

# Bethesda Episcopal Church

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany: *Septuagesima*

28 January 2024

## 9.00am Sung Eucharist and Sermon

**Music** Siciliano, Flute Sonata No. II in E-flat *J.S. Bach, arr. L. Moyses, trans. R. Moore*

*Robert Moore, saxophone* *Derek Stannard, organ*

*All stand as the choir and minsters enter.*

### **The Opening Hymn #493**

*From the Hymnal 1982*

*At the high altar, the Celebrant says*

**Celebrant** Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
**People** **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.

Let us pray. Almighty and everlasting God, who dost govern all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of thy people, and in our time grant us thy peace; 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 Reading**

*Deuteronomy 18:15-20*

Moses said: The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: “If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die.” Then the LORD replied to me: “They are right in what they have said. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die.”

*The Lector concludes  
The People respond*

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

*All stand.*

**The Alleluia**



*Cantor sings the appointed verse:*

Give me understanding, O Lord: and I shall keep your law with all my heart.

*All repeat: Alleluia.*

*Remain standing.*

**The Holy Gospel**

*Mark 1:21-28*

*Celebrant  
People*

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

Jesus and his disciples went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have

you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.”

But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

*Celebrant*      The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People*          **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***

This week, in the Anglican cycle of prayer, we pray for the Church in Pakistan; in the Albany diocese for our bishop-elect, Jeremiah Williamson and his family; and we ask God's blessing our parish community as we gather for our Annual Meeting this morning.

We remember with thanksgiving those who are celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this week and those whose year's mind falls at this time.

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, Sally and Kelly; 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,*

Almighty God, who through the generations has enriched this parish, by the faithful service of its members and those who support its common life: Prosper with thy blessing our good intentions, and grant that all who serve thee here, may continue to work together for the good of each other, to thy honour and glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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 #457**

*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)*



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

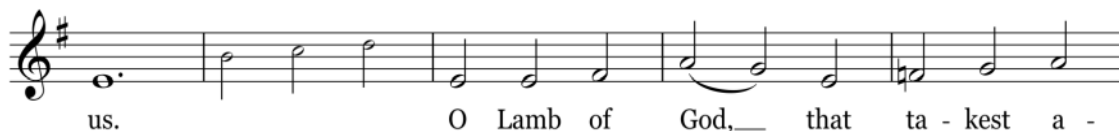
*Celebrant* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
*People* **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

## 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

*Healey Willan (1880-1968)*





on \_\_\_\_\_ us. O Lamb of God, \_\_\_ that

ta - kest a - way \_\_\_ the sins of the world, \_\_\_

grant \_\_\_\_\_ us thy \_\_\_\_\_ peace.

*Communion is distributed at the chancel step. Please move at the direction of the ushers.*

**Music:** Meditation, from *Dido and Aeneas*

Henry Purcell, arr. R. Moore

*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 #448***

*From the Hymnal 1982*

**Music** Allegro, from *Sonata No. III in G*

G.F. Handel, arr. Arthur H. Christmann

## *Today at Bethesda*

The **flowers** on the High Altar and **Eucharistic elements** are given to the glory of Almighty God and in loving memory of Ray Priestley, given by his daughter, Lynne.

**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.

**Thank you** to saxophonist (and choir member!) Robert Moore, for playing this morning.

**TODAY: ANNUAL MEETING** Bethesda holds its Annual Parish Meeting following this morning's service. The meeting is approximately one hour with time for questions at the end. **Coffee** is available at the back of the church. Materials for our meeting begin on p. 12 of this bulletin.

**Office** The parish office on Elm Street will be open this week from 10–1pm on Tuesday and Thursday, from noon to 3pm.

## *Looking Ahead*

**Ash Wednesday** this year falls on 14 February. There will be liturgies will at 12.10pm and 7pm.

**Midweek Service in Lent** A midweek service (Communion or Middy 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 on four Wednesday evenings: February 21, February 28 and then March 13 and March 20. To register and for further details, call the office.

**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.

## *Meet The Gesimas*

This Sunday has traditionally been referred to as *Septuagesima*, the first of the three Sundays before Lent that make up the season of **Shrovetide**. From at least the 8th century until the liturgical reforms following Vatican II in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> c., the three Sundays before Ash Wednesday were known, respectively, as *Septuagesima*, *Sexagesima*, and *Quinquagesima*, meaning 70, 60, and 50 days [before Easter]. Obviously, these numbers don't reflect reality; there are actually 64 days from Septuagesima to Easter Day, and of course a week is 7 days, not 10. But who's counting?! Early churchmen used creative license to create a devotional parallel to the Old Testament story of the Babylonian Captivity of Israel, which lasted roughly 70 years (see II Kings 24-25; Ezra 1).

