

Bethesda Episcopal Church

The Baptism of The Lord

7 January 2024

Organ Quem pastores (Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising)

Helmut Walcha (1907-1991)

All stand as the choir and minsters enter.

The Opening Hymn #616

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.

Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan didst proclaim him thy beloved Son and anoint him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with thee and the same Spirit liveth and reigneth, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

All sit.

The Reading

Genesis 1:1-5

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

*The Lector concludes
The People respond*

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

All stand.

Hymn at The Gradual #116

From the Hymnal 1982

Remain standing.

The Holy Gospel

Mark 1:4-11

*Celebrant
People*

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

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

*Celebrant
People*

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

The Sermon

Fr Wallace

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 this week for the Anglican Communion, we remember the Scottish Episcopal Church; and we also pray for our bishop-elect, Jeremiah Williamson and his family as they prepare to move to the diocese in the coming days.

We ask that God will bring comfort and healing to all those who are sick, lonely, anxious or bereaved; and to all the troubled parts of our world, the people, places and nations suffering from economic or political unrest and war. We place these intentions in the hands of Our Lord Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

In joy and humility let us pray to the creator of the universe, saying, *Lord, grant us peace.*

By the good news of our salvation brought to Mary by the angel, hear us, O Lord. **Lord, grant us peace.**

By the mystery of the Word made flesh, hear us, O Lord. **Lord, grant us peace.**

By the birth in time of the timeless Son of God, hear us, O Lord. **Lord, grant us peace.**

By the manifestation of the King of glory to the shepherds and magi, hear us, O Lord. **Lord, grant us peace.**

By the submission of the maker of the world to Mary and Joseph of Nazareth, hear us, O Lord. **Lord, grant us peace.**

By the baptism of the Son of God in the river Jordan, hear us, O Lord. **Lord, grant us peace.**

Grant that the kingdoms of this world may become the kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; hear us, O Lord. **Lord, grant us peace.**

The Celebrant says a concluding prayer.

Almighty God, giver of strength and joy: change, we beseech thee, our bondage into liberty, and the poverty of our nature into the riches of thy grace; that, by the transformation of our lives, thy glory may be revealed; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Celebrant introduces the Confession.

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

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And with thy spirit.**

Hymn at The Offertory #497

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, 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 Agnus Dei from Missa Parochialis

George Oldroyd (1886 -1951)

*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 steps

During Communion, the choir sings

The Motet From the Rising of the Sun

F. A. Gore Ousley (1825-1889)

From the rising of the sun unto the going down of the same my name shall be great, among the Gentiles; and in every place incense shall be offered up unto my name: for my name shall be great among the heathen, thus saith the Lord.

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
People*

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

The Closing Hymn #107

From the Hymnal 1982

Organ Noël nouvelet (Sing We Now of Christmas)

Richard Hudson (1924-2019)

Notices

New to Bethesda? We're glad you are here! If you are interested in joining the parish and/or would like further information about our parish, please complete the form on p.12 of the bulletin and drop it into a collection plate at the back of the church.

Please join us for a **cup of coffee** following the 10am service. If you are able to provide refreshments in January and/or February 2024, please sign your name on the sheet in the narthex.

Today, following the 10am service, we will remove all of the Christmas greenery and tidy the church. *Blessed are they who lend a hand!*

Chalk, blessed last Sunday at the Eucharist, is available from Fr Wallace for those who wish to ask God's blessing on their home in the year ahead. A short service outline is printed on page 10 of this week's bulletin.

The **Bible Study** resumes on this morning at 9.20am. All welcome.

Special Monthly Envelope for January. Donations to the special monthly envelope in January assist the church with the cost of fuel during the winter months. We are grateful for your assistance and generosity.

Annual Pledging in 2024. Your financial support is vital to the ministry of Bethesda Church. It is not too late to make a pledge for 2024. Cards are available at the back of the church. Those who requested **Giving Envelopes** for 2024 can now collect them on the back table. If you cannot find a box with your name on it, or wish to subscribe, please contact the office.

Office The parish office on Elm Street will be open this week from 10—1pm on Tuesday and Wednesday; and on Thursday, from 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.

Looking Ahead

Annual Parish Meeting 2024. Bethesda's annual parish meeting will be held on Sunday, 28 January. There will be *one service* at 9am.

Ash Wednesday this year falls on 14 February. There will be two services to mark the first day of Lent at 12.10pm and 7pm. There will also be a weekday service in Lent on Thursdays at 12.10pm beginning 15 February .

Community and Diocesan Events

Cathedral in Bloom from 12-14 January is the area's premier flower show. Enjoy the glory of the architecture of The Cathedral of All Saints in Albany combined with the talents of the some of the Capital Region's and northeast's artists with dozens of displays, workshops and presentations will be offered by floral professionals. Guided and self-tours, a cafe, and a flower market will welcome you, along with organ recitals with music inspired by flowers. To purchase tickets online, go to cathedralinbloom.bpt.me/

Consecration Fr Jeremiah Williamson will be ordained a Bishop in the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church, and seated as Tenth Bishop of Albany at All Saints' Cathedral, Albany, on Saturday 24 February at 11am. In order to accommodate those wishing to attend the service, each parish of the diocese is limited to six tickets. If you're interested, please speak to Fr Wallace.

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. Laundry detergent, dishwasher detergent
- ◆ Canned Foods including those low in salt, fat & sugar and gluten free.
- ◆ 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.

Please leave donated items *in the box by the side door entrance* of the church. Thank you!

A Prayer for Blessing your Home at Epiphany

Begin by saying:

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

*Using the blessed chalk, near your front door (on a wall, lintel, or step)
write the following:*

20 + C + M + B + 24

Then, say this prayer:

The Three Wise Men, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar, followed the star of God's Son who became human two thousand and twenty-four years ago.

May Christ bless our (my) home and remain with us (me) throughout this new year.
Amen.

You may also offer the following prayer:

Visit, O Lord, this dwelling,
and drive far from it all snares of the enemy;
let your holy Angels dwell herein, to preserve us in peace;
and let your blessing be upon it for evermore;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



The Epiphany Proclamation 2024

Following the Gospel on the feast of the Epiphany it was an ancient practice of the Church to announce the major 'moveable' feasts of the coming year. This 'Epiphany Proclamation' is a reminder of the centrality of the resurrection of the Lord in the liturgical year and the importance of the great mysteries of faith, which are celebrated annually. Presumably it was useful in pre-literate times to help people remember the important feasts of the Christian calendar when they were expected to be in church. The following is taken from the monthly newsletter of the Episcopal Church of the Resurrection in New York City:

Know ye beloved,

that as by God's favor we rejoiced in the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, so too we announce to you the glad tidings of the Resurrection of Our Savior:

The Sunday of Septuagesima will fall on the twenty-eighth day of January.

Ash Wednesday and the beginning of the most holy Lenten fast on the fourteenth day of February.

On the thirty-first day of March you shall celebrate with greatest joy the holy Pasch of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Ascension of Our Lord will occur on the ninth day of May.

The feast of Whitsunday on the nineteenth day of May.

The thirtieth day of May is the Feast of Corpus Christi.

The first day of December will usher in the Advent of Our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom be honor and glory eternally. Amen.





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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