

**Bethesda Episcopal Church**  
**26 Washington Street**  
**Saratoga Springs**

**The Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ**  
**8:00am Holy Eucharist**

**3 January 2021**  
**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**                      Impressions on "We Three Kings"                      Alfred Fedak (b. 1953)

**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.**

**Carol (at 10am):**

As with gladness men of old  
did the guiding star behold;  
as with joy they hailed its light,  
leading onward, beaming bright;  
so, most gracious Lord, may we  
evermore be led to Thee.

As with joyful steps they sped  
to that lowly manger-bed;  
there to bend the knee before  
him whom heaven and earth adore;  
so may we with willing feet  
ever seek the mercy-seat.

As they offered gifts most rare  
at that manger rude and bare;  
so may we with holy joy,  
pure and free from sin's alloy,  
all our costliest treasures bring,  
Christ! to thee, our heavenly King.

## The Collect of The Day

*Celebrant*      The Lord be with you.

*People*          And with thy spirit.

*Celebrant*      Let us pray.

O God, who by the leading of a star didst manifest thy only-begotten Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know thee now by faith, to thy presence, where we may behold thy glory face to face; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*The people are seated*

### The First Lesson

Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

*The Lector concludes*                      The Word of the Lord.

*The People respond*                        Thanks be to God

**Gradual** [Congregation says the verses in bold ]

Psalm 72:1-7,10-14

Give the King your justice, O God, \*

and your righteousness to the King's Son;

**That he may rule your people righteously \***

**and the poor with justice;**

That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, \*

and the little hills bring righteousness.

**He shall defend the needy among the people; \***

**he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.**

He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, \*

from one generation to another.

**He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, \***

**like showers that water the earth.**

In his time shall the righteous flourish; \*

there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

**The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute, \***

**and the kings of Arabia and Saba offer gifts.**

All kings shall bow down before him, \*

and all the nations do him service.

**For he shall deliver the poor who cries out in distress, \*  
and the oppressed who has no helper.**

He shall have pity on the lowly and poor; \*  
he shall preserve the lives of the needy.

**He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence, \*  
and dear shall their blood be in his sight.**

### **The Second Lesson**

Ephesians 3:1-12

I Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles - assume that you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

*The Lector concludes  
The People respond*

The Word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

*The people stand, if able.*

### **The Holy Gospel**

Matthew 2:1-12

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

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that

they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

*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** *Pease kneel, if you are able.*

At the Epiphany, the Wise Men knelt before our Savior. Let us also kneel to worship him with great joy, and to make our prayer to his heavenly Father.

Father, the Wise Men came from the east to worship your Son: grant to Christians everywhere a true spirit of adoration.

Lord, in your mercy,

***Hear our prayer.***

Father, your Son is the King of kings and Lord of lords: grant an abundance of peace to your world.

Lord, in your mercy,

***Hear our prayer.***

Father, the Holy Family shared the life of the people of Nazareth: protect in your mercy our families and neighbors.

Lord, in your mercy,

***Hear our prayer.***

Father, your Son was rich, yet for our sakes he became poor: show your love for the poor and powerless.

Lord, in your mercy,

***Hear our prayer.***

Father, the Wise Men presented to your Son gold, frankincense and myrrh: accept the gifts we bring, and the offering of our hearts at the beginning of this new year.

Lord, in your mercy,

***Hear our prayer.***

Father, you are the King of heaven, the hope of all who trust in you: give to all the faithful departed the wonders of your salvation.

Lord, in your mercy,

***Hear our prayer.***

Rejoicing in the fellowship of the Wise Men, shepherds, and angels, and of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Saint Joseph, we commend ourselves and all Christian people to your unfailing love.

Lord, in your mercy,

***Hear our prayer.***

*The Celebrant concludes with a prayer.*

The people respond Amen.

*The Celebrant introduces the Confession*

*The people say*

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

**At The Offertory**      Bring Him Gold, Incense and Myrrh      Colin Mawby (1936-2019)

### **The Great Thanksgiving**

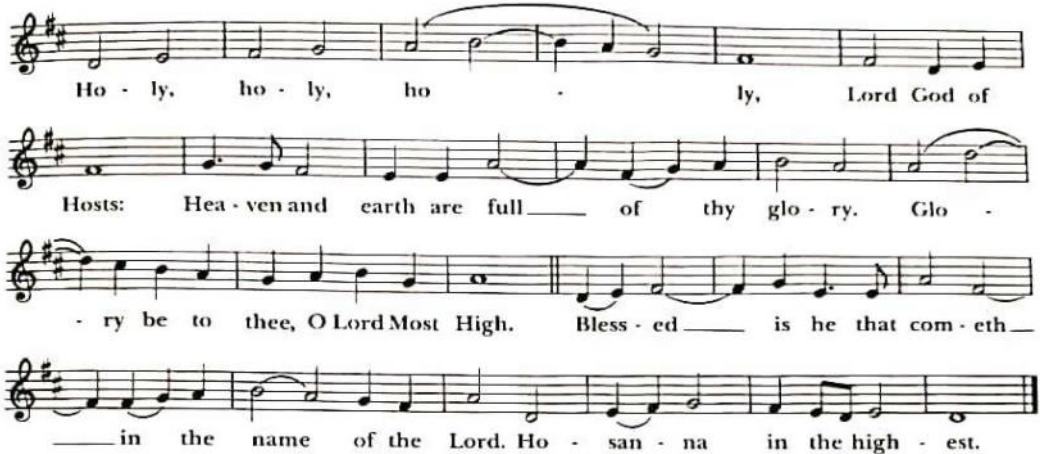
*Please stand, if you are able.*

*Celebrant*      The Lord be with you.  
*People*         And with thy spirit.  
*Celebrant*      Lift up your hearts.  
*People*         We lift them up unto the Lord.  
*Celebrant*      Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.  
*People*         It is meet and right so to do.