The purpose of Shrovetide was to prepare the faithful for Lent and thus also for Easter. “Shrove” is the past tense of the medieval English word ‘shrive’, meaning ‘to confess (to)’, referring to one of the original intentions of the pre-Lent season. This practice has also been lost; Shrovetide has been replaced by the thoroughly secular Carnival, a time to cut loose before the rigours of Lent. Though Shrovetide was not an extension of Lent, our Christian forebears understood that, psychologically, we don’t do well if we leap right from one season to another without a transition period. Think of it as exercise: just as you stretch before you go for a run so you won’t injure yourself, Shrovetide allows you to warm up your spiritual muscles before Lent arrives.

Although traces of ‘Shrovetide’ survive in some of our opening prayers (or collects) at the Eucharist for the later Sundays of the Epiphany season, the late-20th-century revisions to the lectionary all but wiped out its active observance, and by shifting the focus of the last Sunday before Ash Wednesday to the story of Jesus’ Transfiguration, created an even more jarring transition to Lent! The shock value of this abrupt shift may be spiritually effective in its own way, but it’s still a good idea to give ourselves time to prepare for Lent. So, think about what you might want to read, give up, or take up, or where to focus your prayer life, during this season. For example...

### ***Fast from...***

*anger  
bitterness  
self-concern  
gossip  
discouragement  
laziness  
suspicion  
guilt*

### ***Feast on...***

*gratitude  
patience  
forgiveness  
compassion  
hope  
truth  
service  
commitment*



## **Parish Meeting Agenda**

*Coffee is available at the back of the church before the meeting.*

- **Opening Prayer & Greeting:** *Fr Charles Wallace*
- **Minutes of the 2023 Annual Meeting:** *Tim Holmes, Clerk*
- **Rector's Remarks:** *Fr Wallace*
- **Property Management Update:** *Mark Claverie, Warden*
- **Treasurer's Financial Report & 2024 Budget:**  
*Karen Finkbeiner, Treasurer*
- **Warden's Report:** *Sara Manny, Warden*
- **Annual Elections:** *Sara Manny, Nominations Committee*
- **Questions & Answers**
- **Blessing & Adjournment:** *Fr Wallace*

## 2023 Full Year Operational\* financial results

Bethesda finished 2023 in good financial order. We ended with an Operational surplus (positive Net Income), which will help us through the early months of 2024 when we expect to run a deficit.

Our expenses were under budget, primarily due to less maintenance spending than planned. Our Income was over budget thanks to generous donations.

	<u>Full Year 2023</u>	
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>B/(W) Budget</u>
<b>Rector (incl Rectory)</b>	125,030	8,185
<b>Building and Programs</b>	40,300	12,055
<b>Office/Employee/fees</b>	58,550	7,016
<b>Diocese</b>	47,314	2
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>271,194</b>	<b>27,258</b>
<b>Pledge and Plate</b>	<b>306,545</b>	<b>16,612</b>
<b>Other unrestricted</b>	1,040	(2,152)
<b>Dividends &amp; distributions</b>	17,278	(872)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>324,862</b>	<b>13,588</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>53,668</b>	<b>40,846</b>

*\*The Operational view excludes items funded through designated funds and giving, such as Choir.*

*\*\* B/(W) Budget - Better than Budget/Worse than Budget*

## **2024 Proposed Full Year Operational\* Budget**

The 2024 Budget assumes that our 2024 activities are similar to 2023, with the exception of maintenance spending for the church and rectory which we have increased year to year. Where we do not have specific information for 2024, the 2024 budget proposal is the 2023 number uplifted by 3% for inflation.

### **Expenses:**

<b>Rector (incl Rectory)</b>	<b>136,781</b>
<b>Building and Programs</b>	<b>45,300</b>
<b>Office/Employee/fees</b>	<b>49,681</b>
<b>Diocese</b>	<b>55,440</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>287,202</b>

### **Income:**

<b>Pledge and Plate</b>	<b>281,545</b>
<b>Other unrestricted</b>	<b>1,000</b>
<b>Dividends &amp; distributions</b>	<b>17,000</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>299,545</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>12,342</b>

\*The Operational view excludes items funded through designated funds and giving, such as Choir.

**BALLOT: 2024 ANNUAL MEETING**

*Bethesda Episcopal Church  
Saratoga Springs, New York*

---

**SENIOR CHURCHWARDEN**

*Vote for one.*

\_\_\_\_\_ Sara Manny  
\_\_\_\_\_

**JUNIOR CHURCHWARDEN**

*Vote for one.*

\_\_\_\_\_ Mark Claverie  
\_\_\_\_\_

**VESTRY MEMBERS**

*Vote for five.*

\_\_\_\_\_ Karen Finkbeiner

\_\_\_\_\_ David Harper

\_\_\_\_\_ Timothy Holmes

\_\_\_\_\_ Margaret Verrigni

\_\_\_\_\_ Richard Wissler  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**DELEGATES TO DIOCESAN CONVENTION**

*Vote for three.*

\_\_\_\_\_ Charles Maze

\_\_\_\_\_ Lynne Priestley

\_\_\_\_\_ Sara Manny (alternate)  
\_\_\_\_\_



***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*

Email: [office@bethesdachurch.org](mailto:office@bethesdachurch.org)  
Office Telephone: (518) 584-5980

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