

# Bethesda Episcopal Church

*The Feast of the Baptism of Christ*

**8 January 2023**

**Prelude** Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

*Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)*

**The Entrance Hymn #127**

*From The Hymnal 1982*

**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 Gloria in excelsis**

Glo - ry be to God on high, and on earth\_ peace, good will towards men.

We praise thee, we bless thee, we wor - ship thee, we glo - ri - fy

thee, we give thanks to thee for thy great glo - ry, O Lord

God, heaven - ly King, God the Fa - ther Al -

might - - y. O Lord, the on - ly be-got-ten

Son, Je - sus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the

Fa - ther, that ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, have mer - cy up -  
on us. Thou that ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, re - ceive our  
prayer. Thou that sit - test at the right hand of God the Fa - ther, have  
mer - cy up - on us. For thou on - ly art ho - ly;  
thou on - ly are the Lord; thou on - ly, O Christ, with the Ho - ly  
Ghost, art most high in the glo - ry of God the  
Fa - ther. A - - - - -  
men.

*Remain standing.*

***The Collect of the Day***

<i>Celebrant</i>	The Lord be with you.
<i>People</i>	<b>And with thy spirit.</b>
<i>Celebrant</i>	Let us pray.

Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan didst proclaim him thy beloved Son, and anointed 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.**

*All sit.*

## ***The First Lesson***

*Isaiah 42.1-9*

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching. Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. I am the LORD, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

*The Lector concludes  
The people respond*

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

## ***The Gradual: Psalm 29***

*Music: George Elvey (1816-1893)*

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 10.34-43*

Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ--he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as

witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

*The Lector concludes  
The people respond*

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

*All stand.*

### **The Alleluia**

*Choir:* Blessed be he that cometh in the name of the Lord; God is the Lord who hath shown us the light. (*Ps 118:26-27*)



**All repeat: Alleluia.**

### **The Holy Gospel**

*Matthew 20:20-28*

*Celebrant  
People*

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

Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”

*Celebrant  
People*

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

### **The Address**

*Robert Bullock*

**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 joy and humility let us pray to the creator of the universe, saying, *Lord, grant us peace.*

By the good news of our salvation brought to Mary by the angel, hear us, O Lord. **Lord, grant us peace.**

By the mystery of the Word made flesh, hear us, O Lord. **Lord, grant us peace.**

By the birth in time of the timeless Son of God, hear us, O Lord. **Lord, grant us peace.**

By the manifestation of the King of glory to the shepherds and magi, hear us, O Lord. **Lord, grant us peace.**

By the submission of the maker of the world to Mary and Joseph of Nazareth, hear us, O Lord. **Lord, grant us peace.**

By the baptism of the Son of God in the river Jordan, hear us, O Lord. **Lord, grant us peace.**

Grant that the kingdoms of this world may become the kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; hear us, O Lord. **Lord, grant us peace.**

*The Celebrant concludes the prayers 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 #116**

*From The Hymnal 1982*

*Remain standing.*

**The Eucharistic Prayer**

*Prayer Book, Page 340*

*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.**

*The Celebrant continues with the 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. 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. Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious name, evermore praising thee and saying:

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.*

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.**

### ***The Prayer of Humble Access***

**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*** from 'Mass in e'

*Christoph Dalitz* (b. 1967)

*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*** *This Have I Done For My True Love*

*Gustav Holst* (1874-1934)

*Tomorrow shall be my dancing day;  
I would my true love did so chance  
To see the legend of my play,  
To call my true love to my dance;*

*Chorus:  
Sing, oh! my love, oh! my love, my love, my love,  
his have I done for my true love*

*Then was I born of a virgin pure,  
Of her I took fleshly substance  
Thus was I knit to man's nature  
To call my true love to my dance.  
Chorus.*

*In a manger laid, and wrapped I was  
So very poor, this was my chance  
Betwixt an ox and a silly poor ass  
To call my true love to my dance.  
Chorus.*

*Then afterwards baptized I was;  
The Holy Ghost on me did glance,  
My Father's voice heard from above,  
To call my true love to my dance.  
Chorus.*

*After Communion, all kneel.*

**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.**

***The Closing Hymn: #107***

*All stand as the ministers depart.*

***Voluntary***      Variations and Improvisation on "Puer Nobis Nascitur"      *Hopson/Stannard*

### **Today at Bethesda**

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

### **Parish and Community News**

**Coffee Hour.** We are looking for volunteers to host Coffee Hour following the 10.00am service. If you are able to assist, please sign up in the narthex.

