



*Please review the guidelines to attend services on the back page of this service sheet.*

**The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**13 September 2020**

**7:20 am - Morning Prayer**

**8:00 am - Holy Eucharist**

**10:00 am - Holy 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.*

**Prelude**

God Has Spoken by His Prophets

Jan Bender (1909-1994)

### **The Entrance Rite**

#### **The Opening Acclamation**

*The people standing, the Celebrant says*

*Celebrant*

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit

*People*

And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The Celebrant may say The Summary of the Law*

#### **Gloria In Excelsis**

Glory be to God on high,  
and on earth peace, good will towards men.

We praise thee, we bless thee,  
we worship thee,  
we glorify thee,  
we give thanks to thee for thy great glory,

O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.  
O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;  
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
that takest away the sins of the world,  
have mercy upon us.

Thou that takest away the sins of the world,  
receive our prayer.  
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father,  
have mercy upon us.

For thou only art holy;  
thou only art the Lord;  
thou only, O Christ,  
with the Holy Ghost,  
art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

### **The Collect of The Day**

*Celebrant*        The Lord be with you.  
*People*            And with thy spirit.  
*Celebrant*        Let us pray.

O God, forasmuch as without thee we are not able to please thee, mercifully grant that thy Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with thee and the same Spirit liveth and reigneth, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

*The people are seated*

### **The First Lesson**

Genesis 50:15-21

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

*The Lector concludes*        The Word of the Lord.  
*The People respond*        Thanks be to God.

### **Gradual**

*Said by all*

Psalm 103:1-7, 8-13

Bless the Lord, O my soul, \*  
and all that is within me, bless his holy Name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, \*  
and forget not all his benefits.  
He forgives all your sins \*  
and heals all your infirmities;  
He redeems your life from the grave \*  
and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness;  
He satisfies you with good things, \*  
and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.  
The Lord executes righteousness \*  
and judgment for all who are oppressed.  
He made his ways known to Moses \*  
and his works to the children of Israel.  
The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, \*  
slow to anger and of great kindness.  
He will not always accuse us, \*  
nor will he keep his anger for ever.  
He has not dealt with us according to our sins, \*  
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.  
For as the heavens are high above the earth, \*  
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.  
As far as the east is from the west, \*  
so far has he removed our sins from us.  
As a father cares for his children, \*  
so does the Lord care for those who fear him.

### **The Second Lesson**

Romans 14:1-12

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God. We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

*The Lector concludes  
The People respond*

The Word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

*The people stand, if able.*

## The Holy Gospel

Matthew 18:21-35

*Celebrant*        The Holy Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.  
*People*            Glory be to thee, O Lord.

Peter came and said to Jesus, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

*Celebrant*        The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People*            Praise be to thee, O Christ.

## The Sermon

Fr Wallace

**The Nicene Creed**                    *Said by all, standing if you are able.*

I believe in one God,  
    the Father Almighty,  
    maker of heaven and earth,  
    and of all things visible and invisible;  
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
    the only-begotten Son of God,  
    begotten of his Father before all worlds,  
    God of God, Light of Light,  
    very God of very God;  
    begotten, not made;  
    being of one substance with the Father;  
    by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation  
    came down from heaven,  
and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary,  
    and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered and was buried:

and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,  
and ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth on the right hand of the Father;  
and he shall come again, with glory,  
to judge both the quick and the dead;  
whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, The Lord, and Giver of Life,  
who proceedeth from the Father and the Son;  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified;  
who spake by the Prophets.

And I believe one holy Catholic and Apostolic Church;  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins;  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**The Prayers of The People** *Please kneel, if you are able.*  
In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

For all people in their daily life and work;  
*For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.*

For this community, the nation, and the world;  
*For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.*

For the just and proper use of your creation;  
*For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.*

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;  
*For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.*

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;  
*For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.*

For Michael, our Presiding Bishop, and William our Bishop; and for all bishops and other ministers;  
*For all who serve God in his Church.*

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

Silence

Hear us, Lord;  
*For your mercy is great.*

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

Silence

We will exalt you, O God our King;  
*And praise your Name for ever and ever.*

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;  
*Who put their trust in you.*

We pray also for the forgiveness of our sins.

