

Bethesda Episcopal Church

The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

30 July 2023

Prelude Ashes to Stardust

All stand as the minsters enter. At the high altar, the Celebrant says

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. 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 Opening Hymn #601

From the Hymnal 1982

Remain standing.

The Collect of The Day

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

O God, the protector of all that trust in thee, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us thy mercy; that, thou being our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we finally lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

All sit.

The Lesson

Romans 8:26-39

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is

written, “For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.” No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

*The Lector concludes
The People respond*

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

All stand.

The Gradual Hymn #558

From the Hymnal 1982

Remain standing.

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 13:31-33,44-52

*Celebrant
People*

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

Jesus put before the crowds another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.

The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened. The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad.

So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

*Celebrant
People*

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

The Sermon

All stand.

The Nicene Creed *Said by all*

I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
and of all things visible and invisible;
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of his Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God;
begotten, not made;
being of one substance with the Father;
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation
came down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary,
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered and was buried:
and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,
and ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of the Father;
and he shall come again, with glory,
to judge both the quick and the dead;
whose kingdom shall have no end.
And I believe in the Holy Ghost, The Lord, and Giver of Life,
who proceedeth from the Father and the Son;
who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified;
who spake by the Prophets.
And I believe one holy Catholic and Apostolic Church;
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins;
and I look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

All kneel.

The Prayers of The People

In our prayers for the Anglican Communion, we remember the Anglican Church of the Region of Central America; and in the Albany Diocese, we pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we prepare to elect a new bishop.

We ask God's blessing on those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this week; and those whose year's mind falls at this time. With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying "Lord, have mercy."

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the Holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the clergy and people of this diocese, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For our country, and for good government in our land, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the city of Saratoga Springs, for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who travel at this time, and for their safety, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, especially Patrice and Daniel, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

The Celebrant says a concluding prayer, followed by the invitation to Confession.

The people say together

**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 Celebrant says

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.**

Hymn at The Offertory #615

From the Hymnal 1982

Remain standing

The Eucharistic Prayer

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.**

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. Creator of the light and source of life, who hast made us in thine image, and called us to new life in 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-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.**

Our Father

And now, as our Savior Christ hath 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 Fraction

*Celebrant
People*

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
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

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
ta - kest a - way the sins of the world,



Communion is distributed at the chancel step.

At The Communion Be Still my Soul

After Communion, all kneel. All say together

The Prayer after Communion

Let us pray. **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 #690

From the Hymnal 1982

The Voluntary

Today at Bethesda

The **flowers on the High Altar** are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Madeline Stewart by Lynne Priestley.

Readers Thank you to those reading and leading prayers at services today:
 8am Robert Bullock
 10am Rick Wissler

Thank you to Lisa Edele for playing at the 10am service while Derek is enjoying a weekend away.

Refreshments will be served followed the 10am service. Please join us! Thank you to Libby and Tim Holmes for hosting today.

Special Monthly Envelope for July Donations to our special monthly appeal will support the Race Track Chaplaincy. Founded in 1971, the Chaplaincy provides vital ministry to backstretch workers and their families by offering food and clothing; legal, medical and clerical assistance; as well as educational support and enrichment to Backstretch families who could not otherwise afford these services or opportunities. Special Monthly Envelopes are available on the tract table. Thank you for your generosity.

Parish Notices

From our Treasurer: Our Operational financial performance Year-to-Date June is within budget, but we are now running a small deficit. Expenses are currently under budget, primarily because we have not yet started some of our planned maintenance projects.

Our Pledge and Plate income has run under budget most months, resulting in a deficit of \$1,156 as of the end of June. We anticipate that this deficit will grow through the next several months. In order to avoid a deficit at the end of 2023, we will rely on strong year-end giving. If you have any further questions, please speak to one of the Wardens or the Treasurer. Thank you for your ongoing support of Bethesda's ministry.

Donations from Special Monthly Envelopes The parish community has contributed to the following local charities in the first six months of 2023:

March: \$358 to the Franklin Community Center, Saratoga Springs

April: \$778 to Lifeworks Community Action

May: \$1000 to Beaver Cross Camp, Greenwich

June: \$598 to Wellspring: Supporting survivors of abuse

Thank you to Field Horne for preparing a new self-guided tour brochure of Bethesda Church. Copies are available on the tract table.

On Sunday 13 August we will welcome (back) the Reverend Thomas John (TJ) Pettigrew as our guest preacher. During Fr Parke's tenure, TJ spent his formative years at Bethesda, assisting in a variety of capacities. As recently announced, Fr Pettigrew becomes Rector of St George's Church, Schenectady from 1 September, having served the past ten years at the parish of Holy Cross, Warrensburg. There will be an opportunity for us to wish TJ well following the service.

Summer Office Hours. The parish office is normally open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10-11am. We advise that you call ahead if you wish to visit in person, or email office@bethesdachurch.org with your query.

Parking. The lot adjacent to the church offers free parking for the first two hours. You will require a credit card to enter and exit the lot which is accessible via Congress Street.

