

# **Bethesda Episcopal Church**

**Presentation of Christ in the Temple: Candlemas**

**5 February 2023**

**8.00 Holy Communion**

**10.00 Sung Eucharist**

**Prelude** 'Andante Cantabile', from Organ Symphony IV      *Charles Marie Widor (1844-1937)*

*All stand as the Choir and Clergy enter.*

*Celebrant*      In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
*People*          **Amen.**

Beloved in Christ, forty days ago we celebrated the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ. Now, we recall the day on which he was presented in the temple, fulfilling the law of Moses, and at the same time, going to meet his faithful people. Led by the Spirit, Simeon and Anna came to the temple, and recognizing Christ as their Lord, proclaimed him with joy. United by the Spirit, we come to this house of God today to welcome Christ the Lord, and recognize him in the breaking of bread until he comes again in glory.

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, source of everlasting light and life: we humbly beseech thee to bless and hallow these candles, and so fill us with the fire of thy love, that we may be worthy to be presented in the temple of thy heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Opening Hymn:** *Of the Father's love begotten* (printed below or #82 in *The Hymnal 1982*)

**1. Of the Father's love begotten,  
ere the worlds began to be,  
he is Alpha and Omega,  
he the source, the ending he,  
of the things that are, that have been,  
and that future years shall see,  
evermore and evermore!**

**2. O that birth for ever blessed,  
when the Virgin, full of grace,  
by the Holy Ghost conceiving,  
bore the Savior of our race;  
and the Babe, the world's Redeemer,  
first revealed his sacred face,  
evermore and evermore!**

**3. Let the heights of heaven adore him;  
angel hosts, his praises sing;  
powers, dominions, bow before him,  
and extol our God and King;  
let no tongue on earth be silent,  
every voice in concert ring,  
evermore and evermore!**

**4. Christ, to thee with God the Father,  
and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,  
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving,  
and unwearied praises be;  
honor, glory and dominion,  
and eternal victory,  
evermore and evermore!**

*Remain standing.*

### **The Collect of the Day**

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

Almighty and ever-living God, we humbly beseech thee that, as thy only-begotten Son was this day presented in the temple, so we may be presented unto thee with pure and clean hearts by the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*All sit.*

### **The First Lesson**

*Malachi 3.1-4*

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight--indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

*The Lector concludes*      The Word of the Lord.  
*The people respond*      **Thanks be to God.**

### **The Gradual: Psalm 24:7-10**

*Music: William Crotch (1775-1847)*

Lift up your heads, O gates; lift them high, O everlasting doors;\*  
and the King of glory shall come in.  
"Who is this King of glory?"\*  
"The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord, mighty in battle.  
Lift up your heads, O gates; lift them high, O everlasting doors;\*  
and the King of glory shall come in.  
"Who is he, this King of glory?"\*  
"The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory."

### **The Second Lesson**

*Hebrews 2.14-18*

Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

*The Lector concludes*      The Word of the Lord.  
*The people respond*      **Thanks be to God.**

*All stand.*

### **The Alleluia**



Al - le - lu - ia. \_\_\_\_\_

*Remain standing.*

**The Holy Gospel**

*Luke 2.22-40*

*Celebrant  
People*

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

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, "Master, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed-- and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

*Celebrant  
People*

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

**The Sermon**

*Fr Wallace*

*All stand.*

**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 Anglican Church of Australia, and in the Albany diocese for All Saints' Church, Morris Manor. In our parish, we remember Bruce McMorris, Jerilyn Towner, Bruce Solenski, Paul Evans, and Bob Kearney, and all those on our hearts and minds who have asked for our prayers.

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

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;  
**That we all may be one.**

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;  
**That your Name may be glorified by all people.**

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;  
**That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;  
**That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;  
**That our works may find favor in your sight.**

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;  
**That they may be delivered from their distress.**

Give to the departed eternal rest.  
**Let light perpetual shine upon them.**

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;  
**May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.**

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

*After saying a concluding prayer, the Celebrant introduces the Confession.*

**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**

<i>Celebrant</i>	The peace of the Lord be always with you.
<i>People</i>	<b>And with thy spirit.</b>