*The people say together*

Almighty God,  
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
maker of all things, judge of all men:  
We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins  
and wickedness,  
which we from time to time most grievously have committed,  
by thought, word, and deed, against thy divine Majesty,  
provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us.  
We do earnestly repent,  
and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings;  
the remembrance of them is grievous unto us,  
the burden of them is intolerable.  
Have mercy upon us,  
have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;  
for thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake,  
forgive us all that is past;  
and grant that we may ever hereafter  
serve and please thee in newness of life,  
to the honor and glory of thy Name;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **The Absolution**

*The Celebrant says*

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## The Peace

*Please stand, if you are able.*

*Celebrant  
People*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
And with thy spirit.

## The Liturgy of The Eucharist

### At The Offertory

Aria

Jan Bender (1909-1994)

### The Great Thanksgiving

*Please stand, if you are able.*

*Celebrant  
People*

The Lord be with you.  
And with thy spirit.

*Celebrant  
People*

Lift up your hearts.  
We lift them up unto the Lord.

*Celebrant  
People*

Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.  
It is meet and right so to do.

### Proper Preface Of The Lord's Day Of God the Son

Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

### Sanctus and Benedictus Qui Venit

*Sung by all*

Healey Willan

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of  
Hosts: Hea - ven and earth are full of thy glo - ry. Glo -  
- ry be to thee, O Lord Most High. Bless - ed is he that com - eth  
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

### The Eucharistic Prayer

*Please kneel, if you are able.*

*The Celebrant continues the Eucharistic Prayer, which concludes*

O Father Almighty, world without end. **Amen.**

And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

*People and Celebrant*

Our Father, 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, and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.

### **The Breaking of The Bread**

*Celebrant* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
*People* Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

**Agnus Dei** *Sung by all*

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

**Prayer of Humble Access** *Said by all*

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy.

Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

**At The Communion** *Aria* Jan Bender (1909-1994)

**The Post Communion Prayer** *Said by all, kneeling if you are able.*

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that

holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

### **The Blessing**

#### *Celebrant*

The Peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

### **Dismissal**

*Celebrant*            Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*People*              Thanks be to God.

*Please stand as the celebrant departs, if you are able.*

### **Voluntary**

Fugue

Jan Bender (1909-1994)

### **The Parish Staff**

The Reverend Charles Wallace, *Priest in Charge*  
The Reverend Paul F. Evans, *Assisting Priest*  
Mrs. Barbara Latzko, *Parish Administrative Assistant*  
Mr. Farrell Goehring, *Organist/Director of Music*  
Dr. Kathleen Slezak, *Choral Director*  
Mr. Robert E. Bullock, *Verger*

[www.bethesdachurch.org](http://www.bethesdachurch.org)  
<https://www.facebook.com/bethesdaepiscopalchurch>  
(518) 584-5980

## NOTICES

The Flowers on the Altar today are given to the Glory of Almighty God in loving memory of David Kromer given by Helen Sciartelli & Lewis Bruce.

If you would like to make an offering of flowers or Eucharistic Elements, please contact the Parish Office by phone (518-584-5980) or email [barbara@bethesdachurch.org](mailto:barbara@bethesdachurch.org). Your offering of flowers or elements can not only include memorials for loved ones, but offerings in honor of loved ones or of thanksgiving for special events. Your gift is appreciated by all.

In our Intercessions for the Church today, we pray for

Anglican Communion	Anglican Church of South America
Albany Diocese	For preparations for the first virtual Diocese of Albany Convention (October 24)
Our Parish	For all caregivers

**Pastoral Care.** Many of our members are not able to come to church at this time due to the pandemic or health conditions. If you or someone you know would like a visit please contact the church office (518-584-5980). To add a name to the parish prayer list, please ring the church office during office hours, or email Fr Wallace: [frwallace@bethesdachurch.org](mailto:frwallace@bethesdachurch.org)

**Emails.** To receive our emails sign up on [bethesdachurch.org](http://bethesdachurch.org) or call the office (518) 584- 5980. To receive communications by US mail, please let the office know. To contact Father Wallace please call the church office, or you may email him directly at [frwallace@bethesdachurch.org](mailto:frwallace@bethesdachurch.org). To email the wardens (Darren Miller and Kate Berheide) at [wardens@bethesdachurch.org](mailto:wardens@bethesdachurch.org) . Parish office email ([office@bethesdachurch.org](mailto:office@bethesdachurch.org)). Office hours -9am until 2pm Monday and Thursday; 9am until 3pm Tuesday and Wednesday; and 9am until 12:30pm on Friday.

