

Bethesda Episcopal Church

Last Sunday after the Epiphany: Quinquagesima

19 February 2023

8.00 Holy Communion

10.00 Sung Eucharist

Prelude ‘Larghetto’ from Dix Pièces en style libre, Op 21

Charles Tournemire (1870-1939)

The Entrance Hymn #427

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 (1880-1868)

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, who before the passion of thy only-begotten Son didst reveal his glory upon the holy mount: Grant unto us that we, beholding by faith the light of his countenance, may be strengthened to bear our cross, and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory; through the same 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

Exodus 24.12-18

The LORD said to Moses, “Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.” So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. To the elders he had said, “Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them.”

Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. The glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

*The Lector concludes
The people respond*

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

All stand.

The Gradual Hymn #129

From The Hymnal 1982

Remain standing.

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 17:1-9

*Celebrant
People*

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

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, “This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!” When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Get up and do not be afraid.” And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone. As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, “Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”

*Celebrant
People*

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

The Address

Robert Bullock

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 Church of The Province of Rwanda; in the Albany diocese for St Peter's Church, in the City of Albany; and in our parish, we remember those 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.

As we come together in the presence of God today, let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, have mercy."

For the whole People of God, that each one may be a true and faithful servant of Christ, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For those drawing near to the light of faith, that the Lord will bring them to true knowledge of himself, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For our families and friends, that the Lord will give them joy and satisfaction in all that they do, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who are lonely, sick, hungry, persecuted, or ignored, that the Lord will comfort and sustain them, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For our country, that the Lord will help us to contribute to its true growth and well-being, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the whole human family, that we may live together in justice and peace, let us pray to the 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

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

At The Offertory: Hymn #137

From The Hymnal 1982

Remain standing.

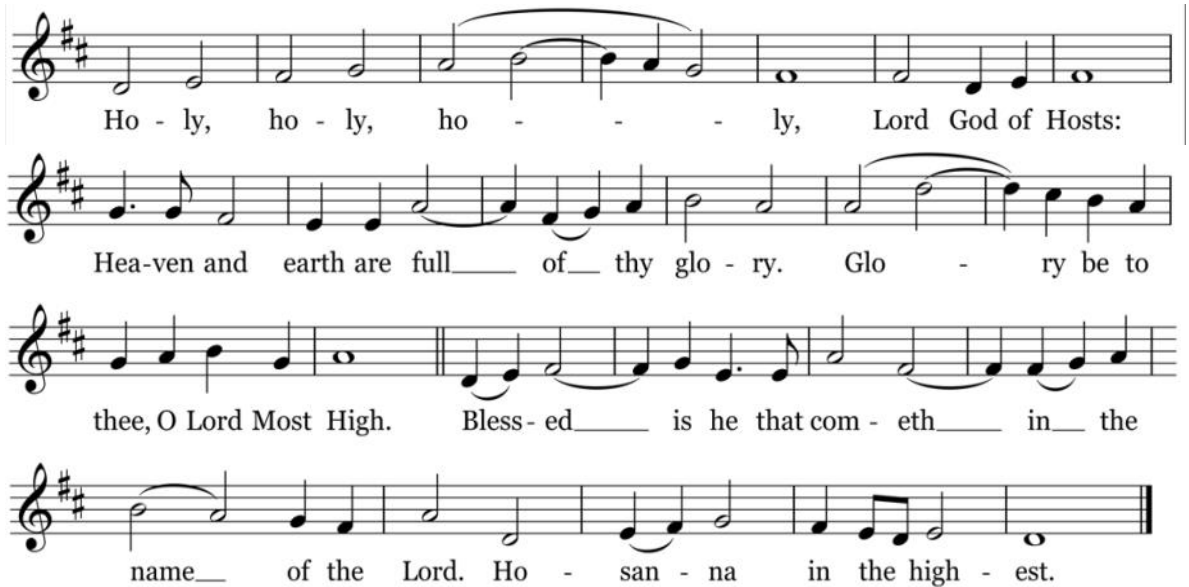
The Eucharistic Prayer

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:



