

Bethesda Episcopal Church

The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost: 10am Sung Eucharist 11 September 2022

Prelude Improvisation on 'Sweet Hour of Prayer' *Maurice Whitney (1909-1984)*

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 forever. 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 Summary of the Law Said by the Celebrant.

Our Lord Jesus Christ said: Hear O Israel, The Lord our God is one Lord; and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

Celebrant Lord, have mercy upon us.
People **Christ, have mercy upon us.**
Celebrant Lord, have mercy upon us.

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

The Collect of the Day

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.**

All sit.

The Reading

1 Timothy 1:12-17

I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he judged me faithful and appointed me to his service, even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners -- of whom I am the foremost. But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience, making me an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

*The Lector concludes
The People respond*

*The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God*

All stand.

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

All the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

So he told them this parable: "Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

"Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

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

The Sermon

Fr Wallace

The Nicene Creed Said by all, standing.

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.**

All kneel.

The Prayers of The People

In our Intercessions for the Church and the world, we pray for Anglican Communion, and this week, for the Church in Bangladesh. In our Diocese, we remember our assisting bishop, Michael Smith.

We remember with thanksgiving those who are celebrating birthdays and anniversaries, and we pray for those who have died, and for those whose year's mind falls at this time. Today, as our nation marks the anniversary of 9/11, we especially remember those who died on that day, and their families, who continue to mourn the loss of those they love but see no longer.

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name maybe united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Lord, in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Lord, in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Lord, in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

Lord, in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Lord, in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Lord, in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

The Celebrant concludes with a Collect.

The Celebrant introduces the Confession.

All 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 Said by the Celebrant

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.**

All stand. At the exchange of the Peace, please remain in your pew.

The Peace

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

At The Offertory Hymn #411

From The Hymnal 1982

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

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God. 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. Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious name, evermore praising thee and saying:

Sanctus and Benedictus Qui Venit Sung by all

Healey Willan (1880-1968)

Holy, holy, holy, 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.

All kneel.

The Eucharistic Prayer

Prayer Book, Page 340

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,

**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.*

The Prayer of Humble Access Said by all, kneeling.

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.

Remain kneeling.

Agnus Dei Sung by all

Healey Willan (1880-1968)

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.

Communion is distributed at the high altar and at the chancel step.

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 ministers depart.

Festival Voluntary *Flor Peeters (1903-1986)*

Today at Bethesda

Welcome to Bethesda Church. Thank you for joining us for worship. If you're new to the parish, or visiting Saratoga today, please introduce yourself to Fr Wallace after the service.

The Flowers on the High Altar today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Virginia Jean Long, given by Garrie Long.

Bible Study. Today at 9.20am, we continue our study of the Book of **Genesis**. This course is led by Dr Blaine Edele. All welcome and no registration required.

Thank you to all those who attended our parish work day yesterday.

Please join us for **refreshments** following the 10am service. If you are able to provide some light refreshments one week in October, please sign up in the narthex. We are grateful to the Manny family for hosting this week.

Parking. Parishioners and newcomers are reminded that the lot surrounding the church offers free parking for the first two hours. A credit or debit card to enter AND exit the lot. Your card is only charged if you are parked *longer than two hours*. Be advised that lot is *only accessible via the Congress Street gate* and that spaces near Washington Street are reserved for local residents.

Donations to **our special monthly appeal** in September will support Shelters of Saratoga, a county-based agency that provides food, shelter, and other services to people facing homelessness. The agency currently operates a year-round shelter as well as the Code Blue emergency shelter when overnight temperatures drop below freezing. It also manages eleven affordable apartment units in downtown Saratoga Springs, with a further nine supportive housing units opening in 2023. Thank you for your generosity.

The Parish Office occasionally sends emails regarding upcoming events to parishioners and friends on our mailing list. Please alert the office if you currently are not receiving emails from Bethesda and would like to be added to our **distribution list**.

Parish News and Events

J&R Lamb Studios has done an outstanding job with the restoration of our **clerestory windows**. The windows were removed from the dormers last month and taken back to Lamb's workshop in New Jersey. Restoration of the windows should be completed by the end of this month. We hope they can be installed in late October once construction of the new wooden frames is finished. Photos of some of the restored windows have been posted on the parish website and Facebook page.

Choral services resume on Sunday 2 October when the parish will observe the Feast of Dedication. The Reverend Derik Roy, Rector of Christ Church, Ballston Spa, will be our guest preacher at both liturgies.

Interested in joining the **Choir**? The choir is in need of additional singers for the coming season. If you are interested, please speak to Kathleen for more information.

Parish BBQ. Please mark Sunday, 18 September on your calendars for a parish BBQ. This event will commence at 4pm. Hot dogs, hamburgers and salads will be provided. Though there is no charge to attend, we ask you to consider a small donation to defray the cost of other supplies. You may register by adding your name and contact information to the sign-up sheet on the tract table at the back of the church, or calling the parish office. Further information will be sent via email (or phone) to those who have registered.

Study Group. The Importance of Friendship in a Season of Loss. On Thursday, 20 October, at 1pm, Bethesda welcomes the Reverend Dr Victor Austin for a one hour talk on the topic of bereavement and loss. Fr Austin writes: *In the midst of loss and its aftermath, God calls us to return to the central gift he has for us: the gift of friendship. The friendship-gift is the heart of the fellowship of Jesus (see John 15:13); indeed, we could define the essence of being human in Christ as simply living in friendship with God and each other. Such truths are important at any time but especially in times of decline and loss of persons and communities, such as many suffered in the social disruptions of the pandemic.* Father Austin will speak theologically and personally about loss and friendship, and will offer some thoughts on how a congregation can be a place where we are schooled in friendship.

The Parish Retreat at Holy Cross Monastery, West Park, NY from Friday 21st to Sunday 23rd October. Speak to Fr Wallace for more information.

Bethesda Book Club will discuss the novel, *Cathedral*, by British film director and author, Ben Hopkins. This epic tale tells the personal stories of the colorful characters involved in the construction an imagined cathedral in 13th-century Germany. We will meet on Thursday, 8 December, from 7–8pm. You can purchase the book online or from your local independent bookstore.

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