

Bethesda Episcopal Church

Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany: Sexagesima

12 February 2023

8.00 Holy Communion

10.00 Sung Eucharist

Prelude Meditation, from Sonata No 6, Op. 86

Alexandre Guilmant (1837-1911)

The Entrance Hymn #126

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

Healey Willan (1880-1968)

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>	And with thy spirit.
<i>Celebrant</i>	Let us pray.

O God, the strength of all who put their trust in thee: Mercifully accept our prayers; and because through the weakness of our mortal nature, we can do no good thing without thee, grant us the help of thy grace, that in keeping thy commandments we may please thee both in will and deed; 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 First Lesson

Genesis 1.1-2.3

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep; and the Spirit of God was moving over the face of the waters.

And God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, one day.

And God said, "Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." And God made the firmament and separated the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament. And it was so. And God called the firmament Heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, a second day.

And God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. And God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, upon the earth." And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. ¹³ And there was evening and there was morning, a third day.

And God said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light upon the earth." And it was so. And God made the two great lights, the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night; he made the stars also. And God set them in the firmament of the heavens to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, a fourth day.

And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the firmament of the heavens." So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. And God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." And there was evening and there was morning, a fifth day.

And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds: cattle and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds." And it was so. And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and the cattle according to their kinds, and everything that creeps upon the ground according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed which is upon the face of

all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, a sixth day. Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God finished his work which he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all his work which he had done in creation.

*The Lector concludes
The people respond*

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The Gradual: *Psalm 119:1-8*

Music: Fifth Tune, Thomas Tallis (1505-1585)

Blessed are they who keep the pure and perfect way;
Who never from the sacred paths of God's commandments stray.
They utmost caution use to shun each wicked deed,
And, in the paths which He directs, with constant care proceed.

Thou hast enjoined us Lord to learn Thy sacred will;
And all our diligence employ, Thy statutes to fulfil.
That Thy most holy will might o'er my way preside,
And through the course of all my life Thy laws protect and guide.

Then with sure step I walk, from all confusion free;
Convinced, with joy, that all my ways with Thy commands agree.
So, to Thy laws shall I entire observance pay;
O then forsake me not, my God, O cast me not away.

The Second Lesson

Romans 8.18-25

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the glorious liberty of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in travail together until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

*The Lector concludes
The people respond*

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

All stand.

The Alleluia

Choir: O sing unto the Lord a new song: for he hath done marvelous things.



Al - le - lu - ia.

All sing: Alleluia.

Remain standing.

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 6:24-34

*Celebrant
People*

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

Jesus said, "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you shall eat or what you shall drink, nor about your body, what you shall put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add one cubit to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O men of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek all these things; and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well. Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.

*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 Episcopal Church of the Philippines; in the Albany diocese for the work of the Standing Committee; and in our parish, we remember those on our hearts and minds who have asked for our prayers, especially, Bruce McMorris, Jerilyn Towner, Bruce Solenski, Doug Huston, Paul Evans, and Bob Kearney. At this time, we also pray for the people of Central Turkey and North West Syria whose lives have been devastated by the recent earthquake; that God may console all who are bereaved, and strengthen the work of those working to provide relief and shelter.

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.

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

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

At The Offertory: Hymn #304

From The Hymnal 1982

Remain standing.

The Eucharistic Prayer

Prayer Book, Page 340

<i>Celebrant</i>	The Lord be with you.
<i>People</i>	And with thy spirit.
<i>Celebrant</i>	Lift up your hearts.
<i>People</i>	We lift them up unto the Lord.
<i>Celebrant</i>	Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.
<i>People</i>	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,



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-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 *Missa Parochialis*

George Oldroyd (1886-1951)

*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 Motet: 'Purest and Highest'

C. V. Stanford (1852 - 1924)

Purest and Highest, Wisest and most Just,
There is no truth save only in thy trust;
Thou dost the mind from earthly dreams recall,
And bring thro' Christ to him for whom are all.
Eternal Glory, all men thee adore,
who art and shalt be worshiped evermore.
Us whom thou makest comfort with thy might,
and lead us to enjoy thy heavenly light.

Text: Robert Bridges (1844-1930)

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: #707

All stand as the ministers depart.

Voluntary March in D, Op. 56, No. 2 *Alexandre Guilmant (1837-1911)*

Today at Bethesda

The **flowers on the High Altar** are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Virginia Jean Long, Eugenia Lee Long and Butch Long, by Garrie Long.

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.

Please join us for **refreshments** following the 10am service. Thank you to Kathleen and Mark Anspach for hosting this week.

Readers. Thank you to those reading at services today:
8am Mary Withington
10am Libby Holmes-Smith and Darren Miller

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 News

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.

Lent Course: *A History of Christianity*. This year's Lent study examines the emergence and global spread of Christianity from the first followers of Jesus Christ to the present day. The course will meet for three consecutive Thursdays in March: 9th, 16th and 23rd. Two sessions may be offered if there is sufficient interest: 4pm to 5pm and 7pm to 8pm. Please register in advance and indicate which time you prefer: 518.584.5980.

Thursday Communion 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.

Office Hours: In February, 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

Upcoming Services

Next Sunday, 19 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 p.m. Holy Communion

Thursday 2 March, 7pm Stations of the Cross

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.

Response to the Earthquake in Turkey and Syria: Ways to Help On Monday 6 February, a 7.8-magnitude earthquake in Turkey and Syria killed over 20,000 people and caused widespread damage across the region. If you wish to make a donation in support of those impacted by this disaster, please go to website: www.episcopalrelief.org **Donations** of winter clothing, blankets, baby supplies and hygiene products are currently being collected at 100 Broadway in Menands from 1pm–5pm daily. All items will then be taken to the Turkish Consulate in New York City to be shipped overseas in the coming days. Items should be placed in a clear bag for easy identification and categorization.

Bethesda Episcopal Church

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Fr Charles Wallace, *Priest-in-Charge*

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

Telephone: (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):

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