**Special Monthly Envelope for January.** The special monthly envelope for the month of January assists the church with the cost of fuel during the winter months. We are grateful for your assistance and generosity.

**The Annual Parish Meeting** is scheduled for 30 January. There will be only one service at 9am. The meeting will take place immediately after the Eucharist.

**Forward Day by Day for February–March– April 2023** is available for purchase from the church office. The cost is \$2 per book.

**Cathedral in Bloom** from 13-15 January is the area's premier flower show. Enjoy the glory of the architecture of The Cathedral of All Saints in Albany combined with the talents of the some of the Capital Region's and northeast's artists with dozens of displays, workshops and presentations will be offered by floral professionals. Guided and self- tours, a cafe, and a flower market will welcome

you, along with organ recitals with music inspired by flowers. To purchase tickets online, go to [cathedralinbloom.bpt.me/](http://cathedralinbloom.bpt.me/)

**Lost and Found** Did you lose gloves, a sweater, glasses or an earring? Please check the “lost and found” display on the tract table in the rear of the church to see if anything belongs to you.

**Office Hours: In January**, the office will be open at the following times:

Tuesdays: 10:00 am — 1:00 pm

Wednesdays: 10:00 am—1:00 pm

Thursdays: 10:00 am— 1:00 pm

Otherwise, please call (518) 584-5980 to leave a message or email, [office@bethesdachurch.org](mailto:office@bethesdachurch.org)

### **Church Building Update**

Much of the recent work around the church has taken place within the walled-in area behind the church building. Installation of the new fire stairs has been completed and next week the old door in the eastern section of the wall will be replaced, bringing the fire stairs project to a close. To help facilitate storm water drainage, downspouts were routed to drain rainwater outside of the walls.

The old concrete pad within the walls was removed and replaced with washed stone.

The eagle lectern was taken back to Lamb Studios for refurbishment in November and it is expected to be returned in the spring. In addition to the return of the lectern, Lamb Studios will finish installing the outer protective glass over the clerestory windows.

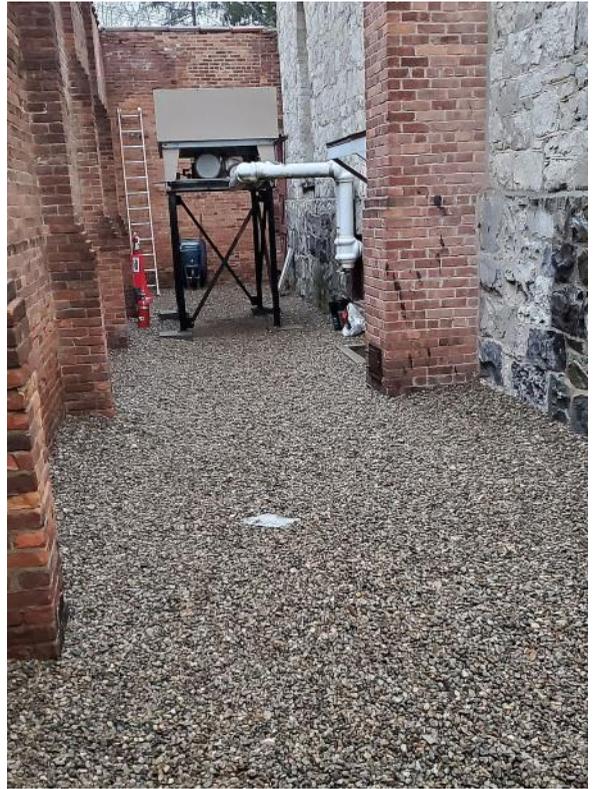
Work will begin on the air conditioning this spring with the replacement of the chiller, which cools water that is circulated throughout the building, as well as replacement of the blower units throughout the church.



*New fire stairs*



*Eagle Lectern being loaded for the trip to Lamb Studios*



*New stone behind the church*

***A Prayer for Blessing your Home at Epiphany***

*Begin by saying:*

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*Using the blessed chalk, near your front door (on a wall, lintel, or step)  
write the following:*

**20 + C + M + B + 23**

*Then, say this prayer:*

The Three Wise Men, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar, followed the star of God's Son who became human **two thousand and twenty-three** years ago.

May Christ bless our (my) home and remain with us (me) throughout this new year.  
Amen.

*You may also offer the following prayer:*

Visit, O Lord, this dwelling, and drive far from it all snares of the enemy; let your holy Angels dwell herein, to preserve us (me) in peace; and let your blessing be upon us (me) for evermore; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Fr Charles Wallace, *Priest-in-Charge*

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