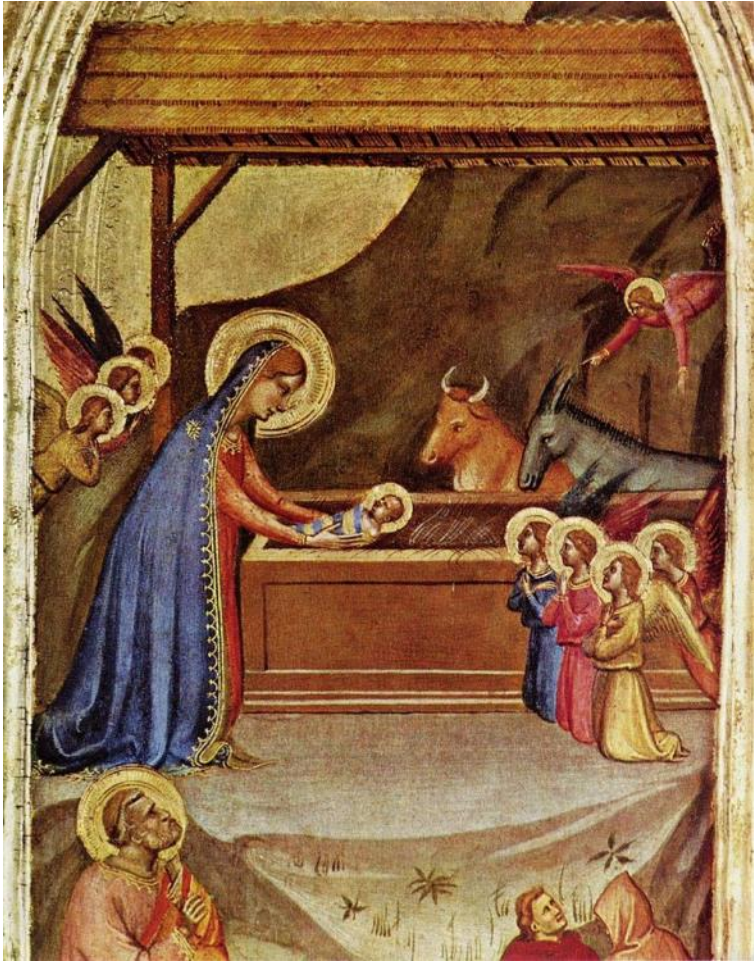


A BETHESDA CHRISTMAS 2015-2016



**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 world is and how vulnerable we are. Wrought with geological, racial, and terroristic 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

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

Friday, 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 3

*“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

Wednesday, January 6

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

12:10 A.M.

HOLY EUCHARIST

The Very Reverend Marshall J. Vang *Interim Rector*
The Reverend Paul F. Evans *Priest Associate*
The Reverend Peter H. Sweeney *Deacon*
Farrell Goehring *Organist & Director of Music*
Dr. Kathleen Slezak *Choral Director*