

Bethesda Episcopal Church

Feast of The Transfiguration

6 August 2023

Prelude

Give Me Jesus - Trad. American Spiritual

arr. Rob McVey

In the morning when I rise give me Jesus;
You can have all this world, but give me Jesus.
And when I am alone give me Jesus;
You can have all this world, but give me Jesus.
And when I come to die give me Jesus;
You can have all this world, but give me Jesus.

Elizabeth Sterling, soprano

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

***Celebrant
People***

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
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 #7

From the Hymnal 1982

Remain standing.

The Collect of The Day

***Celebrant
People
Celebrant***

The Lord be with you.
And with thy spirit.
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. **Amen.**

All sit.

The Lesson

2 Peter 1:13-21

I think it right, as long as I am in this body, to refresh your memory, since I know that my death will come soon, as indeed our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me. And I will make every effort so that after my departure you may be able at any time to recall these things. For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

The Lector concludes
The People respond

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

All stand.

The Alleluia

The Cantor sings:



All repeat: Alleluia.

Remain standing.

The Holy Gospel

Luke 9:28-36

Celebrant
People

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

Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah" —not knowing what he said. While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!" When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

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 Congo; and in the Albany Diocese, for our upcoming episcopal election, for the candidates and their families and for the clergy and lay delegates to Convention.

We pray that God will bring comfort and healing to all suffering in body, mind or spirit, especially at this time for Penny, David and Paul.

Lord God, you sent your Son to bring good news to the poor, sight to the blind, freedom to the captives and salvation to your people: anoint us with your Spirit; rouse us to work in his name.

Father, by your Spirit: **bring in your kingdom.**

Give comfort to the poor and freedom to the oppressed.
Father, by your Spirit: **bring in your kingdom.**

Send us to tell the world the good news of your healing love.
Father, by your Spirit: **bring in your kingdom.**

Help us to bring in your kingdom of mercy, justice, love and peace.
Father, by your Spirit: **bring in your kingdom.**

Give to all the departed, the riches of eternal life.
Father, by your Spirit: **bring in your kingdom.**

We commend ourselves and all for whom we pray to the mercy and protection of our heavenly Father, offering our own prayers in a moment of silence.

