

Bethesda Episcopal Church

The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

29 January 2023

9.00 a.m. Sung Eucharist and Sermon

Prelude

Rhosymedre

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

The Entrance Hymn #380

From The Hymnal 1982

The Opening Acclamation

The people standing, the Celebrant says

Celebrant
People

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
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.**

Remain standing.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant
People
Celebrant

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

Almighty and everlasting God, who dost govern all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of thy people, and in our time grant us thy peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

All sit.

The Lesson

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one

might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

*The Lector concludes
The people respond*

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

All stand.

The Gradual Hymn #656

From The Hymnal 1982

Remain standing.

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 5.1-12

*Celebrant
People*

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

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

*Celebrant
People*

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

The Nicene Creed

**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

This week, in the Anglican cycle of prayer, we pray for the Church in Pakistan; in the Albany diocese for the parish of Christ Church, Ballston Spa; and in our parish, we ask God's blessing on our Annual Meeting this morning and for those standing for election to Vestry and Convention.

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

With confidence and trust let us pray to the Lord, saying, *Lord, have mercy.*

For the one holy catholic and apostolic Church throughout the world, we pray to you, Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the gospel to the ends of the earth, we pray to you, Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For peace in the world, that a spirit of respect and reconciliation may grow among nations and peoples, we pray to you, Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, we pray to you, Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For all whom we have injured or offended, we pray to you, Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For grace to amend our lives and to further the reign of God, we pray to you, Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

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 #471

From The Hymnal 1982

Remain standing.

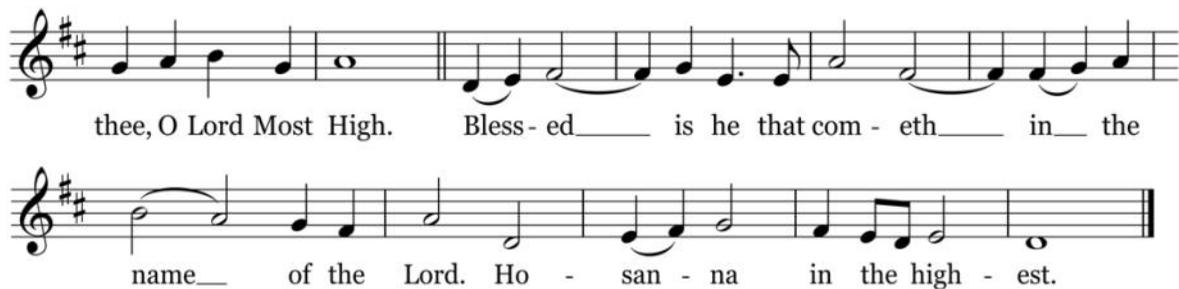
The Eucharistic Prayer

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,



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

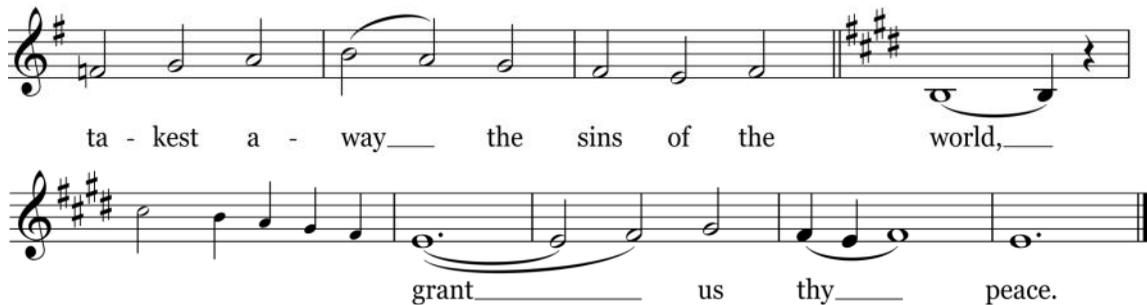
We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious 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.

Remain kneeling.

The Agnus Dei

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



Communion is distributed at the chancel step.

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: #488

All stand as the ministers depart.

Voluntary Fugue in G Major *J.S. Bach (1685-1750)*

Today

The **flowers on the High Altar** are given to the glory of Almighty God, and in memory of Ray Priestley, given by his daughter, Lynne.

Our **Annual Parish Meeting** immediately follows this morning's service. Please help yourself to a cup of coffee at the back of the church after the service or during the meeting. Thank you to Marcia MacDonald and friends for providing treats.

Guest Organist Please welcome Carl Hackert who is playing the organ while Derek is away this weekend. Members of the Choir are enjoying a Sunday off.

