

## ***Bethesda Episcopal Church***

### ***A Service of Lessons and Carols for Advent***

**The Second Sunday of Advent**

**4 December 2022**

***Music***

*Melodies of the Season*

*Elizabeth Huntley, harpist*

*All stand as the Procession enters.*

***The Entrance Hymn #59***

*From the Hymnal 1982*

*Remain standing. The Celebrant says*

***A Bidding Prayer***

Beloved in Christ, in this season of Advent, let it be our care and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the Angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem, to see the Babe lying in a manger. Let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious Redemption brought us by his holy Child; and let us look forward to the yearly remembrance of his birth with hymns and songs of praise. But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world; for peace and goodwill over all the earth; for the mission and unity of the Church for which he died, and especially in this country and within this city. And because this of all things would rejoice his heart, let us at this time remember in his name the poor and the helpless; the hungry and the oppressed; the sick and those who mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; and all those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love. Lastly, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one. These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself hath taught us, saying,

*All:*    **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.**

May Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and unto the fellowship of the citizens above, may the King of Angels bring us all. **Amen.**

*All sit.*

***Music***    *I Wonder as I Wonder*

*Appalachian Carol, arr. by Rhett Barnwell  
Elizabeth Huntley, harpist*

*Remain seated for the readings.*

*God announces in the Garden of Eden  
that the seed of woman shall bruise the serpent's head.*

Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat. And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons. And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden. And the Lord God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou? And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself. And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat? And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat. And the Lord God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat. And the Lord God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

Thanks be to God.

**Music** *Adam Lay Ybounden*

*Boris Ord (1897-1961)*

Adam lay ybounden, bounden in a bond;  
Four thousand winter thought he not too long.  
And all was for an apple, an apple that he took,  
As clerkës finden written in their book.  
Ne had the apple taken been, the apple taken been,  
Ne had never Our Lady a-been heavenly queen.  
Blessed be the time that apple taken was.  
Therefore we moun singen: *Deo gratias!*

*Text: Anonymous, 15<sup>th</sup> c.*

**Second Reading**

*Isaiah 40:1-11*

*God comforts his people and calls on them to prepare for redemption.*

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the Lord's hand double for all her sins. The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the

crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain: And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it. The voice said, Cry. And he said, What shall I cry? All flesh is grass, and all the goodliness thereof is as the flower of the field: The grass withers, the flower fades: because the spirit of the Lord blows upon it: surely the people is grass. The grass withers, the flower fades: but the word of our God shall stand for ever. O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, that bringest good tidings, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God! Behold, the Lord God will come with strong hand, and his arm shall rule for him: behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him. He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.

Thanks be to God.

**Music** *Bring a Torch Jeannette Isabella*

*Provençal Carol*  
*arr. by Yolanda Kondonassis*

**Third Reading**

*Isaiah 35.1-10*

*The prophet proclaims that the Lord will come and save his people.*

The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose. It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing: the glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon, they shall see the glory of the LORD, and the excellency of our God. Strengthen ye the weak hands, and confirm the feeble knees. Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompense; he will come and save you. Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.

Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert. And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water: in the habitation of dragons, where each lay, shall be grass with reeds and rushes. And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein. No lion shall be there, nor any ravenous beast shall go up thereon, it shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk there: and the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Thanks be to God.

**Music** *The Lamb*

*John Tavener (1944-2013)*

Little Lamb who made thee  
Dost thou know who made thee  
Gave thee life and bid thee feed.  
By the stream and o'er the mead;  
Gave thee clothing of delight,  
Softest clothing woolly bright;  
Gave thee such a tender voice,  
Making all the vales rejoice!  
Little Lamb who made thee  
Dost thou know who made thee.

Little Lamb I'll tell thee,  
Little Lamb I'll tell thee!  
He is called by thy name,  
For he calls himself a Lamb:  
He is meek and he is mild,  
He became a little child:  
I a child and thou a lamb,  
We are called by his name.  
Little Lamb God bless thee.  
Little Lamb God bless thee.

*Text: William Blake (1757-1827)*

### **Fourth Reading**

*Isaiah 11.1-9*

*The Prophet foretells Christ's peaceable kingdom*

And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord; And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears: But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth: with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins. The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fating together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.

