

# Bethesda Episcopal Church

**The Fifth Sunday of Easter**

**2 May 2021**

**10:00am Sung Eucharist**

**Prelude**

Variations on "Meine junges Leben hat ein End

Jan Sweelinck (1562-1621)

**The Opening Acclamation**

*The people standing, the Celebrant says*

*Celebrant*

Alleluia. Christ is Risen.

*People*

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

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.**

**Hymn** Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:  
such a way as gives us breath;  
such a truth as ends all strife;  
such a life as killeth death.

Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength:  
such a light as shows a feast;  
such a feast as mends in length;  
such a strength as makes his guest.

Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:  
such a joy as none can move;  
such a love as none can part;  
such a heart as joys in love.

**The Collect of The Day**

*Celebrant*

The Lord be with you.

*People*

And with thy spirit.

*Celebrant*

Let us pray.

O Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know thy Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leadeth to eternal life; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*The people are seated*

### **The First Lesson**

Acts 8:26-40

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

*The Lector concludes*  
*The People respond*

The Word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God

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

Psalms 22:24-30

My praise is of him in the great assembly; \*

I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.

**The poor shall eat and be satisfied,  
and those who seek the Lord shall praise him: \***

**"May your heart live for ever!"**

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, \*  
and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.

**For kingship belongs to the Lord; \*  
he rules over the nations.**

To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; \*  
all who go down to the dust fall before him.

**My soul shall live for him;  
my descendants shall serve him; \*  
they shall be known as the Lord's for ever.**

They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn \*  
the saving deeds that he has done.

## **The Second Lesson**

1 John 4:7-21

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

*The Lector concludes*

The Word of the Lord.

*The People respond*

Thanks be to God.

*The people stand, if able.*

## **The Holy Gospel**

John 15:1-8

*Celebrant*

The Holy Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ according to John

*People*

Glory be to thee, O Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

*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.*

In joy and hope let us pray to the Father:  
That our risen Savior may fill us with the joy of his glorious and life-giving resurrection,  
we pray to the Father:  
*Hear our prayer.*

That isolated and persecuted churches may find fresh strength in the good news of Easter,  
we pray to the Father:  
*Hear our prayer.*

That God may grant us humility to be subject to one another in Christian love,  
we pray to the Father:  
*Hear our prayer.*

That he may provide for those who lack food, work, or shelter, we pray to the Father: *Hear our prayer.*

That by his power war and famine may cease through all the world, we pray to the Father: *Hear our prayer.*

That he may reveal the light of his presence to the sick, the weak, and the dying, to comfort and strengthen them, especially those afflicted by the Corona Virus:  
we pray to the Father:  
*Hear our prayer.*

That, according to his promises, all who have died in the faith of the resurrection may be raised on the last day, we pray to the Father:  
*Hear our prayer.*

That he may send the fire of the Holy Spirit upon his people, so that we may bear faithful witness to his resurrection, we pray to the Father:  
*Hear our prayer.*

*The Celebrant concludes with a Collect*

*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** Melody in G Alexandre Guilmant (1837-1911)

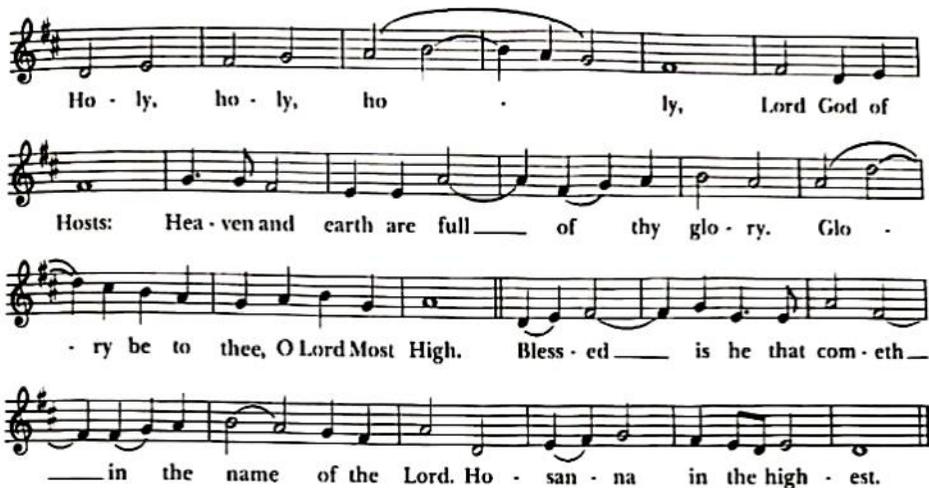
**The Great Thanksgiving** *Please stand, if you are able.*

*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 Easter

But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life.