**Warning About SPAM** Scammers targeting churches - some folks have been getting emails from parish clergy regarding a need for gift cards. The scammer asks for the individual to respond to the email. DON'T respond. If you are wondering how to recognize spam, in this case the email associated with the rector's name is not their normal email address, but it looks similar and some people even have received a picture of the priest/pastor with that email. So check the email address against your rector's usual email address. Remember to protect yourself and your information. If you don't recognize an e-mail address, or if the request sounds strange to you, don't respond to it, don't click on any links, don't call any numbers.

### Activities for September and October

*As fall approaches there are many new opportunities for learning, fun and fellowship with your fellow Bethesda parishioners:*

**Activities:** please register with the church office for the activities below, via email ([office@bethesdachurch.org](mailto:office@bethesdachurch.org)) or phone (518) 584-5980.

**Lectio Divina: Fall Bible Study** begins this Thursday, 17 September following Mid Day prayers. This week we will read the first four chapters of the Gospel according to Mark. We will meet in the church.

**Sunday School** Beginning the first Sunday in October, our children's program will take place during the 10am service. Contact the church office if you need additional information.

**Bethesda Walkers** (aka Legs Misérables) will gather on three Saturdays: 17 October, 24 October and 31 October. Details for each week will be announced in September. The group is open to anyone interested in a brisk walk and lively fellowship with fellow parishioners, friends and family.

**Bethesda Book Club** The Bethesda Book Club will meet periodically throughout the year. Our first meeting is scheduled for Thursday 22 October at 7pm when we will discuss *The Plague*, by Albert Camus.

### Services

**Service with Father Vang** On 27 September, we welcome our former interim Rector, the Very Reverend Marshall Vang. Fr Vang will be celebrant and preacher at both morning services.

**The Blessing of Animals** This year, we honor St Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals, on Sunday 4 October. You are invited to bring your pets to Bethesda between 9.00am and 9.45am for a blessing.

**Weekly Services** on Sunday are 7:20am (Mattins) and Eucharist at 8am and 10am. Midday Prayers are offered in the church Monday-Friday at noon. On Wednesdays, midweek prayers will be followed by the Eucharist. Saturday at 5pm there is a Rite II Eucharist in the chapel. Please see our [website](#) for service times and for on-line worship resources.

### **If you are a visitor...**

Welcome to Bethesda Episcopal Church! We are glad you came, and would like to stay in touch. Please complete the following information and put this form in the offering plate or hand it to an usher.

Name (s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to be added to the parish list? \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to be contacted by the clergy? \_\_\_\_\_

## **Guidelines for Attending Church**

### **Entry**

Do not enter if you are ill or have been in contact with someone who is ill.  
A mask is required and can be provided if you do not have one.  
Hand sanitizer is required and will be provided upon entry.  
We require your name and contact information.  
Sorry, no bathrooms available.

### **Offering**

Collection plates are at the rear of the church; thanks for dropping your envelope there!

### **Bulletins**

Are in the pews.

### **Seating**

8 am – sit in pews with **blue** tape.  
10 am – sit in pews with **purple** tape.

### **Peace**

6' apart - No touching – bow, sign, wave.

### **Communion**

Please follow ushers' instructions.  
Begins with people at the rear of the church. Distinct households remain 6' apart.  
Hand sanitizer is required and will be provided before communion.  
Only host will be distributed (sorry no wine).  
For communion, hold out your hands.  
For a blessing, cross your hands over your chest.  
Return to your seat via the side aisle on the left (the Gospel side).

### **Leaving**

Wait until the usher signals that it's your turn to leave.  
Place your bulletin in the wastebasket or take it home to recycle.