

# Bethesda Episcopal Church

**The Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost**

**29 October 2023**

**Organ** Liebster Jesu, wir sind hier, BWV 731

*Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)*

*All stand as the choir and minsters enter.*

**The Opening Hymn #671**

*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**

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

Almighty and everlasting God, give unto us the increase of faith, hope, and charity; and, that we may obtain that which thou dost promise, make us to love that which thou dost command; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*All sit.*

***The First Reading***

*Deuteronomy 34:1-12*

Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho, and the LORD showed him the whole land: Gilead as far as Dan, all Naphtali, the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Western Sea, the Negeb, and the Plain—that is, the valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees—as far as Zoar. The LORD said to him, “This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, ‘I will give it to your descendants’; I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not cross over there.” Then Moses, the servant of the LORD, died there in the land of Moab, at the LORD’s command. He was buried in a valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth-peor, but no one knows his burial place to this day. Moses was one hundred twenty years old when he died; his sight was unimpaired and his vigor had not abated. The Israelites wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days; then the period of mourning for Moses was ended.

Joshua son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, because Moses had laid his hands on him; and the Israelites obeyed him, doing as the LORD had commanded Moses.

Never since has there arisen a prophet in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face. He was unequalled for all the signs and wonders that the LORD sent him to perform in the land of Egypt, against Pharaoh and all his servants and his entire land, and for all the mighty deeds and all the terrifying displays of power that Moses performed in the sight of all Israel.

*The Lector concludes  
The People respond*

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

*Remain seated.*

***The Gradual: Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17***

*John Bertalot (b. 1931)*

Lord, you have been our refuge \*from one generation to another.

Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born, \*from age to age you are God.

You turn us back to the dust and say, \*"Go back, O child of earth."

For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past \*and like a watch in the night.

You sweep us away like a dream; \*we fade away suddenly like the grass.

In the morning it is green and flourishes; \*in the evening it is dried up and withered.

Return, O LORD; how long will you tarry? \*be gracious to your servants.

Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning; \*so shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.

Make us glad by the measure of the days that you afflicted us \*and the years in which we suffered adversity.

Show your servants your works \*and your splendor to their children.

May the graciousness of the LORD our God be upon us; \*prosper the work of our hands; prosper our handiwork.

***The Second Reading***

*1 Thessalonians 2:1-8*

You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, but though we had already suffered and been shamefully mistreated at Philippi, as you know,

we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts. As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed; nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

*The Lector concludes  
The People respond*

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

*All stand.*

### **The Alleluia**



*Cantor:* Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem; praise thy God, O Sion. (*Ps 147: 12*)  
*All repeat:* **Alleluia.**

*Remain standing.*

### **The Holy Gospel**

*Matthew 22:34-46*

*Celebrant  
People*

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

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: "What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." He said to them, "How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying, 'The Lord said to my Lord, Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet?' If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?"

No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

*Celebrant  
People*

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

## ***The Sermon***

*Dr Blaine Edele*

*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 in Melanesia; and in the Albany Diocese, for the Standing Committee during this period of transition, and Jeremiah, our Bishop-elect.

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

In peace, let us pray to the Lord, saying, Lord, have mercy.

For the unity of the Church in witness and proclamation of the Gospel; let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace and stability of all peoples, for good government in our land and for the leaders of the nations; let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For places of work, education and leisure; let us pray to the Lord: *Lord, have mercy*  
For a blessing on our homes; for our family and friends, and all whom we love;  
let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the sick and suffering and all who minister to their needs; let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

Let us commend ourselves, and all for whom we pray, to the mercy and protection of God; 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**

