

Bethesda Episcopal Church

The Last Sunday After The Epiphany

27 February 2022

We continue to recommend that masks are worn throughout the service.

Prelude

Andante, from *Italian Concerto*

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

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.

O God, who before the passion of thy only begotten Son didst reveal his glory upon the holy mount: Grant unto us that we, beholding by faith the light of his countenance, may be strengthened to bear our cross, and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The people are seated

The First Lesson

Exodus 34:29-35

Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him. But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. Afterward all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the Lord had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face; but whenever Moses went in before the Lord to speak with him, he would take the veil off, until he came out; and when he came out, and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining; and Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

The Lector concludes
The People respond

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

Jehovah reigns supreme, Let all the people quake;
 He sits between the cherubim, Let earth's foundations shake.
 In Zion God is great; O'er nations high his throne;
 His fearful, great and holy name, In praises let them own.

Moses and Aaron, priests, 'Midst those that on Him call,
 And Samuel too, these called on God, And He them answered all.
 In pillar of a cloud, To them Jehovah spake,
 His testimonies gave to them, and laws they did not break.

O Lord, our gracious God, Thou didst an answer send;
 Tho' taking vengeance on their deeds, Thou pardon didst extend.
 All ye exalt the Lord; Our God in praises laud,
 And worship at his holy hill, For holy is our God.

The Second Lesson

2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2

Since, then, we have such a hope, we act with great boldness, not like Moses, who put a veil over his face to keep the people of Israel from gazing at the end of the glory that was being set aside. But their minds were hardened. Indeed, to this very day, when they hear the reading of the old covenant, that same veil is still there, since only in Christ is it set aside. Indeed, to this very day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their minds; but when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit. Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practice cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God.

The Lector concludes
The People respond

The Word of the Lord.
 Thanks be to God.

The people stand, if able.

The Holy Gospel

Luke 9:28-36

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

Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make

three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah" — not knowing what he said. While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!" When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

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

The Sermon

Evan Craig Reardon

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.*

In our Intercessions for the Church and parish this week, we pray for the Anglican Communion, and today, we remember the Anglican Church of Kenya. In the Albany

diocese, we pray for the ministry of the Christ the King Center in Greenwich; and in our parish, we ask for God's blessing as we begin the season of Lent on Wednesday. At a time of international crisis, we also pray for peace in Eastern and Central Europe, especially for the people of Ukraine.

We remember with thanksgiving those who are celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this week, and those whose year's mind falls at this time.

In peace we pray to you, Lord God.

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

For this community, our country, 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 needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;
For all who proclaim the gospel, and all who seek the truth.

For all bishops, clergy and other ministers;
For all who serve God in his Church.

For our own needs and those of others.

(A moment of silence is kept for people to add their own petitions.)

Hear us, Lord.
For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.
(A moment of silence is kept for people to add their own thanksgivings.)

We will exalt you, O God our king;
And praise your name for ever and ever.

We pray for those who have died in the peace of Christ, and for those whose faith is known to you alone, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

(A moment of silence is kept for people to remember those who have died.)

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

The Celebrant says a concluding prayer, followed by the invitation to 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 *All stand. At the exchange of the Peace, please remain in your pew.*

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

At The Offertory Alleluia, song of gladness

1. Alleluia, song of gladness,
voice of joy that cannot die;
alleluia is the anthem
ever raised by choirs on high;
in the house of God abiding
thus they sing eternally.
2. Alleluia thou resoundest,
true Jerusalem and free;
alleluia, joyful mother,
all thy children sing with thee;
but by Babylon's sad waters
mourning exiles now are we.

3. Alleluia though we cherish
and would chant for evermore
alleluia in our singing,
let us for a while give o'er,
as our Savior in his fasting
pleasures of the world forbore.
4. Therefore in our hymns we pray thee,
grant us, blessed Trinity,
at the last to keep thine Easter
with thy faithful saints on high;
there to thee for ever singing
alleluia joyfully.

The Great Thanksgiving *Please stand.*

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.*

All glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption;

who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks, he *brake* it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me. "

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me. "

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord; 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,

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 Mass in B-flat Antonio Lotti (1667-1740)

Agnus Dei qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Agnus Dei qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Agnus Dei qui tollis peccata mundi, dona nobis pacem.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

Communion is distributed at the chancel step. Please remain seated until directed by an usher.

Communion Motet O Nata Lux Thomas Tallis (1505-1585)

O nata lux de lumine, Jesu redemptor saeculi,
O Light born of Light, Jesus, redeemer of the world,
Dignare clemens supplicum laudes preces que sumere.
with loving-kindness deign to receive suppliant praise and prayer.

Qui carne quondam contegi dignatus es pro perditis.
Thou who once deigned to be clothed in flesh for the sake of the lost,
Nos membra confer effici, Tui beati corporis.
grant us to be members of thy blessed body.

10th c. Hymn for the Feast of the Transfiguration

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.

The Blessing and Dismissal

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.

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

Please stand as the celebrant departs.

