

# **Bethesda Episcopal Church**

**Saratoga Springs, New York**

**THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**18 December 2022**

## **At 8.00am Holy Communion**

*The 8am service order is printed on the laminated card.  
The Reading and Gospel texts are below: Isaiah 7.10-16 & Matthew 1.18-25.  
The Prayers of the People may be found at the bottom of page 2.*

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## **At 10.00am - Sung Eucharist and Pageant**

### **Prelude**

*All stand as the Choir and Clergy enter.*

### **Entrance Hymn #61**

*From The Hymnal 1982*

*At the wreath, the Verger lights the candle for the third Sunday of Advent. Remain standing.*

Light and peace in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

A reading from the Gospel according to St Matthew (1.18-25)

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and they shall name him, Emmanuel, which means, 'God with us.' When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and took her as his wife: and knew her not until she had brought forth a son: and he called his name, Jesus.

The Lord be with you.  
**And with thy spirit.**

Let us pray. We beseech thee, Almighty God, to purify our consciences by thy daily visitation, that when thy Son our Lord cometh, he may find in us a temple prepared for himself; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*All sit.*

### **The Reading**

*Isaiah 7:10-16*

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

*The Lector concludes  
The people respond*

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

*All stand.*

***The 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.***

**O come, Desire of nations, bind  
In one the hearts of all mankind;  
bid thou our sad divisions cease,  
And be thyself, our King of Peace.  
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.***

*All sit.*

***The Christmas Pageant***

*The congregation is invited to participate in the pageant by singing the first verse of the carols.*

*Following the pageant, all kneel.*

***The Prayers of The People***

In our Anglican Cycle of Prayer this week, we pray for the Church in Korea; and in our own parish community, we ask God's blessing on those who are sick, anxious or bereaved, that they will be

strengthened by the knowledge of Christ's love. We remember with thanksgiving those who are celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this week, and those whose year's mind falls at this time.

In joyful expectation, let us pray to our Savior and Redeemer, saying, "*Lord Jesus, come soon!*"

O Wisdom, from the mouth of the Most High, you reign over all things to the ends of the earth: come and teach us how to live. **Lord Jesus, come soon!**

O Lord, and head of the house of Israel, you appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush and you gave the law on Sinai: come with outstretched arm and ransom us. **Lord Jesus, come soon!**

O Branch of Jesse, standing as a sign among the nations, all kings will keep silence before you and all peoples will summon you to their aid: come, set us free and delay no more. **Lord Jesus, come soon!**

O Morning Star, splendor of the light eternal and bright Sun of righteousness: come and enlighten all who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death. **Lord Jesus, come soon!**

O King of the nations, you alone can fulfil their desires: Cornerstone, you make opposing nations one: come and save the creature you fashioned from clay. **Lord Jesus, come soon!**

O Emmanuel, hope of the nations and their Savior: come and save us, Lord our God. **Lord Jesus, come soon!**

*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  
People*

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

**At The Offertory: Hymn #81**

*From The Hymnal 1982*

*Remain standing.*

### **The Great Thanksgiving**

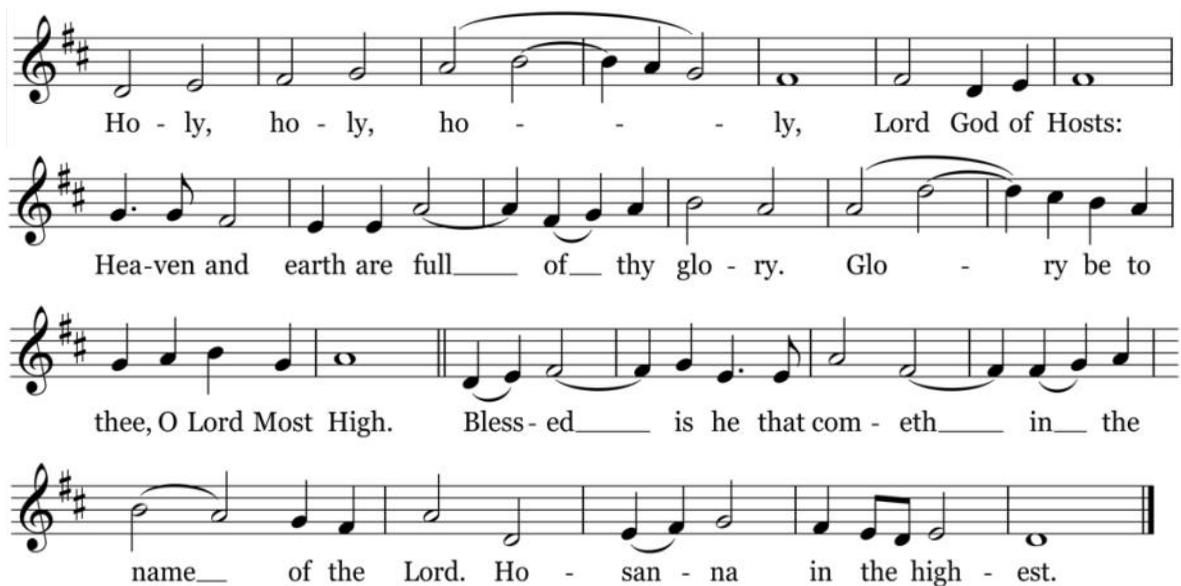
*Celebrant  
People  
Celebrant  
People  
Celebrant  
People*

