

Bethesda Episcopal Church

The Third Sunday after the Epiphany

21 January 2024

Organ

Caprice

Cuthbert Harris (1870-1932)

All stand as the choir and minsters enter.

The Opening Hymn #535

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.

Give us grace, O Lord, to answer readily the call of our Savior Jesus Christ and proclaim to all people the Good News of his salvation, that we and all the whole world may perceive the glory of his marvelous works; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

All sit.

The First Reading

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying, "Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you." So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, "Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth. When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

*The Lector concludes
The People respond*

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

Remain seated.

The Gradual Psalm 62

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

My spirit waits on God alone; * My rock and refuge is His throne;
Trust Him, ye saints, in all your ways; * Pour out your hearts before His face.

False are the men of high degree; * The baser sort are vanity.
Laid in the balance both appear * Light as a puff of empty breath.

Once has His pow'rful voice declared, * Once and again my ears have heard,
Thy grace and justice, mighty Lord, * Shall well divide our last reward.

Paraphrase by Isaac Watts

The Second Reading

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

I mean, brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no possessions, and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

*The Lector concludes
The People respond*

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

All stand.

**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

This week, in the Anglican cycle of prayer, we pray for the Church of South India; in the Albany diocese for the parish of Christ Church, Ballston Spa and their Rector, Fr Derik Roy; and in this parish, we ask God's blessing on our upcoming Annual Meeting. As we begin a week of Prayer for Christian Unity, we remember the leaders of the Churches, especially, Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Francis, Bishop of Rome; and Bartholomew, Ecumenical Patriarch.

The love of God embraces all peoples and knows no limit. Let us place our hope in God as we offer these petitions.

For those who work for the unity of all Christians, let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, hear our prayer.

For the whole People of God, that each one may be a true and faithful servant of Christ, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For those drawing near to the light of faith, that the Lord will bring them to true knowledge of himself, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For our families and friends, that the Lord will give them joy and satisfaction in all that they do, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For those who are lonely, sick, hungry, persecuted, or ignored, remembering at this time, Paul, Brant, May, Kristie, Xavier, Lesley, Lyle and Sally; that the Lord will comfort and sustain them, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For our country, that the Lord will help us to contribute to its true growth and well-being, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the whole human family, that we may live together in justice and peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

The Celebrant concludes the prayers, saying,

Draw your church together into one great company of disciples, together following our Lord Jesus Christ into every walk of life, together serving Him in His mission to the world, and together witnessing to His love on every continent and island; we ask this in his name and for his sake. **Amen.**

The Confession and Absolution

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

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

Hymn at The Offertory #653

From the Hymnal 1982

Remain standing.