Voluntary Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones, *Lasst uns erfreuen*
arr. Chris Rice (b. 1970)

Today at Bethesda

We welcome Evan Craig Reardon to the pulpit this morning. Evan has been at the Cathedral of All Saints, Albany, since 2017, where he serves on Chapter, as an acolyte, and in various other ministries. In addition to his liturgical responsibilities, Evan leads poetry reading groups and gives presentations on the intersections of faith and the arts. He is the librarian and archivist for The Flow Chart Foundation.

Thank you to Joan Suda for playing at the 10am service today while Derek is away.

To make a gift of Eucharist Elements for a month, or Altar flowers for a week, please contact the church office. Your generosity is appreciated.

Upcoming at Bethesda

Ash Wednesday this year falls on 2 March. To mark this first day of Lent, there will be services of Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes at 12 Noon and 7pm. All welcome.

Lenten Music and Meditation Concerts

Sunday March 6 at 4pm **The Finger Lakes Guitar Quartet**. Guitarists Joel Brown, Sten Isachsen, Brett Grigsby and Paul Quigley will present works by Brouwer, Fauré, Granados and other composers.

Sunday March 13 4pm **Drank The Gold** Oona Grady & James Gascoyne American Irish Music Duo.

Sunday March 20 4pm **Chuck Lamb** Jazz Pianist.

Study of Genesis The age-old stories in the opening chapters of Genesis have been used (and abused) by Christians for centuries to address such pressing questions as how the world began, how humans originated, how males and females relate, whence comes evil, how science and religion relate and why bad things happen. Come to explore these stories on Sunday mornings from 9:20-9:50 beginning March 6 in our Sanctuary. Dr. Blaine Edele (Ph.D. in Old Testament from Duke University) will explore these foundational stories from Genesis chapter 1-6. No prior knowledge of Genesis is required, only a curiosity to learn.

Lent Study Thursday evenings at 7pm, beginning 10 March for four weeks. Location: TBD. John Milton stands as one of the most important poets in the English language. His greatest work is Paradise Lost and in it he attempts to explain the story of creation and of the Fall. His work stands in a line with the great epics of the ancient world and presents a uniquely Christian take on the genre. More importantly, Milton was a deep theological thinker and took active part in the theological debates of the day; Paradise Lost stands as an enduring attempt to convey the splendor of God and God's creation to the world. The text grapples with questions about human agency, creation, and God's sovereignty that continue to perplex and occupy us to this day. This course will be a contemplative reading of Paradise Lost, where we will consider the poem as a living text in dialogue with theology, philosophy, and spirituality. We will find spiritual resonances everywhere in this

text as we all bring our own unique perspectives to this great work of literature. No previous experience with poetry is necessary. To register, please call the parish office: 518.584.5980. The book can be purchased at Amazon: <https://www.amazon.com/Paradise-Lost-Modern-Library-Classics/dp/0375757961>

Spring Book Group, Thursday 19 May 2022, Location –to be Announced. Verlyn Klinkenborg’s novel *Timothy, or, Notes on an Abject Reptile*, is a delightful reading experience. The Yale Review faculty bookshelf noted the blurb: “Few writers have attempted to explore the natural history of a particular animal by adopting the animal’s own sensibility. But Verlyn Klinkenborg has done just that in Timothy: an insightful and utterly engaging story of the world’s most famous tortoise, whose real life was observed by the eighteenth-century English curate and naturalist Gilbert White. For thirteen years, Timothy lived in White’s garden. Here Klinkenborg gives the tortoise an unforgettable voice and keen powers of observation on both human and natural affairs. Wry and wise, unexpectedly moving and enchanting at every-careful-turn, Timothy surprises and delights.” Mary Sanders Shartle will lead the discussion. Please call the church office if you would like to attend. Order your books now!

Roof Replacement. The church roof is tentatively scheduled for replacement starting in late March with work continuing until early July. Scaffolding will be erected around the exterior of the church and the work will proceed by sections of the roof, beginning with the west side of the church. The sequence of work for each roof section is removal of the old roof shingles, inspection and repair of the roof deck, repair of trim work and installation of the new roof. Since there may be some debris inside the church during removal of the old roof it will be necessary that the pews, organ, and high altar are covered for protection. While we have contracted to have the organ covered, we need volunteers to care for the pews. The volunteer group, dubbed “The Holy Rollers”, will cover the pews after Sunday services and uncover the pews prior to the weekend services. If you would like to volunteer to help with either covering or uncovering pews, please call the office or contact Mark Claverie. A practice session for covering and uncovering the pews will be held on Saturday, March 12th at 9am.

In The Community

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.

- ◆ Microwaveable convenience meals
- ◆ Disposable plates/bowls and silverware
- ◆ 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.



Parish Vestry

Darren Miller, *Senior Churchwarden* Sara Manny, *Junior Churchwarden*

Ann Bullock, Clerk
Marcia MacDonald
David Wilder

Laura Kszan
Mark Claverie
Steven Rucker

David MacVane
Holly Sofarelli
Robyn Colonell

Karen Finkbeiner, *Treasurer*

Fr. Charles Wallace, Priest in Charge

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