

# A BETHESDA CHRISTMAS 2012-2013



**Bethesda Episcopal Church  
Washington Street near Broadway  
Saratoga Springs, New York**

# FROM OUR INTERIM RECTOR

My Dear People and Friends of Bethesda:

A quick time-wheel's spin of both recent and current events reveals how fragile our earth is and how vulnerable we are. Wrought with geological, economic, and emotional devastation, a people diverse and often skeptical seeks a shattering of resulting separation and isolation. Humanity craves, in imagery urgent yet graceful, an ice melt. Not one that perpetuates catastrophe, but one which reconciles and heals the soul.

This is the timeless benediction of Christmas. Leaping down from his royal throne, God assumes our human nature. He does so without hesitation. In this oblation, which the Holy Child is, a door is opened. With the sound of angelic choirs, hope descends. Its form exceeds that of cheap tranquility or a government-issued passport. This hope is the Incarnate Jesus, the Word become flesh.

The Christmas Altars of Bethesda welcome you and all of your loved ones. *Adeste, fideles!* The tiny fingers of the earth's Redeemer desire yours, intertwined in a grasp assuring security. The radiance of his eyes dispels the darkness of the soul. The breath he breathes warms the coldness of the heart. Receiving him is the Christmas Gospel's encouragement. *To all who receive him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God.*

With my blessing,

The Very Reverend Marshall J. Vang

## **CHRISTMAS EVE**

*Monday, December 24*

*“Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given”...*

4:00 P.M.	FAMILY EUCHARIST <i>with the Blessing of the Creche</i>
10:00 P.M.	MUSIC OF THE NATIVITY
10:30 P.M.	SOLEMN EUCHARIST <i>with The Great Procession</i>

*Music by J. S. Bach, Harold Darke, J. Haydn,  
Brian Hoffman, Battista Pergolesi, John Rutter*

## **CHRISTMAS DAY**

*Tuesday, December 25*

*“The Word became flesh and dwelt among us”...*

9:00 A.M.	SUNG EUCHARIST
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## **THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY**

*December 30*

*“We have seen his glory.”*

8:00 A.M.	HOLY EUCHARIST
10:00 A.M.	SUNG EUCHARIST

**THE HOLY NAME OF  
OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST**

*Tuesday, January 1*

*“At the Name of Jesus every knee shall bow.”*

9:00 A.M.

HOLY EUCHARIST

**THE EPIPHANY**

*Sunday, January 6*

*“Arise, shine; for your light has come.”*

8:00 A.M.

HOLY EUCHARIST

10:00 A.M.

SOLEMN EUCHARIST

*Music by William Byrd, Hector Berlioz*

3:00 P.M.

AN EPIPHANY PROCESSION

with LESSONS & CAROLS

*Music by F. A. Gore Ousley, Luca Morenzio,  
Peter Cornelius, Peter Haloick, William Byrd,  
Felix Mendelssohn*

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The Very Reverend Marshall J. Vang	<i>Interim Rector</i>
The Reverend Paul Evans	<i>Priest Associate</i>
Farrell Goehring	<i>Organist &amp; Director of Music</i>
Kathleen Slezak	<i>Choral Director</i>

BETHESDA EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
41 Washington Street  
Saratoga Springs, New York 12866

*December*

*Return Service Requested*

***Dated Material***