Thanks be to God.

### **Music**

*A Dove Flew Down*

*Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)*

A dove flew down from heaven, A dove rare and pure,  
In angel garb appearing, To greet a maid demure:  
"All grace I bring you, Tender, lovely maid.  
No soul with such adorning Has ever been arrayed." *Kyrie eleison.*

"I bring you joyous greetings: The Lord is with you!  
A Child you will be bearing; You must believe it's true.  
So welcome, welcome, open wide your heart  
That God upon this visit His favor may impart." *Kyrie eleison.*

To this the virgin, bowing, responded with awe:  
"If this is what He wishes, His wish shall be my law.  
Yet more than willing I surrender me,  
If such Love is my Master, His servant I will be." *Kyrie eleison.*



All remain standing. The Celebrant begins

### The Great Thanksgiving

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.**

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; because thou didst send thy beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing. 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 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.

All kneel. The Celebrant continues the Eucharistic Prayer.

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for 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 to thee, he broke 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 this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, 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, we thy people do celebrate and make, 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; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **Amen.**

### ***The Lord's Prayer***

And now, as our Savior Christ hath commanded and 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.**

***Agnus Dei*** from Messe a quatre voix *Marc Antoine Charpentier (1643-1704)*

***Music during The Communion*** *Lullabies for the Christ Child*  
*Traditional Scottish/Irish*

***The Post Communion Prayer*** Said by the Celebrant.

Let us pray. Keep us, O Lord, while we tarry on this earth, in a serious seeking after thee, and in an affectionate walking with thee, all the days of our life: that when thou comest, we may be found, not hiding our talent, nor yet asleep with our lamp unfurnished, but waiting and longing for our Lord, our glorious King, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

***The Blessing and Dismissal***

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

***The Closing Hymn*** ‘O Come, O Come, Emmanuel’

**O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here,  
Until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free  
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;  
From depths of hell Thy people save,  
And give them victory o'er the grave.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**O come, Thou Dayspring, from on high,  
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

***Voluntary***                Go Tell it on the Mountain

*Afro-American Spiritual  
Elizabeth Huntley, harpist*

**Today at Bethesda**

**Thank you** to Colette Manny, Jane Agee, Genna Henderson, and Richard Wissler for reading at the 10am service; and to Kathleen Slezak, Derek Stannard, members of the choir, and Elizabeth Huntley for the beautiful music.

Please join us for **refreshments** following the 10am service. Thank you to Claire and Tim Wood for hosting today. If you are able to host in January or February 2023, please sign your name on the sheet in the narthex.

**This Week at Bethesda**

There will be a **Requiem Eucharist for Virginia McMorris** at the church tomorrow, Monday 5 December, at 11am.

The deadline for ordering **Christmas poinsettias** and greenery is tomorrow, Monday 5 December.

There will be a service of **Holy Communion on Thursdays** in Advent season at 12.05pm. The next service is 8 December.

**Bethesda Book Club** meets in the church this Thursday, 8 December, at 5pm to discuss the novel, *Cathedral*, by Ben Hopkins. To register, please call the office.

**Christmas Decorating** Join us on 10 December at 9am to decorate the church for the festive season.

### **Parish and Community News**

With the return of the cold weather, contributions to the **Special Monthly Envelope** in December will assist the church with the rising cost of fuel as well as necessary upgrades to our aging heating-air conditioning system scheduled to commence in early 2023. Thank you for your assistance and generosity.

**Bethesda Christmas Pageant** Please mark your calendars: the Christmas pageant rehearsal will be on Saturday December 17th at 9:30 am and the pageant will be presented during the 10am service on Sunday, December 18th. We are looking for children to participate; if you know anyone who is interested, please speak to Sara Manny or Diane Robinson.

**Sunday Morning Bible Study.** Classes will resume on 8 January 2023.

**FINANCIAL UPDATE** Our financial forecast for the end of this year indicates that Bethesda will have an Operational deficit of \$15,000 to \$20,000. Our expenses are higher in the winter months, so it is important that we close this year without a deficit to enable us to meet our spending needs in the first quarter of 2023. If you are able to help us by making an additional gift before the end of the year, we would be most grateful. If you have any questions concerning your pledge or contributions in 2022, please contact the office. Thank you for your concern, consideration and support.