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

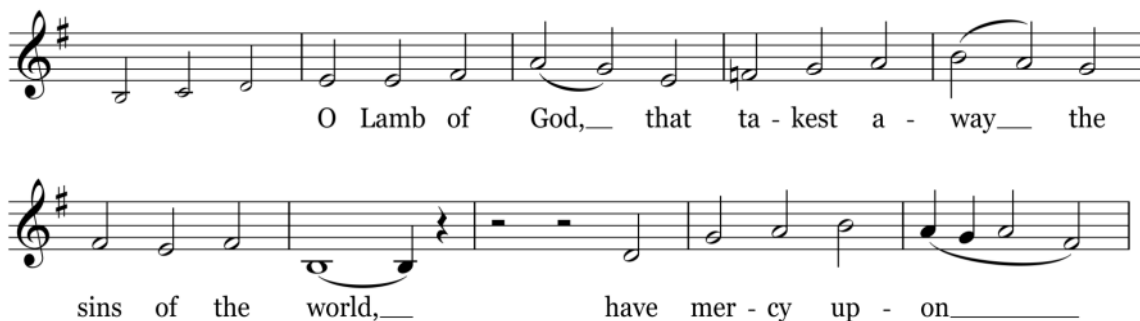
Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

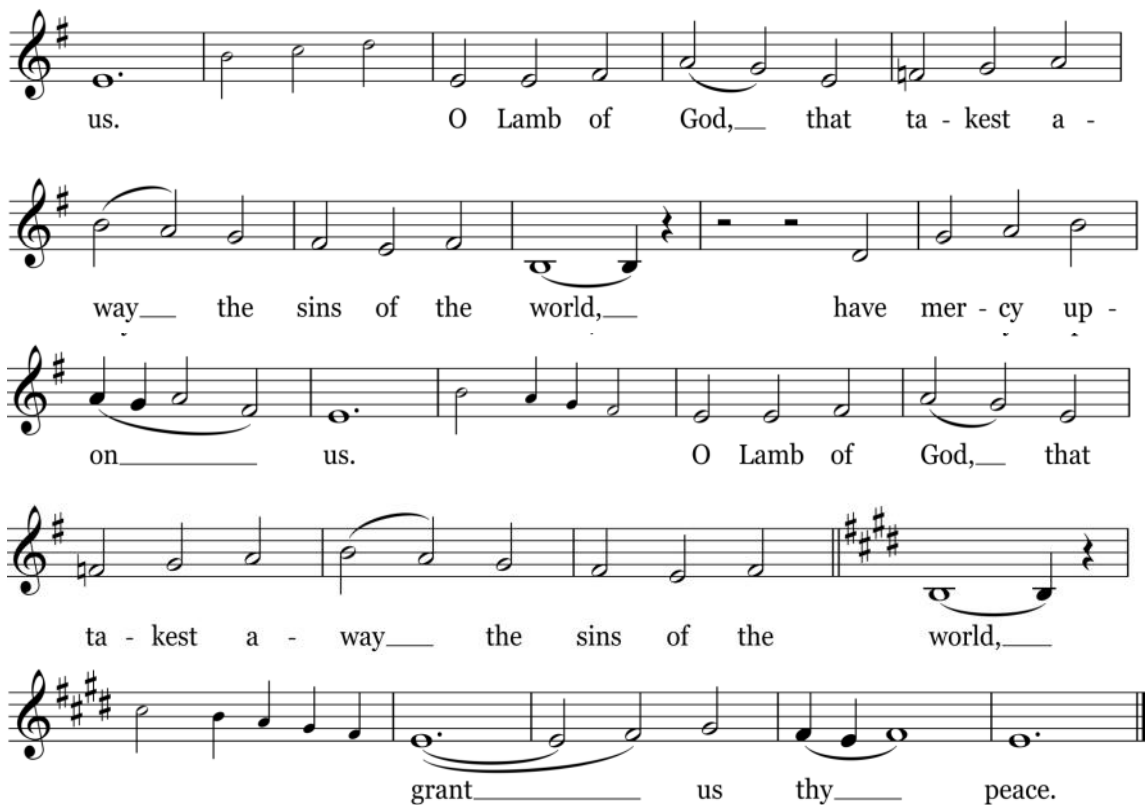
The Prayer of Humble Access

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.