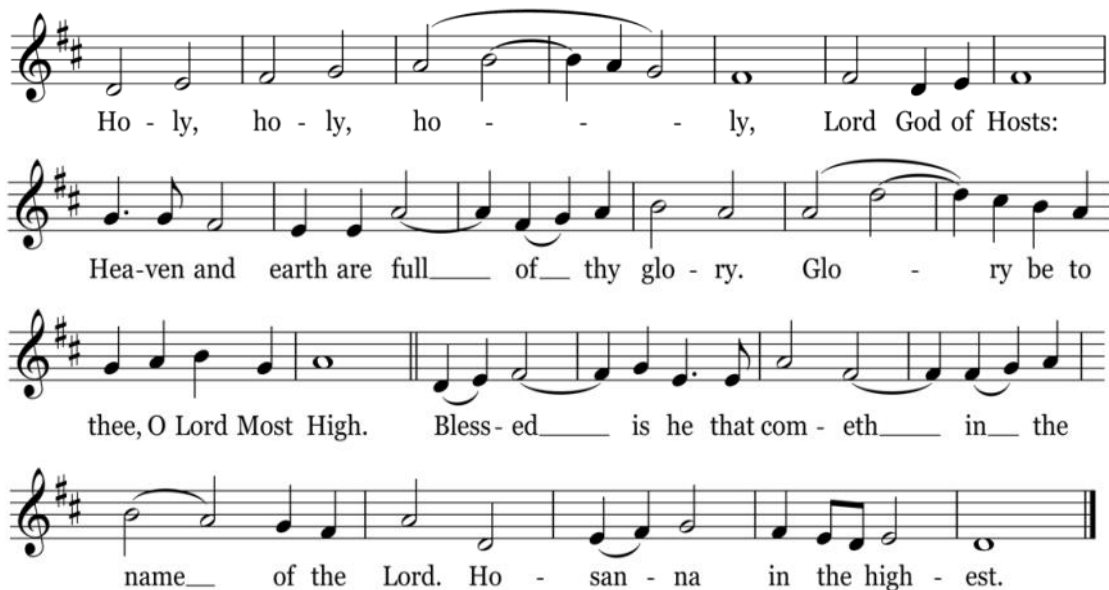
The Eucharistic Prayer

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 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 Missa Sancti Niniani

C. E. S. Littlejohn (1879-1959)

*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.

During Communion, the choir sings

Motet: The Call

Suzanne Toolan (b. 1927)

*How brightly deep, how glory sprung! Creation's Lord unbound.
The reaching longing heart of things in charged, unbroken sound.
Its urgent peace, the rocks, the roots, the wind, the sea had found.
But man would touch the spoken Word; would walk with Him his ground.
Leave all things you have and come and follow me.*

*To Peter, Andrew, James and John, the God Incarnate came.
He yet seeks man to walk with him. He calleth each by name.
The ageless longing of the world that once had known his touch,
The aching heart, the restless soul, His Kingdom is of such.
Leave all things you have and come and follow me.*

*That Christed moment hath no end; its movement breathless, bright,
Hath drenched our earth in silent spills of crushing, bursting light,
And man will search its muffled rays through darkness and the night
To reach the Presence who hath called, who slowly freed his sight.
Leave all things you have and come and follow me.*

Text: Rosaleen O'Sullivan (1928-2022)

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 #655

From the Hymnal 1982

Organ

Postlude in F Major

Alexandre Guilmant (1837-1911)

Today at Bethesda

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

The Eucharistic elements (wine and bread) for the month of January are given in loving memory of Ray Priestley by Lynne Priestley.

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

8am Lisa Edele

10am Tom Remington & Judy Aronstamm

Please join us for a **cup of coffee** following the 10am service. Thanks to Judy and Grady Aronstamm for hosting this morning.

The Old Testament **Bible Study** meets this morning at 9.20am. All welcome.

NEXT SUNDAY Bethesda will hold its Annual Parish Meeting following the Eucharist. There will be *one service* at 9am. The meeting lasts approximately one hour. Members of the parish are encouraged to attend.

Special Monthly Envelope for January Donations from 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.

Gifts for Bishop Jeremiah Parishes in the diocese have been asked to contribute towards our new bishop's discretionary fund to assist him in his episcopal ministry. If you wish to contribute, you may write a check to Bethesda (for Bishop's discretionary) and the parish send one check; alternatively, you may send a gift directly to the Episcopal Diocese of Albany, Episcopal Diocese of Albany, 580 Burton Road, Greenwich, NY 12834

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. Please consider supporting us. 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.

Looking Ahead

Ash Wednesday falls on 14 February this year. There will be two services to mark the first day of Lent at 12.10pm and 7pm.

Midweek Service in Lent A midweek service (Communion or Midday Prayers) will be held on Thursdays at 12.10pm beginning 15 February.

Our **Lent Study** this year will be an introduction to the life and contemplative writings of the late Trappist Monk, Thomas Merton. The focus will be a brief overview of his life, his major works and teachings. We will then explore the relevancy of his teachings as they help develop a contemplative lifestyle in the midst of our anxious, complicated world. The group, which will be hosted and led by David and Cheryl Olsen, will meet at 6.30pm four Wednesday evenings: February 21 February 28 and then March 13 and March 20. To register and for further details, call the office.

Community and Diocesan Events

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 in attending, 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!



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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