**Annual Pledging in 2023.** Your financial support makes a tremendous difference to the ministry of Bethesda Church. To date, we have received 24 pledges, totaling \$103,704 for 2023. If you have not yet done so, please consider making a pledge for the coming year. Cards are also available on the table at the back of the church. You may leave your completed card in the collection plate.

Bethesda parishioners are cordially invited to the annual performance of **The Boar's Head & Yule Log Pageant** at 7:30 P.M. on Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, at the Hoosac School. Founded in 1889 by the Reverend Dr Edward Dudley Tibbits, the Hoosac School is an Episcopal School, located at 14 Pine Valley Road, off routes NY 7 and US 22 in Hoosick, N Y. For further information and/or to RSVP (required) please call 518-686-7331.

**Office Closing:** Please be advised that the parish office on Elm Street will be closed the week of 25 December. However, mail will be collected and voicemail checked during the week.



Last week, the lectern was taken to Lamb Studios for restoration.

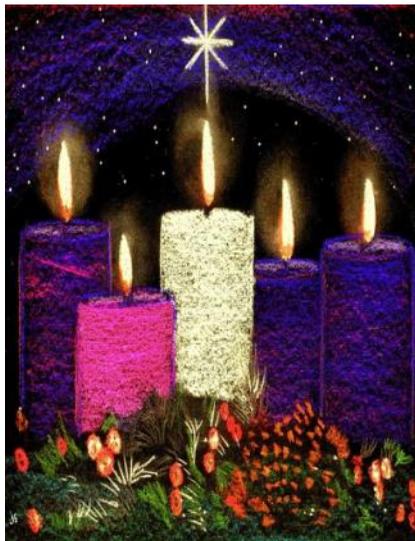
The article, below, appeared in the *Weekly Saratogian*, on Thursday 9 October 1884.

*A Beautiful and Costly Memorial to Gift to Bethesda Church.*

*The Vestry and congregation of Bethesda Church have been the recipients of an elegant memorial gift. One bright Sunday in August last, the infant son of Spencer Trask, Esq., was baptized in Bethesda Church, at which ceremony the Reverend Dr Snively of Brooklyn, NY and the Rector, the Reverend Dr Carey, officiated. Wishing to commemorate this happy event by a fitting memorial, Mr and Mrs Trask have placed in the church a beautiful brass eagle lectern of chased workmanship from the establishment of Messrs. J & R Lamb, New York. Nothing could have been more appropriate or fitting to commemorate such an event. Upon the many thousand hearers who will hereafter sit beneath the outspread wings of this king of birds, emblem of St John, and symbol of the glorious liberty of the children of God, will descend the blessed Word as messenger of comfort and of life, as the Holy Spirit came in baptism upon the beautiful boy in whose name the gift has been presented. May he live long and be an honor to his generous, noble-hearted parents.*

**Advent—Christmas Services at Bethesda**

Sunday, 18 December	8am Holy Communion & 10am Sung Eucharist
Saturday, 24 December	4pm Sung Eucharist 10pm Procession and Sung Eucharist
Sunday, 25 December	9am Holy Communion (said service)
Sunday, 1 January 2023	9am Holy Communion (said service)
Sunday, 8 January	8am Holy Communion & 10am Sung Eucharist



*Fr Charles Wallace, Priest-in-Charge*  
Email: [office@bethesdachurch.org](mailto:office@bethesdachurch.org)  
Bethesda Episcopal Church Office  
178 Elm Street, Suite 5  
Saratoga Springs NY 12866  
(518) 584-5980

## Christmas Flowers, Greens, Wreaths and Trees

This Christmas Season offers the opportunity to not only purchase flowers for the Altar, but also to sponsor the other decorations that are used to ready the Sanctuary for this special time of year. If you wish to contribute, please complete this form and return it to the address below, or place it with your check in the offering plate.

*Bethesda Church Parish Office  
178 Elm Street, Suite 5,  
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866*

I would like to purchase:

\_\_\_ Poinsettia \$25 each. How many \_\_\_\_\_

Given By: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to contribute towards the following:

\_\_\_ Greens \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Wreaths \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Trees \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Given By: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

**Today is the last day for Christmas offerings.**