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

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

Hymn at The Offertory #451

From the Hymnal 1982

Remain standing

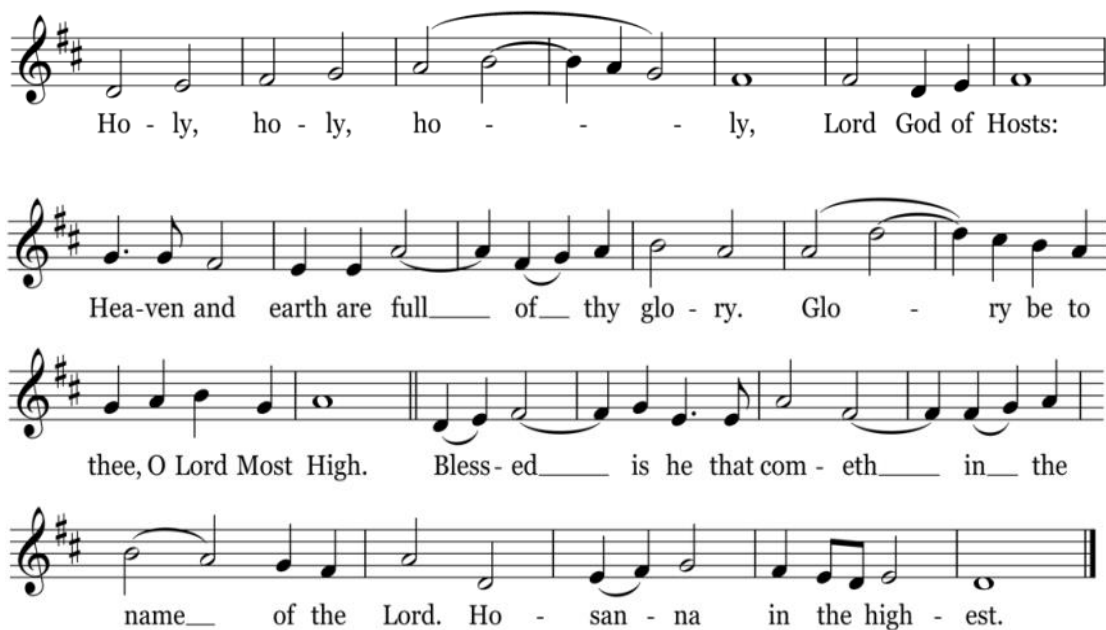
The Eucharistic Prayer

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. 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,

The Sanctus and Benedictus

Healey Willan (1880-1968)



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, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of 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, he *brake* 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 ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, 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, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, 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; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord; By whom, and with 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

Healey Willan (1880-1968)

O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a - way the
sins of the world, have mer - cy up - on
us. O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a -
way the sins of the world, have mer - cy up -
on us. O Lamb of God, that
ta - kest a - way the sins of the world,



Communion is distributed at the chancel step.

At The Communion Pie Jesu, from *Requiem in D Minor* Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924)

Pie Jesu, Domine, dona eis requiem.
Pie Jesu, Domine, dona eis sempiternam requiem.

Blessed Jesus, Lord, give them rest.
Blessed Jesus, Lord, give them eternal rest.

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 #483

From the Hymnal 1982

The Voluntary

Toccata in G Minor

Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

Today at Bethesda

The **flowers on the High Altar** are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Jerry MacDonald by his wife Marcia.

Readers Thank you to those reading and leading prayers at services today:

8am Mary Withington
10am Libby Smith-Holmes

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

Elizabeth Sterling

Elizabeth Sterling sings with the Schola Cantorum at Bethesda and regularly performs as an actor or pit musician with local theater companies, including Home Made Theater, Schenectady Light Opera Company, and Not So Common Players. She is a Crane School of Music graduate and teacher in the Gloversville Enlarged School District, and is currently music directing SLOC's upcoming production of Matilda: The Musical.

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. 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.

On Sunday 13 August we will welcome (back) the Reverend Thomas John (TJ) Pettigrew as our 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 2023 Music Series Bethesda Church hosts special musical guests during the 10am services this summer:

August 13	Valerie Lord, mezzo soprano
August 20	Michael and Stephani Emery, violinist and violist
August 27	Karen Becker, pianist

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

Special Monthly Envelope Donations to our special monthly appeal in **August** will support Shelters of Saratoga, a county-based agency that provides food, shelter, and other services to people facing homelessness. The agency operates a year-round shelter as well as the Code Blue emergency shelter during the winter. It also manages a number of affordable apartment units in downtown Saratoga Springs.

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 **10 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

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

Episcopal Election News To learn more about the candidates standing for election as Bishop of Albany, and for information about the opportunities to meet the candidates the week of 13 August, go to www.albanyepiscopaldiocese.org/abctour/

Education for Ministry In September, St. George's Church, Clifton Park will begin its 31st consecutive year of the distance learning program from the School of Theology at the University of the South (Sewanee) called *Education for Ministry*, or EfM. EfM is a unique four year certificate program in theological education based upon small group study and practice. Since its founding in 1975 this international program has assisted more than 100,000 participants in discovering and nurturing their call to Christian service. EfM helps the faithful encounter the breadth and depth of the Christian tradition and bring it into conversation with their experiences of the world as they study, worship, and engage in theological reflection together. EfM meets weekly during the academic year (September through May) in small group seminars under the guidance of trained mentors. The course of study encompasses Old and New Testament, Church History, and Theology. To register or for more information contact, Maureen Demler at deacon.maureen.demler@gmail.com

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
- Would like information about pledge envelopes or regular giving to Bethesda
- Other _____

Fr Charles Wallace, Priest-in-Charge

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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/bethesdaepiscopalchurch>

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