

Bethesda Episcopal Church

The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

15 October 2023

Organ Adagio from Fantaisie in C Major

César Franck (1822-1890)

All stand as the choir and minsters enter.

The Opening Hymn #684

From the Hymnal 1982

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 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.

Lord, we pray thee that thy grace may always precede and follow us, and make us continually to be given to all good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

All sit.

The First Reading

Exodus 32:1-14

When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered around Aaron, and said to him, "Come, make gods for us, who shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him." Aaron said to them, "Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me." So all the people took off the gold rings from their ears, and brought them to Aaron. He took the gold from them, formed it in a mold, and cast an image of a calf; and they said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!" When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation and said, "Tomorrow shall be a festival to the Lord." They rose early the next day, and offered burnt offerings and brought sacrifices of well-being; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to revel.

The Lord said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!'" The Lord said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation."

But Moses implored the Lord his God, and said, "O Lord, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.'" And the Lord changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

*The Lector concludes
The People respond*

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

Remain seated.

The Gradual: Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23

Maurice Greene (1696-1755)

Hallelujah! Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, * for his mercy endures for ever.

Who can declare the mighty acts of the Lord * or show forth all his praise?

Happy are those who act with justice * and always do what is right!

Remember me, O Lord, with the favor you have for your people, * and visit me with your saving help;

That I may see the prosperity of your elect and be glad with the gladness of your people, * that I may glory with your inheritance.

We have sinned as our forebears did; * we have done wrong and dealt wickedly.

Israel made a bull-calf at Horeb * and worshiped a molten image;

And so they exchanged their Glory * for the image of an ox that feeds on grass.
They forgot God their Savior, * who had done great things in Egypt,
Wonderful deeds in the land of Ham, * and fearful things at the Red Sea.
So he would have destroyed them, had not Moses his chosen stood before him in the
breach, * to turn away his wrath from consuming them.

The Second Reading

Philippians 4:1-9

My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

*The Lector concludes
The People respond*

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

All stand.

The Alleluia



Cantor: Ye that fear the Lord, put your trust in him; He is thy helper and defender.
(Ps 115:11)

All repeat: **Alleluia.**

Remain standing.

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 22:1-14

*Celebrant
People*

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

Once more Jesus spoke to the people in parables, saying: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those

who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

Celebrant
People

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

The Sermon

Fr Cairns

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 Kenya; and in the Albany Diocese, for the work of the Standing Committee during this period of transition.

We ask God's blessing on those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this week; and those whose year's mind falls at this time.

Let us pray together as a family of faith from every time and place, saying, Lord in your mercy, *hear our prayer*.

Let us pray for the church; for the unity of the body of Christ, that needless division might cease; for Michael our Presiding Bishop, for Jeremiah our Bishop-elect, and for all who nurture our life together, that the Church may be strengthened and our common life enriched: Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

Let us pray for our parish; for our presence in this community, that persons may find here the means to a deeper relationship with God; and that all may find the forgiveness of God and the acceptance of each other: Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

Let us pray for the world; for the leaders of nations, that wisdom and integrity might prevail; for regions torn by conflict, praying especially at this time for the people of the Middle East; that peace and harmony might be restored: Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

Let us pray for those in need; for the hungry and homeless; for the oppressed and downtrodden; and for the sick and the infirm, remembering by name: Sharon, Jerilyn and Deb: Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

By your power, Lord God, you raised Christ Jesus and in him we too will be raised. Let us pray for those we love who have died, that they may continue in your love. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

The Celebrant says the concluding prayer.

O heavenly Father, in whom we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray thee so to guide and govern us by thy Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget thee, but may remember that we are ever walking in thy sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**.

Celebrant: Let us humbly confess our sins to Almighty God.

**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 #646

From the Hymnal 1982

Remain standing

The Eucharistic Prayer

<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.

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,

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, 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 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 from Mass in a

Christoph Dalitz (b. 1967)

*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: Rejoice In The Lord Alway

Anonymous 16th c.

Rejoice in the Lord alway, and again I say rejoice. Let your softness be known unto all men; the Lord is e'en at hand. Be careful for nothing, but in all prayer and supplication, let your petitions be manifest unto God with giving of thanks. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesu. Amen. (*Philippians 4: 4-9*)

After Communion, all kneel.

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 #411

From the Hymnal 1982

Organ ‘God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending’ based on the tune, *Rustington*
Charles Callahan (b.1951)

Today at Bethesda

We **welcome** Fr John and Nancy Cairns back to Bethesda Church. Fr Cairns is our celebrant and preacher this morning while Fr Wallace is on retreat at Holy Cross Monastery, West Park, with a group of parishioners.

Bible Study resumes today at 9.20. All welcome.

The **flowers on the High Altar** are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Daniel Briggs Thornton by his wife, Patty.

Readers. Thank you to those reading and leading prayers at services today:
8am Mary Withington **10am** Ann Bullock and Darren Miller

Refreshments will be served followed the 10am service. Thank you to Judy and Grady Aronstamm for hosting today. Please join us!

Notices

Special Monthly Envelope - Donations in **October** will be directed to the feeding ministry team at the Presbyterian – New England Congregational Church which work together to provide meals to those in need; and Christ Church Food Pantry, a ministry operated by the Episcopal parish in Ballston Spa.

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10 to noon, and Thursdays from noon to 3pm. Please call ahead if you are planning to stop by.

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.

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 but please register so we can arrange a suitable venue for our discussion.**

TODAY: Evensong at All Saints' Cathedral, Albany

2:30 PM: Organ Recital

3:00 PM: Choral Evensong sung by the Cathedral Choir

The Feast of Our Lady of Walsingham is the annual celebration of the covenant relationship between Albany's two cathedrals: the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception and The Cathedral of All Saints.

Evensong is traditionally chanted by the choir and clergy. The service includes psalms, canticles, readings from Old and New Testaments and appointed hymns. The service lasts approximately 50 minutes. Evensong is always free and open to the public.

Financial Overview*, Year-to-Date August 2023

Through August, our financial position is better than budget, and thanks to higher than expected giving during the month of August, our deficit decreased to \$3,844.

In **Expense**, our spending is less than budget by \$24,012, driven primarily by lower Maintenance costs than planned, and some fees. We will incur some of these expected expenses during the fourth quarter of 2023, and this underrun will most likely be reduced.

In year to date **Income**, our regular Pledge and Plate giving is slightly over budget, but less than our expenses by almost \$18,000.

Although this gap is typical, it does mean that we are dependent on generous 4th Quarter giving to close the year and to provide cash to cover expenses during the first months of next year.

**The Operational view excludes items supported by designated funds (eg. Choir and Education programs) and special giving.*

Community News and Outreach

LifeWorks needs 200 volunteers willing to drive Thanksgiving baskets to recipients the morning of Saturday, November 18th. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact LifeWorks at 518-288-3206.

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.



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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