

Bethesda



TOWARD A THIRD CENTURY
SARATOGA  SPRINGS

Washington Street near Broadway

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, *Gaudete*

17 December 2017

7:30 am - Morning Prayer

8:00 am - Holy Eucharist

10:00 - am Solemn Eucharist

Please switch off all cellular telephones and other electronic devices before the Liturgy begins. Also, kindly refrain from audible conversation to respect those wishing to pray and listen to the organ prelude. Thank you.

ORGAN: *An Advent Scene*

George McKay (1899-1970)

THE ENTRANCE RITE

AT THE PROCESSION: HYMN 74 - *Valet will ich dir geben*

KYRIE ELEISON

Michael Lanci (b. 1984)

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Stir up thy power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let thy bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be honor and glory, world without end. *Amen.*

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE FIRST LESSON - *A Reading from the Book of Isaiah*

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. (61:1-4, 8-11)

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL - *In convertendo*

- 1 When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, *
then were we like those who dream.
- 2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter, *
and our tongue with shouts of joy.
- 3 Then they said among the nations, *
"The Lord has done great things for them."
- 4 The Lord has done great things for us, *
and we are glad indeed.
- 5 Restore our fortunes, O Lord, *
like the watercourses of the Negev.
- 6 Those who sowed with tears *
will reap with songs of joy.
- 7 Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, *
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

Words: *Psalm 126*

Music: C.V. Stanford (1852-1924)

THE SECOND LESSON - *A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians*

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this. (5:16-24)

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE HYMN 59 - Merton

The people turn to face the Book of Gospels

THE HOLY GOSPEL of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

People Glory be to thee, O Lord.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing. (1:6-8,19-28)

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise be to thee, O Christ.

THE SERMON

Dean Vang

THE NICENE CREED

Prayer Book, page 327

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Celebrant Pray without ceasing," says Saint Paul. So let us ask God to do great things for us and for our world as we offer these prayers.

Deacon

That God will make holiness spring up in all the members of the church, especially their leaders: Justin, the Archbishop of Canterbury; Francis, the Bishop of Rome; Bartholomew, the Ecumenical Patriarch; Michael, our Presiding Bishop; William, our Diocesan; Daniel, our Assisting Bishop; and Marshall and Paul, our Priests,

Let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, hear our prayer

That God will make love for justice and peace spring up in our public servants, especially Donald, our President,

Let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, hear our prayer

That God will make care for the environment spring up in human hearts,
Let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, hear our prayer

That God will make wisdom spring up in the Vestry's search to identify Bethesda's Rector,
Let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, hear our prayer

That God will make thankful praise spring up in us who prepare for the celebration of Christmas,

Let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, hear our prayer

That God will make eternal happiness spring up in those who have died,

Let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, hear our prayer

Celebrant Ever-faithful God, remember your promise of mercy as we offer these petitions. Accomplish your saving plan for us and make us, like John the Baptist, eager to embrace your will for our world in Jesus Christ, who is Lord for ever and ever. ***Amen.***

Celebrant and People

Lord Jesus Christ, when you come among us, you proclaim the Kingdom of God in this and every place: Grant that your presence and power will make this parish church a home of spiritual refreshment and healing. We acknowledge our thankfulness to you for the generosity of those who have and continue to support our Capital Campaign. Open our loving hearts so that our mission may prosper and your Name be glorified. This we ask through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Deacon Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God

Deacon and People

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against thee in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved thee with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in thy will, and walk in thy ways, to the glory of thy name. Amen.

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People ***And with thy spirit.***

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

ANTHEM - *The Spirit of the Lord*

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because He hath anointed me to
preach the gospel to the poor;
He hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted,
to preach deliverance to the captives
and recovering of sight to the blind,
So the Lord God will cause righteousness
and praise to spring forth
before all the nations.
As the earth bringeth forth her bud.

Words: *Isaiah 61: 1-3, 11*

Music: Edward Elgar (1857-1934)

HYMN 365 - *Moscow*

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING, *Eucharistic Prayer I*

Prayer Book, page 333

PROPER PREFACE OF ADVENT

Because thou didst send thy beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS QUI VENIT (*Hymnal S114*), *sung by all*

OUR FATHER

Prayer Book, page 334

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD: AGNUS DEI (*Hymnal S158*, *sung by all*)

PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

Prayer Book, page 337

MINISTRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

MOTET - *Canite Tuba*

Canite tuba in Sion, quia prope est dies Domini. Ecce venit ad salvandum nos: erunt prava indirecta, et aspera in vias planas: veni Domine et noli tardare. Alleluia.

