

Bethesda Episcopal Church

The First Sunday After The Epiphany

9 January 2022

At the current time, for everyone's safety, masks are to be worn at all services.

Prelude Of the Father's Love Begotten, *Divinum mysterium* Wilbur Held (1914-2015)

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 Collect of The Day

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

Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the river Jordan didst proclaim him thy beloved Son and anoint him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with thee and the same Spirit liveth and reigneth, one God, in glory everlasting.
Amen.

The people are seated

The First Lesson

Isaiah 43: 1-7

Now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth -- everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

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

Gradual Psalm 29

George Elvey (1816-1893)
Soloist - Valerie Lord, Alto

Ascribe to the Lord, you gods, *
 ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his Name; *
 worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.
The voice of the Lord is upon the waters;
the God of glory thunders; *
 the Lord is upon the mighty waters.
The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice; *
 the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendor.
The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees; *
 the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;
He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, *
 and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.
The voice of the Lord splits the flames of fire;
the voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; *
 the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe *
 and strips the forests bare.
And in the temple of the Lord *
 all are crying, "Glory!"
The Lord sits enthroned above the flood; *
 the Lord sits enthroned as King for evermore.
The Lord shall give strength to his people; *
 the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.

The Second Lesson

Acts 8:14-17

Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

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

The people stand, if able.

The Holy Gospel

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

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

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

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

The Sermon

Fr. Russo

The Nicene Creed *Said by all, standing if 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.*

In peace, let us pray to the Lord saying, Lord in thy mercy, *hear our prayer.*

For the Church, that all who have been baptized will be inspired by the Holy Spirit to give united witness to the Lord. Lord in thy mercy,
hear our prayer.

For all those who do not yet know Jesus as the beloved Son of God, that they may open their hearts and come to believe in the Good News. Lord in thy mercy,
hear our prayer.

For peace with justice throughout the world, that all people will turn from hatred to love and from violence to peace. Lord in thy mercy,
hear our prayer.

For a spirit of humility that, in our prayer and example, we may always point away from ourselves and towards the living Christ. Lord in thy mercy,
hear our prayer.

For the sick, the lonely, the housebound and the vulnerable that, in the midst of their suffering, they will experience the loving arms of Christ. Lord in thy mercy,
hear our prayer.

For the departed, that they may rest in the peace of Christ, Lord in thy mercy,
hear our prayer

The Celebrant says

Lord, hear the prayers of thy people; and what we have asked faithfully, grant that we may obtain effectually, to the glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Celebrant introduces the Confession

Ye who do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbors, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in his holy ways: Draw near with faith, and make your humble confession to Almighty God, devoutly kneeling.

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 Celebrant says

The Almighty and merciful Lord grant us absolution and remission of all our sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Peace *Please stand.*

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

At The Offertory

1. Songs of thankfulness and praise,
Jesus, Lord, to thee we raise,
manifested by the star
to the sages from afar;
branch of royal David's stem
in thy birth at Bethlehem;
anthems be to thee addressed,
God in man made manifest.
2. Manifest at Jordan's stream,
Prophet, Priest, and King supreme;
and at Cana, wedding-guest,
in thy Godhead manifest;
manifest in power divine,
changing water into wine;
anthems be to thee addressed,
God in man made manifest.

3. Manifest in making whole
palsied limbs and fainting soul;
manifest in valiant fight,
quelling all the devil's might;
manifest in gracious will,
ever bringing good from ill;
anthems be to thee addressed,
God in man made manifest.

The Celebrant says the invitation to Communion

The Church of Christ,
of which we are members,
has taken this bread and wine
and given thanks according to the Lord's command.
Let us now share together
in the communion of his body and blood.

All kneel

The Lord's Prayer

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.

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

The Baptism of Christ

Rachel Aarons (b. 1984)
Soloist - Valerie Lord, Alto

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came down from heaven, "You are my Son, the beloved; With you I am well pleased."
(Luke 3: 21-22)

The Post Communion Prayer *Said by all.*

Almighty and ever living 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.

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 Fanfare in D Major William Mathias (1934-1992)

Notices

In our Intercessions for the Church and Parish this week, we pray for	
Anglican Communion	Christians in other denominations
Albany Diocese	Parishes dedicated to Saint John the Evangelist
Our Parish	The lonely and homebound

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 2022. Please see an usher for your envelopes. If you do not currently use envelopes but would like to, please contact the church office.

Church Cleanup of Christmas decorations will take place following today's 10am service. If you are able to lend a hand, we would most grateful.

Coffee hour following the 10am service has been suspended for the month of January.

Bell Ringing to commemorate Katrina Trask, Beloved Saratogian and Bethesda parishioner. The bells of Bethesda Episcopal Church will ceremonially ring at 11 am on Tuesday, January 11, 2022, in honor of the centennial of the passing of prominent Saratogian Katrina Trask, accomplished author and dedicated patron of the arts. The church will remain open until noon for people to visit.

On January 11, 1922, at 11 am all the churches in Saratoga Springs rang their bells as Katrina Trask was buried in a private ceremony at Yaddo; Bethesda Episcopal Church invites parishioners, residents, and friends to join them in this appreciation exactly 100 years later.