## Proper Preface Of the Epiphany

Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, thou hast caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of thy glory in the face of thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

## Sanctus and Benedictus Qui Venit *Sung by all*



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*

By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto thee, 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.

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

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteous -ness, 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.

### Agnus Dei *Sung by all*



O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a -



way the sins of the world, have mer - cy up -



on us. O Lamb of God, that



ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, have



mer - cy up - on us. O Lamb of



God, that ta - kest a - way the sins of the  
world, grant us thy peace.

**At The Communion** Adoration Théodore Dubois (1837-1929)

**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**

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** Adoration from "The Holy City" Alfred Grul (1837-1913)

## Notices

In our Intercessions for the Church and Parish this week, we pray for  
Anglican Communion      The Episcopal / Anglican Province of Alexandria  
Albany Diocese              Eastern and Oriental Orthodox Churches  
Our Parish                      Thanksgiving for a New Year

We remember with thanksgiving those who are celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this week. We also pray for those who have died recently and those whose year's mind falls at this time.

**Offering Envelopes** are here for 2021. Please see an usher for your envelopes. If you do not currently use envelopes but would like to, please contact the church office.

Due to Covid-19 regulations the windows in the church must remain open during services this winter. Please dress warmly.

**Needed.** We are making every effort to have our church open for prayer and service as much as possible. With this comes the need for additional disinfecting. If you are out and about and see a can or two of Lysol Disinfecting Spray, it would be most appreciated if you would get one for the church. Thank you.

**Many Thanks** to Mark and Kathleen Anspach, Ann Bullock, Mark Claverie and Diane Robinson, Tim Holmes and Libby Smith-Holmes, Garrie Longe and Mary Withington for caring for the church during Christmas services.

If you are shopping online remember to use **AMAZONSMILE** and designate Bethesda Episcopal Church as the charity to which you want Amazon to donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases. Go to <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/14-1364477>.

### Parish Activities for January

**Owen Reid**, organ scholar at the Cathedral of All Saints, Albany, will offer the final installment of his series on music for Christmas - Epiphany on Thursday 14 January at 12.15pm. Midday prayers will begin at 12pm, as usual. All welcome.

**Bethesda Annual Meeting - 26 January at 6:30 pm:** Bethesda's Annual Meeting takes place Tuesday, Jan. 26, 2021, starting at 6:30 pm at Bethesda Episcopal Church. Business includes Annual Review, Vestry Elections, Updates, and 2021 Budget Presentation.

## **A Prayer for Blessing your Home at the Epiphany**

*Begin by saying:*

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*Using the blessed chalk, near your front door (on a wall, the lintel or step)  
write the following:*

**20 + C + M + B + 21.**

*Then, say this prayer:*

The Three Wise Men, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar, followed the star of God's Son who became human two thousand and twenty-one years ago.

May Christ bless our (my) home and remain with us (me) throughout this new year.  
Amen.

*You may also offer the following prayer:*

Visit, O Lord, this dwelling, and drive far from it all snares of the enemy; let your holy Angels dwell herein, to preserve us (me) in peace; and let your blessing be upon us (me) for evermore; through Christ our Lord. Amen.



## Weekly Services

Monday – Friday	Midday Prayers	12pm
Wednesday	Eucharist	12pm
Saturday	Eucharist (Vigil of Sunday) Rite II	5pm
Sunday	Mattins	7:20am
	Eucharist	8am & 10am
	Children’s Program	10am

### Guidelines for Attending Church

Welcome to Bethesda Church. Thank you for joining us for worship today. For your safety, we ask you to follow the guidelines below when attending our services.

Social distancing protocols will be observed at all times. Please do not attend church if you are currently ill or have been in contact recently with someone who is ill.

- ◆ A mask is required at all times. If you require a mask, an usher will provide one for you.
- ◆ Upon entry, please use the provided hand sanitizer.
- ◆ The ushers will record your name and phone number upon entry.
- ◆ "You must keep 6-feet between you and others not of your household when entering the Church and throughout the time you are in the Church."
- ◆ Pews are color coded for each service, 8am use blue pews, 10am use yellow pews.
- ◆ Bathrooms are currently for emergencies only.
- ◆ At the exchange of the Peace, please do not leave your pew.
- ◆ At the distribution of Communion, remain in your pew until an usher invites you to move to the chancel step.
- ◆ At the end of the service, only move when directed to do so by an usher.
- ◆ Take your bulletin home or place it in the wastebasket at the door.

Financial gifts for the ministry of Bethesda Church are gratefully received. Please place your donation in the collection plates at the rear of the church. We appreciate your support.

Thank you for your co-operation and understanding.

office@bethesdachurch.org  
www.bethesdachurch.org  
<https://www.facebook.com/bethesdaepiscopalchurch>  
(518) 584-5980