**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 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.

**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**

Communion

Louis Vierne (1870-1937)

**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* Alleluia. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
*People* Thanks be to God. Alleluia.

*Please stand as the ministers depart, if you are able.*

### **Voluntary**

Toccata

Jan Sweelinck (1562-1621)

## Notices

In our Intercessions for the Church and Parish this week, we pray for  
Anglican Communion      The Episcopal church in Jerusalem and The Middle East  
Albany Diocese              St. Paul's Church, Keeseville  
Our Parish                      All health care workers

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.

The flowers on the Altar this morning are given in loving memory of Virginia and David Danforth Wilder by Nancy and David Wilder, and in loving memory of Diana Mobley and Finn Reynolds-Kautzman by Mary Withington.

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 be Memorial offerings, and also offerings of thanksgiving. Your gift is appreciated by all.

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>.

## In the Community

**Volunteer Caregivers Needed** for Mary's Haven, a community home for the dying, a program of Catholic Charities, located in Saratoga Springs. Just 2- 4 hours a week of your time and talents will assist us in providing care and comfort to the terminally ill. Initial and ongoing training are provided. Volunteers © What They Do At Mary's Haven!! Come and find out why. For more information please contact: Robin or Nancy @ #518-584-9397 or email us at: [maryshaven@swvcc.org](mailto:maryshaven@swvcc.org)

## Upcoming Services and Events at Bethesda

### Upcoming Services

Today:	Services at 8am & 10am
Wednesday, 5 May	12pm Eucharist
Saturday, 8 May	5pm Vigil Eucharist (Rite II)
Sunday, 9 May	Services at 8am & 10am.

**Legs Miserables.** Bethesda Walkers (aka Legs Misérables) will meet on three consecutive Wednesdays at 2 pm: May 5, 12, and 19 (with June 16 as our rain date). The first week (May 5), we start with a more leisurely walk that should accommodate parishioners of all ages and abilities. We will walk along the newly created 1.7-mile trail at Pitney Meadows Farm. This flat gravel-paved trail follows the outer perimeter of the farm property offering views of woodlands, Geysers Creek, and open fields. The trail is wide enough to allow for physical distancing across the width of the trail as well as along its length.

Pitney Meadows Farm Trail Walk  
223 West Avenue  
Saratoga Springs

Please meet us by the trailhead at 2 pm on Wednesday, May 5. The trailhead is off the second road into the farm just yards beyond the main road (where the sign is). Parking is allowed on the grassy area beside the barn or on the right side of the road around back of the barn for those walking the trail. You can also come into the main road and park by the farm store and public restrooms; it's a short walk around the barn to the trailhead. Comfortable walking shoes or tennis shoes, a hat if it's sunny (we're walking around a farm, not in the woods), a water bottle, and a mask should be all that you need for this walk. While there you might want to pick up fresh produce at the farm store and look around the community garden area where many Saratogians rent raised bed spaces to grow their own produce in the summer.

Website: <https://www.pitneymeadowscommunityfarm.org/>

Call the parish office to register: 518-584-5980. If it is raining, we will postpone the walk at Pitney Meadows Farm until Wednesday, June 16.

For the second week (May 12), we will walk at Hudson Crossing Park, County Road 42, in Schuylerville. We will meet at the parking lot at 2 pm. We will walk up some steps to get to the Eagle Trail, walking along the canal side of the island until we get to Eagle Point where we have a view of the dam. We will return to the parking lot by following the Riverwalk Sensory Trail on the other side of the island. The walk is about two miles in total.

Website: <https://www.hudsoncrossingpark.org/>

The third walk on May 19 will be a bit longer, a bit more challenging because it will include a hill or two, and probably a bit muddier (depends on how much rain we have over the next couple of weeks). Details to follow.

The walkers group is open to anyone interested in a walk on a farm, in a park, or in the woods and lively fellowship with fellow parishioners, friends and family. Please register with the church office if you want to go on one or more of these walks, by phone (518) 584-5980.

**Thank you** Thanks to all who made yesterday's work day a runaway success! Dedicated volunteers together put in dozens of hours. Everyone's talents were appreciated, with jobs big and small for all.

## **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 windows will be open, please dress accordingly.
- ◆ 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.

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