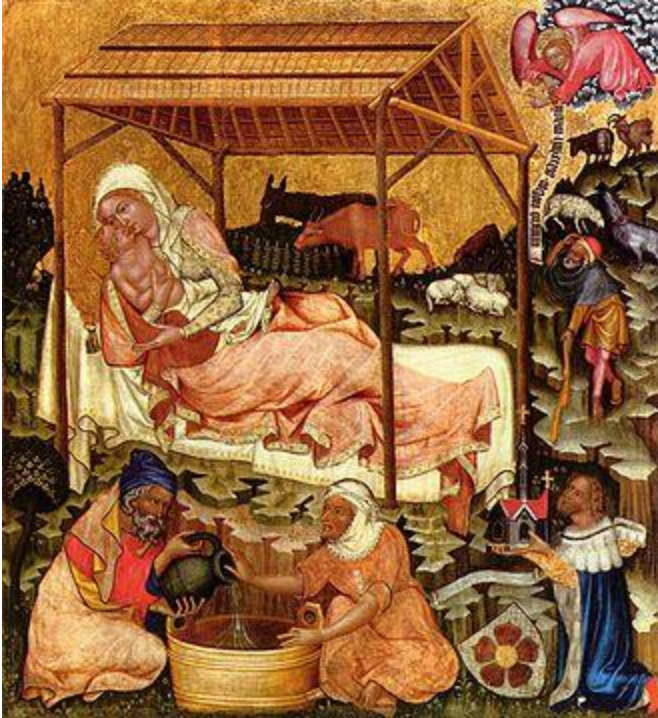


A BETHESDA CHRISTMAS

2014-2015



**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 racial 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 every blessing,

The Very Reverend Marshall J. Vang
Interim Rector

CHRISTMAS EVE

Wednesday, 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 Johannes Brahms, John Rutter
J.S. Bach, Brian Hoffman Harold Darke
Battista Pergolesi*

CHRISTMAS DAY

Thursday, December 25

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

9:00 A.M.	HOLY EUCHARIST <i>with Hymns</i>
-----------	---

THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY

December 28

“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**

Thursday, January 1

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

9:00 A.M.

HOLY EUCHARIST

**THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER
CHRISTMAS DAY**

Sunday, January 4

*“He destined us for adoption as his children
through Jesus Christ.”*

8:00 A.M.
10:00 A.M.

HOLY EUCHARIST
SUNG EUCHARIST

THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

Tuesday, January 6

“Arise, shine; for thy light has come.”

6:30 P.M.

HOLY EUCHARIST

The Very Reverend Marshall J. Vang *Interim Rec-
tor*

The Reverend Paul F. Evans *Priest Associ-
ate*

The Reverend Peter H. Sweeney *Deacon*
Farrell Goehring *Organist & Director of Mu-
sic*