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

**Hymn at The Offertory #397**

*From the Hymnal 1982*

*Remain standing*

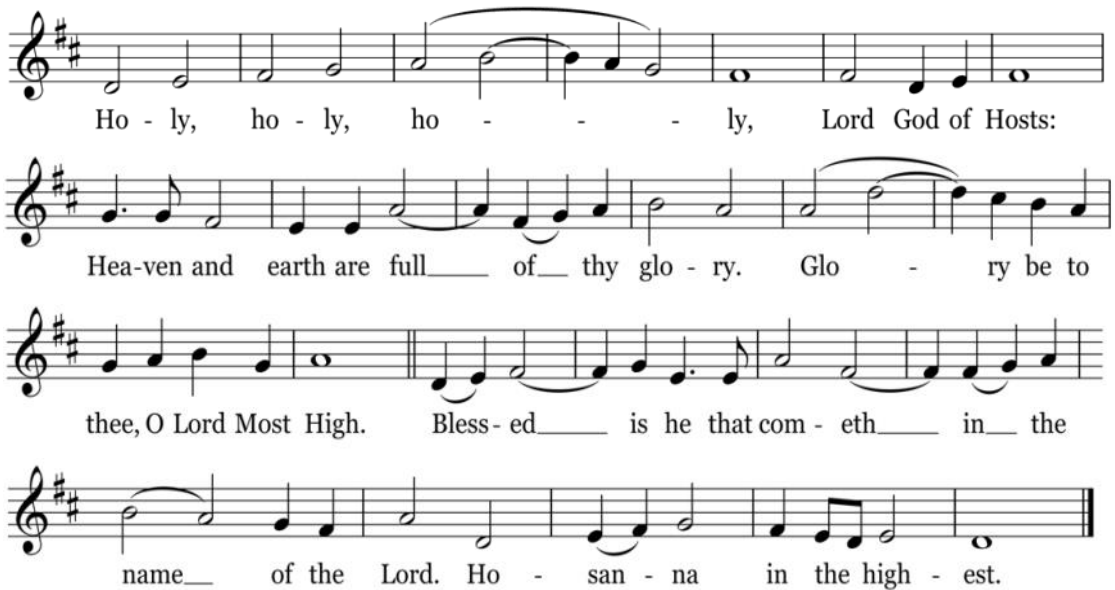
**The Eucharistic Prayer**

<i>Celebrant</i>	The Lord be with you.
<i>People</i>	<b>And with thy spirit.</b>
<i>Celebrant</i>	Lift up your hearts.
<i>People</i>	<b>We lift them up unto the Lord.</b>
<i>Celebrant</i>	Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.
<i>People</i>	<b>It is meet and right so to do.</b>

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 Messa a Tre Voci

Antonio Lotti (1667-1740)

*Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.  
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, donna nobis pacem.*

*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: O Lord, Increase My Faith*

Henry Loosemore (1607-1670)

*O Lord, increase my faith. Strengthen me and confirm me in thy true faith.  
Endue me with wisdom, charity and patience, in all my adversities.  
Sweet Jesus, say Amen.*

*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  
People*

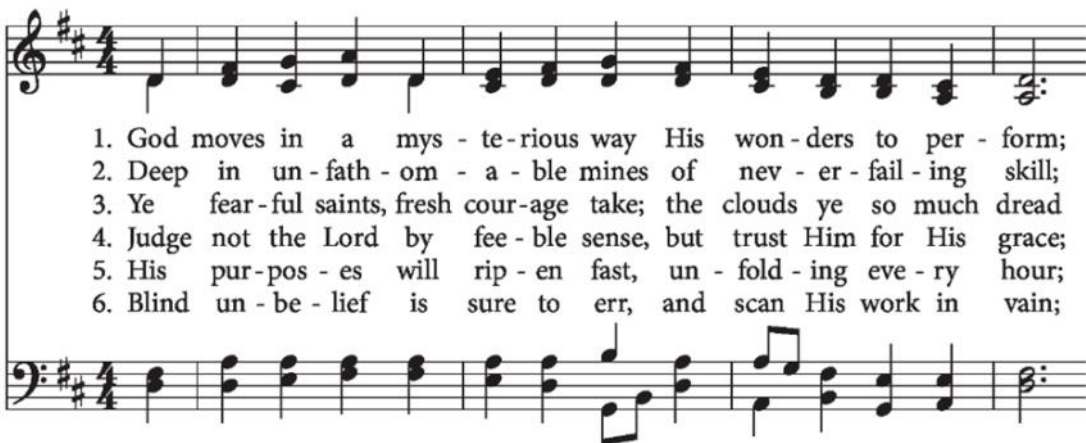
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## The Closing Hymn

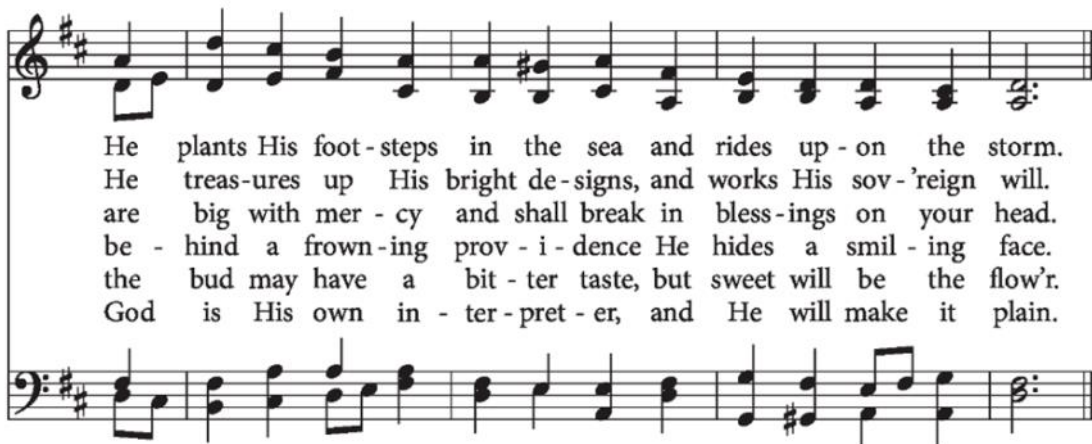
William Cowper, 1774

DUNDEE  
CM

Scottish Psalter, 1615



1. God moves in a mys - te - rious way His won - ders to per - form;  
2. Deep in un - fath - om - a - ble mines of nev - er - fail - ing skill;  
3. Ye fear - ful saints, fresh cour - age take; the clouds ye so much dread  
4. Judge not the Lord by fee - ble sense, but trust Him for His grace;  
5. His pur - pos - es will rip - en fast, un - fold - ing eve - ry hour;  
6. Blind un - be - lief is sure to err, and scan His work in vain;