Community News and Outreach

Donations of linens and blankets The RISE shelter on Adelphi Street in Saratoga Springs is accepting donations of towels, sheets and blankets. There is a box in the narthex in which to place your donations.

LifeWorks Community Action is a non-profit established in 1965 that works to alleviate poverty by assisting local families and individuals 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.

Autumn Events at Bethesda

Bible Study resumes on 24 September at 9.20am. This course, led by Dr Blaine Edele, meets on Sunday mornings to discuss stories from the Old Testament. No registration required.

Please register with the office for the following autumn events. For further information, contact the office, or speak to Fr Wallace.

An afternoon to visit to the Religious Communities at **New Skete** in Cambridge, NY has been arranged for Wednesday 27 September. Our tour begins at 1.15pm and includes a talk, tour of the chapel and grounds, and a visit to the kennel where the community breeds and trains German Shepherds. For those interested, there is an option of meeting beforehand at Christ the King Center in Greenwich (just before noon) for lunch; the cost is \$15.

CHANGE OF DATE: A **Parish BBQ** is planned for **Sunday 1 October** and will be held at the MacVane farm in Ballston Spa. We will begin with an outdoor Eucharist at 11am for those who wish to attend. Lunch will be served from 12 noon. A variety of meats and salads will be provided, courtesy of our generous friends at *Fred the Butcher*. Cold drinks and desserts will also be available. When you register with the office, please let us know if you are able to provide transportation for others or to bring a dessert. The office will provide directions to the venue via email prior to the event to everyone who has registered. Please be advised that there will only be one service at the church (8am) on the day of the BBQ. If you already registered for the original BBQ date, you need only contact the office if you are unable to attend.

Weekend Retreat at Holy Cross Monastery, West Park, NY from 13th–15th October. Our retreat this year will include daily reflections led by one of the Holy Cross brothers, worship and meals with the monastic community, and plenty of time to enjoy this beautiful setting on the Hudson River. For more information about Holy Cross monastery, go to www.holycrossmonastery.com

Bethesda Book Club meets Thursday 7 December at 5pm to discuss a novel by Irish author, Joseph O'Connor, *My Father's House*, based on the true story of a priest who helped thousands of Jews and Allied prisoners escape from Italy during World War II. The book may be ordered online or from your local independent bookshop. All welcome.

Diocesan News and Events

Episcopal Election News

1. A week of ‘walkabouts’ for the four candidates for bishop has been arranged from 14th to 17th August. If you wish to attend one of these townhall-style meetings, you must *register in advance* via the diocesan website. The closest venues are St Paul’s Church, Albany on Monday 14th and Church of the Messiah, Glens Falls on Thursday 17th. Both meetings start promptly at 6pm. For further information, please consult www.albanyepiscopaldiocese.org/abtour/
2. Biographical sketches of those standing for election as 10th Bishop of Albany are also posted at the website above.
3. Each parish of the diocese will send delegates to a special electoral convention to be held on Saturday 9 September at All Saints’ Cathedral, Albany. Lynne Priestley, Charles Maze and Fr Wallace will represent Bethesda at the convention.

Theology Courses Beginning in August, the Diocese is offering two classes in Christian Spirituality, led by Bishop Michael Smith and Pat Mackey Stone. For further information, consult the website: www.ctkcenter.org/events/9-events/243-spiritual-theology-classes

Class 1: Life in Christ: Ascetical Theology and Spiritual Practices

An introduction to the basic elements of Christian spirituality and a study of Christian disciplines that move the student further into the transformed and lived life of Christ. This class will emphasize Christian experience in light of Biblical revelation and Christian tradition with Anglican and Benedictine spirituality as the foundation. This class will run from 1:30 p.m - 4:30 p.m. one Saturday per month for 10 months beginning August 19th.

Class 2: Introduction to Spiritual Direction as a Vocation

An introduction to the basic elements of Anglican Spiritual Direction, elements of spiritual formation and the craft of supporting others as they mature in their Christian life. This class is coupled with other Stanton Center courses required to receive a certificate of completion in Spiritual Direction. The course will include some lectures, a lot of sharing on the readings and sharing of reflections on readings and practices. Success is dependent on active participation, reading and writing. This class will run from 9:30 a.m - 12:30 p.m. one Saturday per month for 10 months beginning August 19th. Life in Christ: Ascetical Theology and Spiritual Practices is a pre-requisite for this class.

Bible Symposium All Saints’ Cathedral, Albany, will host a special Bible Symposium this year on Saturday, 4 November, with British poet, priest, and scholar, Malcolm Guite. His talks will be based on his most recent book, *David’s Crown: Sounding the Psalms*, a collection of poems written in response to the Coverdale translation of the Psalms in the 1662 *Book of Common Prayer*. The cost is \$35 and includes lunch. To purchase tickets online, go to www.cathedralofallsaints.org/events/bible-symposium-2023-malcolm-guite



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 _____

Fr Charles Wallace, Priest in Charge

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