The Agnus Dei

Healey Willan (1880-1968)





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
People

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The Closing Hymn: #135

All stand as the ministers depart.

Voluntary Postlude in D

Healey Willan (1880-1968)

Today at Bethesda

The **flowers on the High Altar** are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of all of those killed in the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria.

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.

Readers. Thank you to those reading at services today:

8am Lisa Edele

10am Mark Claverie and Tom Remington

Please join us for **refreshments** following the 10am service. With Lent beginning next Wednesday, this is our last coffee hour until *Laetare* Sunday, 19 March. Thanks to Kathleen and Jay Higle for hosting today.

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** from 4pm to 5pm. Please register with the office: 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.

Stations of the Cross. On Thursday, 2 March at 7pm, The Stations of the Cross will be offered in the church. This service is a series of meditations on the Passion, Crucifixion and Death of Jesus leading to his burial in the tomb. Many Christians through the ages have found 'Stations' an aid in focusing their Lenten prayers. The service lasts approximately 30 minutes.

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

Services this Week

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

Thursday 23 February: 12.05 p.m. Holy Communion

Next Sunday, 26 February - Lent 1: 8am Holy Communion & 10am Sung Eucharist

Opportunities for Outreach

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

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

Lenten Litany of Fasting and Feasting

*Fast from judging others; feast on the Christ within them.
Fast from emphasis on differences; feast on the unity of life.
Fast from words that pollute; feast on phrases that purify.
Fast from discontent; feast on gratitude.
Fast from anger; feast on patience.
Fast from pessimism; feast on optimism.
Fast from complaining; feast on appreciation.
Fast from negatives; feast on affirmatives.
Fast from unrelenting pressures; feast on unceasing prayer.
Fast from bitterness; feast on forgiveness.
Fast from self concern; feast on compassion for others.
Fast from discouragement; feast on hope.
Fast from suspicion; feast on truth.
Fast from thoughts that weaken; feast on promises that inspire.
Fast from idle gossip; feast on purposeful silence.
Fast from instant gratifications; feast on self denial.
Fast from worry; feast on divine order.
Trust in God.
Finally, fast from sin; feast on the abundance of God's mercy.*

Lenten Devotions: Week of Ash Wednesday

Each Sunday, a different devotion for the week will be printed in the service sheet, with suggested daily readings.

Introduction

Lent begins in church with the imposition of ashes as a sign of our mortality and penitence for our sins. As we receive the ashes, we hear the words 'Remember, that thou art dust, and unto dust thou shalt return (Genesis 3:19). The ashes are imposed in the form of a cross, pointing to our great hope in the grace of God through the Cross of Christ, which grants us a share in the power of his Resurrection. There are two services on Ash Wednesday this year: 12 Noon and 7pm.

Traditionally, the church has fasted from all food on Ash Wednesday to remind us that our physical hunger for food points to our greater spiritual hunger for God. If you are unable to fast for the entire day, then consider eliminating a meal, or avoiding snacking in between meals.

The Weekday devotions following Ash Wednesday (below) focus on the story of the Creation and Fall. According to the book of Genesis, when God acts, he first creates the light. This light dispels the void of emptiness and formlessness and brings creation into being. God later creates two great sources of light which organise time and the seasons, and make human life possible. This light will be fulfilled in the light of Christ which transforms, enhances, and restores human life.

God creates man and woman in his image and places them in a garden where they will have fellowship with him and all they need. Man and woman, however, are tempted, and they succumb to temptation and disobey God's one command. By disobedience they alienate themselves from God and by that alienation are expelled from the garden into the world where toil, frustration, and mortality will be theirs.

Daily Devotion (beginning Thursday)

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

Opening Prayer (said daily)

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our brokenness, may obtain from you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Readings:

Thursday: Genesis 1:1–24; Friday: Genesis 1:26–2:3; Saturday: Genesis 3:1–24

A period of silence may be kept, followed by

The Lord's Prayer

Closing Prayers

O God of eternal light, heaven and earth are the work of your hands, and all creation proclaims your praise. As in the beginning, by your Spirit, you gave life and order to all that is, so by the same Spirit redeem us and all things, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen.

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Fr Charles Wallace, Priest-in-Charge

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Website: bethesdachurch.org
Tel. (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 _____