faith

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

✠ Hear us O God,
✠ **Your mercy is great.**

Confession & Absolution

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 Hymn #465

Here In This Place New Light

**Here in this place new light is streaming;
now is the darkness vanished away.
See in this space our fears and our dreamings,
brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in – the lost and forsaken;
gather us in- the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken;
we shall arise at the sound of our name.**

**We are the young- our lives are a mystery;
we are the old- who yearn for your face.**

**We have been sung throughout all of history,
called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in- the rich and the haughty;
gather us in- the proud and the strong;
give us a heart so meek and so lowly;
give us the courage to enter the song.**

**Here we will take the wine and the water;
here we will take the bread of new birth.
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion;
give us to eat the bread that is you;
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.**

**Not in the dark of buildings confining,
not in some heaven, light years away,
but here in this place the new light is shining;
now is the kingdom, now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever;
gather us in and make us your own;
gather us in- all peoples together,
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.**

Monetary contributions to the Church of the Nativity and its ministries as we live out God's mission can be placed in the church-shaped box near the narthex at any time.

Prayer over the Gifts

Father, hear the prayers of your faithful people.
Grant that all who celebrate this eucharist
may please you by the offering of themselves
and the fulfilling of your will.
This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.
Amen.

♪ 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;
heaven itself cannot contain you and your glory fills all the
world.

You accept our setting apart of places for your worship
and in them pour out your gifts of grace upon your faithful
people.

This table is a sign to us of the heavenly altar,
where your saints and angels praise you.
Here we have recalled the sacrifice of your Son;
here we have been fed with the body and blood of your
Son; here our sins have been forgiven;
here we have tasted the joys of your eternal kingdom.

Grant that in these mysteries we may be united with one
another and strengthened for service in your world.

Therefore with angels and archangels and those who
worship you in every age, we raise our voices in joyful
praise 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 thanks to you, Lord our God,
for the goodness and love you have made known to us in creation; in calling
Israel to be your people;
in your Word spoken through the prophets;
and above all in the Word made flesh,
Jesus your Son.

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 handed over to suffering and death,
a death he freely accepted,
our Lord Jesus Christ took bread;
and when he had given thanks to you,
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples,
and said, “ Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you.
Do this for the 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,
All we remember his death,
we proclaim his resurrection,
we await his coming in glory;

and we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving
to you, Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation,
this bread and this wine.

We pray 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 all things in Christ,
and make them new, and bring us to that city of light
where you dwell with all your sons and daughters;
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.

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

We break the bread of life,
and that life is the light of the world.
**God here among us, light in the midst of us,
bring us to light and life.**

All people are called to Christ's table.
Come, taste, that the Lord is good.
Thanks be to God!

Communion Songs

66 There's a Quiet Understanding

83 Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God

107 Give to Us Laughter

Prayer after Communion

Father, you have given us this time of joy
and have nourished us in heavenly things.
Grant that we may show in our lives the love of Christ
who is our God and Saviour.

Amen.

Doxology

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

The Love of Jesus Calls Us

**The love of Jesus calls us our joyous praise to sing;
our deeply felt thanksgivings we now together bring,
for all God's many blessings, unasked yet still received,
and for the generations who faithfully believed.**

**The love of Jesus calls us, that we may always be
companions on a journey, where all the world may see
that serving Christ is freedom which time does not destroy;
where Christ's command is duty, and every duty joy.**

**The love of Jesus calls us to go where he would go,
to challenge all that limits, to change, to learn, to grow,
to know that Christ has freed us, that prisons are no more;
for those who seek his kingdom, Christ opens every door.**

**The love of Jesus calls us in swiftly changing days,
to be God's co-creators in new and wondrous ways;
that God with men and women may so transform the earth,
that love and peace and justice may give God's kingdom birth.**

Dismissal

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

Postlude

***The flowers at the altar this morning are given to the
glory of God and In loving memory of
Joyce and Russ Smith and loved ones
a gift from Bruce & Leanne Walter and family***

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. Saviour, The Brock Memorial
Church, Queenston
For Anne, our Metropolitan Archbishop;
and for Shane, our Primate;
For the worldwide Anglican Communion,
and especially The Church of Bangladesh

For those in our parish cycle of prayer:

All parishioners near and far

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