Sound the trumpet in Sion, for the day of the Lord is near. See, he is coming to save us:

winding paths will be made straight and rough places smooth. Come, Lord, and do not delay. Alleluia.

Words: *Joel 2:1; Isaiah 11:4*

Music: Francisco Guerrero (1528-1599)

THE CONCLUDING RITE

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Prayer Book, page 339

ADVENT BLESSING

May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. ***Amen.***

DISMISSAL

Deacon Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

HYMN 57 - *Helm sley*

ORGAN: *Postlude on Lourdes Hymn*
1976)

Han Van Koert (1913-

WORSHIPING THIS MORNING

We welcome all visitors to Bethesda. Please identify yourself to the clergy and sign the Register in the Narthex, located next to the vestibule door.

Large print copies of the service leaflet are available. An usher would be happy to assist you. A wheelchair, located near the handicap lift in the vestibule, is available to those who require it.

Please join us for REFRESHMENTS in the Narthex, immediately following the ten o'clock liturgy.

ASSISTING AT OUR LITURGIES TODAY

	<u>8:00am</u>	<u>10:00am</u>
<i>Celebrant</i>	Dean Vang	Dean Vang
<i>Assisting Priest</i>		Father Evans
<i>Lay Eucharistic Minister[s]</i>	Robert Bullock Sean Byrnes	Catherine Berhiede Sean Byrnes
<hr/> <i>Lay Eucharistic Visitor</i>		Robert Bullock
<i>Altar Guild</i>		Gail Remington Christine Miller
<i>Bell Ringers</i>		Mayumi Kato Emily Pick
<i>Lectors</i>	Sean Byrnes	Kim Coughron Catherine Berheide
<i>Ushers</i>		Karen Walton Craig Walton Kathleen Anspach Mark Anspach
<i>Hospitality Host</i>		

NOTICES

In our INTERCESSIONS FOR THE CHURCH today, we pray for

<i>Anglican Communion</i>	Diocese of Wyoming
<i>Diocese of Albany</i>	Missionaries in foreign lands
<i>Our Parish</i>	The Vestry

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS are needed. Please email Sara Manny saramanny@gmail.com, or call the church office at 518-584-5980.

DECORATING THE CHURCH: We will be decorating for Christmas today, December 17th after the Christmas Pageant. Consider bringing old towels, clippers and a commercial broom/dustpan. We need your help since the project must be completed by 4:00 p.m.

A basket in the vestibule awaits your contributions of hygiene products to Economic Opportunity Council (EOC). These are taken monthly to assist those in need. Your assistance in gratefully appreciated.

YOUTH GROUP UPDATE: We are taking donations of winter coats, hats, gloves, scarfs, sweaters, etc. for the cold winter ahead. The youth group will be donating these items to a local shelter for those in need. The box is located in the vestibule if you would like to contribute. Your donations are greatly appreciated.

EMAIL NOTICES FOR BULLETIN: Please send all notices for the church bulletin to office@bethesdachurch.org

Office Hours: The PARISH OFFICES are open from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. *Monday through Thursday*, and 9 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. on *Friday*.

IS YOUR PLEDGE UP TO DATE: It is important that we honor our commitments in a timely manner. Our ministries continue, and so do the expenses that support them. Thank you.

Bethesda Episcopal Church is a participant of PAYPAL! You can make your gift to Bethesda by going to paypal.com and choosing bethesdaepiscopalchurch@gmail.com as the payee.

SMILE.AMAZON.COM Bethesda Episcopal Church is a participant of **AmazonSmile**. When you are ready to make a purchase use this web address: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/14-1364477> and Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to Bethesda.

2017 DECEMBER CONCERTS AT BETHESDA

Sunday, December 17, at 7:00 p.m.
SARATOGA YOUTH ORCHESTRA

THE VESTRY REPORTS: CONGREGATION MEETINGS REGARDING THE RECTOR SEARCH PROCESS

Sunday, January 21, 2018, 9:00 am, in the Church Nave
Tuesday, January 23, 2018, 7:00 pm, in the Church Nave
Sunday, January 28, 2018, 11:30 am, in the Church Nave

Please make every effort to attend one of these offerings.