The Lord be with you.  
**And with thy spirit.**  
Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them up unto the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.  
**It is meet and right so to do.**

*The Celebrant continues*

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 Qui Venit** *Sung by all, standing*



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 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 Mass in the Phrygian Mode

*Charles Wood (1866-1926)*

*O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us  
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.*

*Communion is distributed at the chancel step.*

***At The Communion*** ‘*The Angel Gabriel*’

*Traditional Basque Carol*

*The angel Gabriel from heaven came,  
His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame,  
All hail, said he, thou lowly maiden Mary!  
Most highly favoured Lady, Gloria!*

*For know a blessed mother thou shalt be,  
All generations laud and honour thee,  
Thy son shall be Emmanuel by seers foretold,  
Most highly favoured Lady, Gloria!*

*Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,  
"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said,  
"My soul shall laud and magnify his holy Name."  
Most highly favoured Lady, Gloria!*

*Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born  
in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,  
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say,  
Most highly favoured Lady, Gloria!*

*After Communion, all kneel.*

***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.**

***Closing Hymn: #73***

*From The Hymnal 1982*

*All remain standing as the ministers depart.*

***Voluntary***

**Today is the Fourth Sunday of Advent.** During these past four weeks, we have been anticipating the great feast for which Advent is a preparation - Christmas and its twelve days of celebration. In spite of the well-known 'partridge in a pear tree' and the 'eight maids a-milkin', most of our Christmas celebrations nowadays take place before rather than after the day itself. Earlier ages were wiser than our own and understood the value of preparation, though they may not have enjoyed it! Here's a long-lost carol which captures that sentiment. This tongue-in-cheek carol for the end of Advent was written when this penitential season was a time of strict fasting, similar to Lent. It was part of a collection of poetry from the early 15<sup>th</sup> century, allegedly written by James Ryman, a Franciscan friar who lived in Kent, England. See if you can work it out.

*Farewele, Advent, Cristemas is cum;  
Farewele fro us both alle and sume.*

*With paciens thou hast us feede  
And made us go hungrie to bedde;  
For lak of mete we were nyghe dedde  
Farewele fro us both alle and sume.*

*While thou haste to be within oure howse  
We ete no puddings ne no sowce,  
But stynking fische not worthe a louse;  
Farewele fro us both all and sume.*

This year, Christmas Eve services at Bethesda are at 4pm and 10pm. On Christmas Day, there will be a said Communion service at 9am.

**Thank you** to all participants in today's pageant, including those who volunteered to repair costumes. We are all especially grateful to Sara Manny and Diane Robinson for overseeing all of the arrangements this year.

Those who requested **Giving Envelopes** for 2023 can now collect them on the back table. If you cannot find a box with your name on it, or wish to subscribe, please contact the office.

**Midweek Communion** There will be a celebration of Holy Communion at the high altar this Thursday, 22 December at 12.05. All welcome.

**December.** Contributions to the Special Monthly Envelope in December assist the church with the cost of fuel and necessary upgrades to our heating—air conditioning system planned for early 2023. Thank you for your generosity.

**Office Closing:** Please be advised that Bethesda's parish office on Elm Street will be closed the week of 25 December. Mail will be collected and voicemail checked during the week.

**Annual Pledging in 2023.** Your financial support is vital to the ministry of Bethesda Church. To date, we have received 39 pledges for 2023, totaling \$154,510. If you have not yet done so, please consider making a pledge for the coming year. Cards are available at the back of the church.

**Annual Meeting 2023.** Bethesda's annual parish meeting will be held on Sunday, 29 January. There will be *one service* at 9am. The meeting will immediately follow the Eucharist.

**Upcoming Events at All Saints' Cathedral, Albany.** On Tuesday, 20 December at 7.00pm the Cathedral Choir of Men and Boys will sing *A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols. Cathedral in Bloom*, the area's premier flower show, will be held from 13–15 January 2023. For more info consult: [www.cathedralofallsaints.org](http://www.cathedralofallsaints.org)

**Christmas Services at Bethesda**

<i>Saturday, 24 December</i>	<b>4pm</b>	Sung Eucharist
	<b>10pm</b>	Procession and Sung Eucharist
<i>Sunday, 25 December</i>	<b>9am</b>	Holy Communion (said service)
<i>Sunday, 1 January 2023</i>	<b>9am</b>	Holy Communion (said service)



Fr Charles Wallace, *Priest-in-Charge*

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