From The Saratogian on January 11, 1922, "As the services were being concluded, the snowstorm intensified; and the flakes fell fast soon covering over both grave and pine boughs. To all it seemed to be Nature's way of expressing grief for the passing of this 'Lady of Yaddo,' so universally loved and honored by all."

In attendance for the anniversary bell ringing will be the Reverend Charles Wallace, Rector of Bethesda Episcopal Church; Margaret Eddy, the 96-year-old great-grand-niece of the Trasks' Italian stonemason Anthony Smaldone, who along with his brothers built the Yaddo mansion, and her daughter Susan Philbin; Mary Ellen Ryall, granddaughter of William Ryall, the Trasks' gardener for 57 years; Brad Ritchie, grandson of Robert R. Ritchie of Ritchie Brothers' Builders, Scottish stonemasons who built the Spencer Trask Memorial and Katrina Trask Gateway Memorial in Congress Park as well as Mrs. Trask's Holy Hill memorial at Yaddo, and Brad's daughter Heather Ritchie.

"We are thrilled to be able to commemorate Katrina Trask by ringing the Church's bells in her honor. She left a tremendous legacy of improvements in the City of Saratoga Springs,

and Bethesda Episcopal deeply appreciates her personal legacy in the church. The main chancel window above the altar, Christ, the Miracle at the Pool of Bethesda, depicts a design developed by Katrina Trask and was donated by the Trasks in honor of their daughter Christina. In addition, the Trasks donated the prominent golden eagle lectern, as well as Bethesda's former parish house which was across the street and behind the grey stone former rectory," said the Reverend Charles Wallace.

Everyone is invited to join Bethesda Episcopal Church in celebrating Katrina Trask's life and legacy. Anyone interested in attending is advised to park in the parking lot surrounding the church, which is accessible from Congress Street with free, gated access for two hours. For additional information please contact the church directly at (518) 584-5980 or office@bethesdachurch.org.

The Annual General meeting is scheduled for the 30 January. There will be one service only on this day at 9am. The meeting will take place immediately after the Eucharist.

Newcomers– we encourage anyone who wishes to join the parish to complete a visitor card available on the back table.

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

Sunday School for children is offered during the 10:00am service. For more information please see Sara Manny or call the church office.

LifeWorks Community Action (formerly EOC). Thank you to all those who have donated. As you can imagine the need is ongoing. If you would like to help by donating here is a list of items needed.

- ◆ Foods low in salt, fat & sugar. Gluten Free foods.
- ◆ Household cleaning supplies.
- ◆ Sponges, laundry detergent, dishwasher detergent.
- ◆ Diapers (size 4 & 5) and baby wipes.
- ◆ Baby care products like baby shampoo and soap.
- ◆ Adult personal hygiene products such as soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, razors, shaving cream, deodorant.

Fresh vegetables as well as other perishable food items like eggs, milk, butter, can be brought directly to the food pantry located at 39 Bath Street, Ballston Spa. Donations are accepted Monday - Friday from 9am to 4pm.

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>.

Forward Day by Day for February/March is now available for purchase. Please contact the church office.

Weekly Services at Bethesda

Monday to Friday	12 Noon Midday Prayers (Eucharist on Wednesdays)
Every Saturday	Vigil Eucharist (Rite II) 5pm
Every Sunday	Services at 8am & 10am.

The following email was sent via Constant Contact. For those who did not receive the email, it is listed below.

Dear Parishioners and Friends of Bethesda,

With regret, I share the news that, a few days ago, Farrell Goehring informed me of his decision to accept the position of Organist at another church. His new appointment, which begins mid-January, prevents him from fulfilling his duties at Bethesda. Nonetheless, I hope we will have an opportunity in the near future to express our thanks to Farrell for his many years of dedicated service here.

The parish now begins a period of reflection as we consider the appointment of a new organist. Kathleen Slezak continues as our Choir Director and is making preparations for the return of the choir. Beginning this Sunday, 9 January, we welcome Derek Stannard, who will serve as interim organist. Derek will play for the 10am sung Eucharist and has kindly agreed to assist at other services which may arise during the interregnum.

Please join me in thanking Farrell and wishing him well as he takes up a new post.

Sincerely,

Fr Charles Wallace

Priest-in-Charge

Guidelines for Attending Church

According to New York State policy, everyone (regardless of vaccination status) is required to always wear a mask while inside the church.

Please do not attend church if you are currently ill or have been in contact recently with someone who is ill.

Hand sanitizer is provided at the entrance of the church.

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.

Thank you for your co-operation and understanding.

The Parish Vestry

Churchwardens

Class of 2022

Darren Miller, *Senior Churchwarden*

Class of 2021

Catherine Berheide, *Junior Churchwarden*

Vestry

Class of 2021

Pamela Houde
John Van der Veer
David Wilder

Class of 2022

Ann Bullock, *Clerk*
Field Horne
Steven Rucker
Karen Finkbeiner, *Treasurer*

Class of 2023

Laura Kszan
Marcia MacDonald
Sara Manny

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

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