ANNUAL ELECTION INFORMATION

Churchwardens

Class of 2018

Darren Miller, Senior Churchwarden

Class of 2017

Catherine Berheide, Junior Churchwarden, Eligible for re-election

Vestry Persons

Class of 2017

Jane Agee, Eligible for re-election

Gordon Boyd, Ineligible for re-election

Mark Griffin, Ineligible for re-election

Geneva Henderson, Clerk, Vacancy

Class of 2018

Mark Claverie, Vacancy

Pamela Houde

Mayumi Kato

Class of 2019

Field Horne

Sara Manny

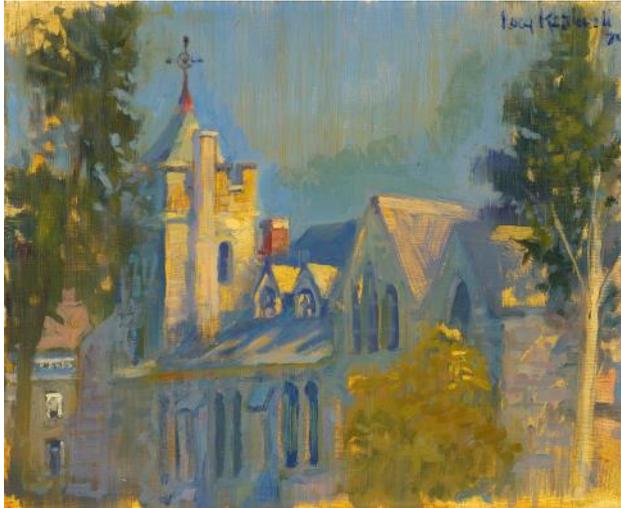
Steven Rucker

John Van der Veer, Treasurer

Please recommend below Bethesda communicants to serve on the Vestry.

THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA
December 18-24

Monday <i>Advent Weekday</i>		
Tuesday <i>Advent Weekday</i>	6:30 p.m.	Holy Eucharist, <i>High Altar</i>
Wednesday <i>Advent Weekday</i>	12:10 p.m. 2:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Holy Eucharist with Healing, <i>Transcept Altar</i> Holy Eucharist, <i>Home of the Good Shepherd, Wilton</i> Meeting of the Vestry, <i>Skidmore College</i>
Thursday <i>SAINT THOMAS THE APOSTLE</i>	9:30 a.m. 10:15 a.m.	Holy Eucharist, <i>Home of the Good Shepherd, Saratoga</i> Holy Eucharist, <i>Memory Care Facility, Home of the Good Shepherd, Saratoga</i>
Friday <i>Advent Weekday</i>		
Saturday <i>Advent Weekday</i>		
Sunday <i>THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT CHRISTMAS EVE</i>	8:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 4:00 p.m. 10:00 p.m. 10:30 p.m.	Morning Prayer, <i>Transcept Altar</i> Holy Eucharist, <i>High Altar</i> Refreshments, <i>The Narthex</i> Family Eucharist with the Blessing of the Creche Music of the Nativity Solemn Eucharist with <i>The Great Procession</i>



THE PARISH VESTRY

Churchwardens

Class of 2018

Darren Miller, *Senior Churchwarden*

Class of 2017

Catherine Berheide, *Junior Churchwarden*

Vestry

Class of 2017

Jane Agee

Gordon Boyd

Mark Griffin

Geneva Henderson, *Clerk*

Class of 2018

Mark Claverie

Pamela Houde

Mayumi Kato

Class of 2019

Field Horne

Sara Manny

Steven Rucker

John Van der Veer, *Treasurer*

The Very Reverend Marshall J. Vang, *Interim Rector*

The Reverend Paul F. Evans, *Assisting Priest*

Mr. Landon M. Moore, *Postulant for Holy Orders*

Mrs. Barbara Latzko, *Parish Administrative Assistant*

Mr. Farrell Goehring, *Organist/Director of Music*

Dr. Kathleen Slezak, *Choral Director*

Mr. Robert E. Bullock, *Verger*

Mr. Sean Byrnes, *Sacristan*

www.bethesdachurch.org

<https://www.facebook.com/bethesdaepiscopalchurch>

(518) 584-5980