**At The Offertory: Hymn #259**

*From The Hymnal 1982*

*Remain standing.*

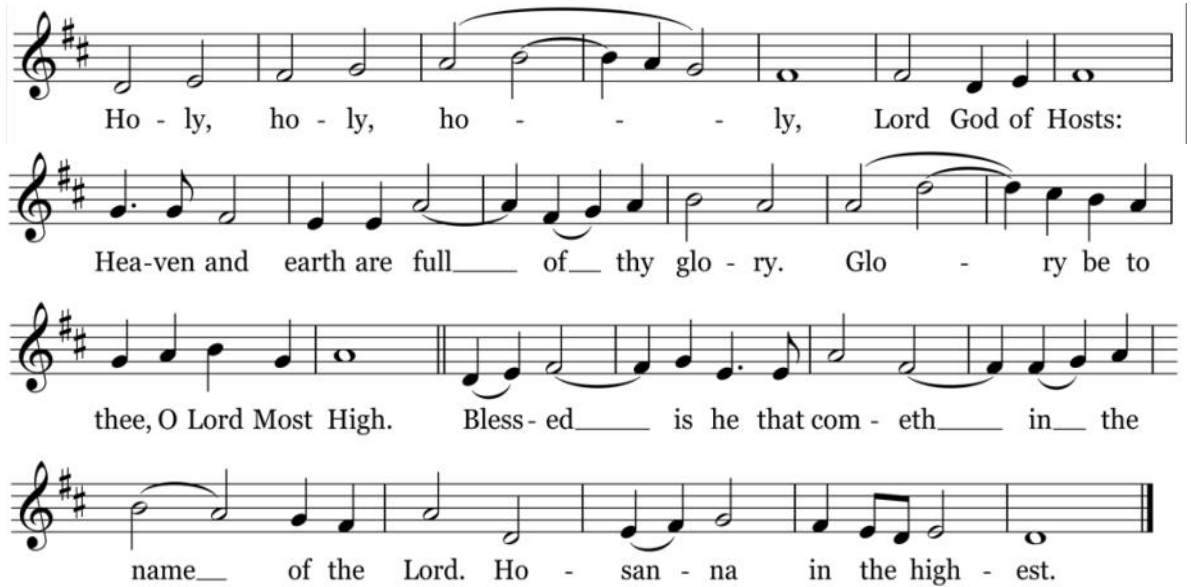
**The Eucharistic Prayer**

*Prayer Book, Page 340*

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

*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:



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.*

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-loved 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 Communion Service in E

Harold Darke (1888-1976)

*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*** God Be In My Head

*John Rutter (b. 1945)*

God be in my head and in my understanding.  
God be in mine eyes and in my looking.  
God be in my mouth and in my speaking.  
God be in my heart and in my thinking.  
God be at mine end and in my departing.

*Text: Anon 16th c.*

*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.**

*All stand.*

*The Closing Hymn: #93*

*From The Hymnal 1982*

*Voluntary*      Toccata

*Georgi Muschel (1909-1989)*

**Today at Bethesda**

The **flowers on the High Altar** are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Lawrence Carlton and Lena Armstrong, by Jerilyn and Michael Towner and their children, Lauren, Kristine and Michael.

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

**Guest Organist** Please welcome Carl Hackert who is playing the organ while Derek is away this weekend.

Please join us for **refreshments** following the 10am service. Thank you to Judy and Grady Aronstamm for hosting this week.

**Readers.** Thank you to those reading at services today:

8am    Lynne Priestley  
10am    Katie Hooper and Judy Aronstamm

**Newcomers and Visitors** are encouraged to introduce themselves to Fr Wallace at the end of the service. If you are interested in becoming a member of Bethesda Church, you may complete the form on the back page of this bulletin.

**Parish and Community News**

**Congratulations** to those elected to the Vestry at last Sunday's Annual Meeting: Mark Claverie as Junior Warden; Karen Finkbeiner (who will also serve as Treasurer); Margaret



Verrigni; David Harper, Richard Wissler and Tim Holmes (who will also serve as Clerk); and to Lynne Priestley and Chuck Maze who will represent Bethesda as delegates to Diocesan Convention.

Contributions to Bethesda's **Special Monthly Envelope** in February will support the work of the **Franklin Community Center**. Located in downtown Saratoga Springs but serving all of Saratoga County, the Franklin Community Center has been providing necessities and essential support to local individuals and families since 1983. All programs and services provided through the Center focus on those in need, regardless of race, religion or color, to improve their quality of life: for example, operating *Project Lift*, a free after-school prevention program for qualifying children at local schools; or *Franklin Community Manor* which provides safe and affordable rental housing to low-income adults. From Monday to Thursday, the Community Center also runs a *Food Pantry*, and a *Donation Center* which offers clothing and household items. Thank you for supporting our friends at Franklin Community Center and their excellent work in our community.

**Ash Wednesday at Bethesda.** There will be two services to mark the first day of Lent: 12 Noon and 7pm. All welcome.

**Midweek Service in Lent.** Beginning 23 February and throughout the season of Lent, there will be a celebration of Holy Communion on Thursdays at 12.05pm. All welcome.

**Parish Retreat in 2023:** One space remains for the parish retreat weekend from 13 - 15 October 2023. If you wish to attend, speak to Fr Wallace.

**February Office Hours:** The office is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 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)

### **Upcoming Services**

**Next Sunday**, 12 February: 8am Holy Communion & 10am Sung Eucharist

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

**Thursdays in Lent**, beginning 23 February: 12.05 Holy Communion

### **Opportunities for Outreach**

**LifeWorks Community Action** is a nonprofit established in 1965 that works to alleviate poverty by assisting local families facing economic hardship with a wide range of services. Bethesda is currently collecting the following items on behalf of LifeWorks:

- ◆ Household cleaning supplies.
- ◆ Foods low in salt, fat & sugar. Gluten Free foods.
- ◆ Sponges, laundry detergent, dishwasher detergent.
- ◆ Diapers (size 4 & 5), baby wipes, and baby care products: shampoo and soap.
- ◆ Adult personal hygiene products: soap, toothpaste/brushes, shampoo, razors, shaving cream, deodorant.

You may leave donated items in the box by the side door entrance of the church.

**Loaves and Fishes** is a feeding ministry based in the parish hall of the St. Francis Mission (Episcopal) Church in the Arbor Hill area of Albany. The ministry offers a hot, healthy meal every Saturday to people from this underserved neighborhood. The Mission is looking for volunteers to assist on Saturdays, 11.30–1pm. If you're interested speak to Fr Wallace for further information.

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

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

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.

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

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.

**Bethesda Episcopal Church**

*Fr Charles Wallace, Priest-in-Charge*

*Email: office@bethesdachurch.org  
Website: bethesdachurch.org*

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178 Elm Street, Suite 5  
Saratoga Springs NY 12866  
(518) 584-5980*



***Please place 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 \_\_\_\_\_