The **Bible Study** will resume next Sunday at 9.20am.

Parish and Community News

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.

Parish Retreat in 2023: Following last October's successful retreat weekend at Holy Cross Monastery in West Park, NY, we have reserved ten places for the weekend of 13 - 15 October 2023. If you wish to attend, a \$50.00 non-refundable deposit is required to reserve your room. For more information, speak to Fr Wallace. To learn more about the monastery at consult their website: www.holycrossmonastery.com

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

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

Upcoming Services

Next Sunday, 5 February: 8am Holy Communion & 10am Sung Eucharist

Ash Wednesday, 22 February: Liturgies at 12 Noon & 7.00 p.m.

2022 Full Year Operational Financial Results

The parish finished 2022 in a good financial position. Thanks to generous donations in November and December, we ended the year with positive Net Income. We typically run a deficit in the early months of the year, and this Net Income (cash) from 2022 will enable us to cover our expenses in early 2023.

Our 2022 expenses came in as expected, with impact from inflation offset by moving to a volunteer office staff.

	<u>2022 Full Year Results</u>
Expenses:	
Rector/Building/ Program	\$ 155,694
Office/Employee/Fees	76,056
Diocese	<u>44,000</u>
Total Expense	<u>\$ 275,750</u>
Income	
Pledge and Plate	\$ 306,134
Other giving	3,961
Dividend income	<u>18,149</u>
Total Income	<u>\$ 328,245</u>
Net Income/(Deficit)	<u>\$ 52,495</u>

Operational Income and Expense addresses those items that are required for the daily operations of the church. Items that have designated funding, such as the choir, and Capital spending are excluded from this view.

2023 Full Year Operational Budget (proposed)

The 2023 Budget assumes that parish activities are similar to 2022. Where new 2023 rates/charges are known, they are included in the budget; other lines have been uplifted by 4% for inflation. There are two key assumptions in the 2023 budget: we will staff the office with volunteers for the full year, and we will catch up on maintenance and repairs at the rectory.

	<u>2023 Budget Proposed</u>
<u>Expenses:</u>	
Rector/Building/ Programs	\$ 184,492
Office/Employee/Fees	65,192
Diocese	<u>47,316</u>
Total Expense	<u>297,000</u>
<u>Income</u>	
Pledge and Plate	\$ 290,000
Other giving	3,000
Dividend income	<u>14,000</u>
Total Income	<u>307,000</u>
Net Income/(Deficit)	<u>\$ 10,000</u>

Operational Income and Expense addresses those items that are required for the daily operations of the church. Items that have designated funding, such as the choir, and Capital spending are excluded from this view.

Vestry Candidates for Election

Thank you to those who served on this year's Nominating Committee: Darren Miller, Sara Manny, John van der Veer, Diane Robinson and Fr Wallace.

The following parishioners have been nominated to serve on the Vestry:

Karen Finkbeiner: Karen is being elected to a second term as a member of vestry; she also currently serves as treasurer.

David Harper: David has been a member of Bethesda since 1994. He and his wife, Deborah, were married at Bethesda in 1996. He has a law practice in Saratoga Springs..

Tim Holmes: Tim has been a member of Bethesda for about 4 years. He is a writer and historian as well as an active volunteer around the city of Saratoga Springs.

Marge Verrigni: Marge and her husband, Gerry, attend the 8am service. She has been a member of Bethesda for 60 years. She is retired from the Saratoga Springs Central School District. Years ago, she worked in our parish office!

Rick Wissler: Rick has been attending services at Bethesda since 2006. He currently serves on the Endowment Committee and as a lector at 10am services. In addition to practicing law, he is also an active supporter of Home Made Theater.

Additionally, the following parishioners are being asked to serve as delegates to Convention:

Chuck Maze regularly attends the 10am service with his wife, Maureen. He worked for the YMCA for over 40 years before retiring as President and CEO of the Rockland County YMCA. He and his wife Maureen moved to Saratoga about 3 years ago and became members of Bethesda.

Lynne Priestley attends the 8am service each week and serves as a lector. She retired to Saratoga after a forty year career with AT&T.



Please drop this form in the collection plate if you would like us to get in touch with you:

Name(s):

Phone:

Email address:

Home address:

Preferred contact method:

Contact Reason(s):

- Interested in opportunities to serve or give
- Would like more information about the church and/or worship
- Visitor or new resident
- Would like to speak with or have a visit from the priest
- Other _____

Fr Charles Wallace, *Priest-in-Charge*

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