He plants His foot - steps in the sea and rides up - on the storm.  
He treas - ures up His bright de - signs, and works His sov - 'reign will.  
are big with mer - cy and shall break in bless - ings on your head.  
be - hind a frown - ing prov - i - dence He hides a smil - ing face.  
the bud may have a bit - ter taste, but sweet will be the flow'r.  
God is His own in - ter - pret - er, and He will make it plain.

**Organ** Grand Chorus in Gregorian Tonality

*Alexandre Guilmant (1837-1911)*

## **Today at Bethesda**

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

**Thank you** to Dr Blaine Edele for preaching at services this morning.

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

**8am** Lynne Priestley **10am** Daniel Beach and Libby Smith-Holmes

**Bible Study** resumes today at 9.20. All welcome.

**Refreshments** will be served followed the 10am service. Thank you to Mark Claverie for hosting today. Please join us!

**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.

## **Notices**

**Reminder:** Turn clocks back one hour next weekend!

**Recital and Evensong at All Saints' Cathedral** Our organist, Derek Stannard, will play a thirty minute organ recital before Evensong on the 5th of November beginning at 2:30 pm. Please come to support Derek.

**Visit to St Paul's, Troy** An afternoon guided tour to see the magnificent interior of St Paul's Episcopal Church, Troy, has been arranged for Bethesda parishioners on Wednesday 15 November from 1.30–2.45pm. St. Paul's is unusual because all aspects of the design are based on a concept by the Tiffany Company: chandeliers, glass mosaics, tile work, a glass jeweled altar rail, a baptistery of wood and plaster filigree, decorative stenciling of the ceiling, walls and organ pipes, pews and support members, stunning windows by Tiffany and Tiffany artisan, J.A. Holzer. As such it is a fully integrated interior design; only four such churches done by the Tiffany Company have survived intact, and St. Paul's is arguably the finest expression of this concept. If you wish to attend, please register with the office: 518.584.5980.

## **Remembrance Sunday & Commemoration of the Faithful Departed**

On Sunday 12 November, the names of loved ones who have died in the past year will be read out at the 8am and 10am services. If you wish to add a name, a list is available on the table at the back of the church, or you may notify the office: 518.584.5980.

**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.**

**Office Hours:** Tuesday & Wednesday 10 to noon; and Thursday noon to 3pm.

**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.

### Outreach

**Anglican charities in the Middle East.** As Christians, how can we respond to the situation in the Middle East, especially to those who are suffering through no fault of their own? Here are a couple of options for humanitarian relief through Anglican organizations:

*The Diocese of Jerusalem & the Middle East* ([www.j-diocese.org/wordpress/healthcare-3](http://www.j-diocese.org/wordpress/healthcare-3)) operates many humanitarian organizations including hospitals in Gaza and the West Bank. *The Order of St John* ([www.stjohnseyehospital.org](http://www.stjohnseyehospital.org)) operates the only charitable eye care in Gaza, West Bank, and East Jerusalem.

Further information about the history, mission and ongoing work of these charities can be found on their websites.

**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.

### UPDATED Financial Overview\*, Year-to-Date SEPTEMBER 2023

Through September, our financial position remains better than budget, although our deficit has grown to \$11,043. It is expected that the deficit will approach \$20,000 year-to-date October, and again this year we will be dependent on special late-year gifts to close our deficit and provide cash for the early months of 2024.

Year to Date September, our spending is less than budget by \$20,194, driven primarily by lower Maintenance costs than planned, and lower fees. In year-to-date Income, our regular Pledge and Plate giving is slightly over budget, but is less than our expenses by over \$25,000.

#### YTD September:

Total Unrestricted income	\$ 191,720
<i>of which Pledge and Plate is</i>	<i>177,435</i>
Total Expenses	\$ 202,763
<b>Income/(Deficit)</b>	<b>\$ (11,043)</b>

\* The Operational view excludes items supported by designated funds (eg. Choir and Education

*Fr Charles Wallace, Priest in Charge*

Email: [office@bethesdachurch.org](mailto:office@bethesdachurch.org)

Website: [bethesdachurch.org](http://bethesdachurch.org)

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

Bethesda Episcopal Church Office

178 Elm Street, Suite 5

Saratoga Springs NY 12866

(518) 584-5980