

Bethesda Episcopal Church

The Presentation of Christ in the Temple

4 February 2024

Organ Intermezzo (Founded upon an Irish Air)

C.V. Stanford (1852-1924)

All stand as the choir and minsters enter.

The Opening Hymn #259

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.

Almighty and everliving God, we humbly beseech thee that, as thy only-begotten Son was this day presented in the temple, so we may be presented unto thee with pure and clean hearts by the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Remain standing.

The Holy Gospel

Luke 2.22-40

*Celebrant
People*

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

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, the parents of Jesus brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed-- and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

*Celebrant
People*

The Gospel of the Lord.
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 Anglican Church of South America, and for our diocese as we prepare to consecrate Jeremiah Williamson as 10th Bishop of Albany at the end of the month. In our parish, we pray that God will comfort and heal all who suffer in body or in spirit, especially Paul, Sonia, Robert, Jerilyn, Doris, and Mary Anne, and those on our hearts and minds at this time. *(A period of silence is kept.)*

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

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest.
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Celebrant: O Thou, who art the light of the minds that know thee, the life of the souls that love thee, and the strength of the hearts that serve thee: help us so to know thee that we may truly love thee; so to love thee that we may fully serve thee; whom to serve is perfect freedom; 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

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

Hymn at The Offertory #82

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. 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 Communion Service in E

Harold Darke (1888-1976)

*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: When to the Temple Mary went

Johannes Eccard (1553-1611)

*When to the temple Mary went and brought the Holy Child,
Him did the aged Simeon see, as it had been revealed.
He took up Jesus in his arms and blessing God he said:
In peace I now depart, my Savior having seen,
The Hope of Israel, the Light of men.*

*Help now thy servants, gracious Lord, that we may ever be
As once the faithful Simeon was, rejoicing but in Thee;
And when we must from earth departure take,
May gently fall asleep, and with Thee wake.*

English Translation by John Troutbeck (1832-1899)

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 #7

From the Hymnal 1982

Organ

Voluntary in F

John Bennett (1735-1784)

Notices

Welcome! If you are interested in joining Bethesda 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 February are given in honor of Elsie Priestley's 101st birthday by her daughter, Lynne.

Thank you to those reading and leading prayers at services today:
8am Mary Withington 10am Katie Hooper & Daniel Beach

Please join us for a **cup of coffee** following the 10am service. Thanks to Libby and Tim Smith-Holmes for hosting today.

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

Remember that dust thou art! A basket has been placed on the tract table at the back of the church in which anyone can return palm crosses from last year. These palm crosses will then be used to make the ash for this year's Ash Wednesday services.

On **Ash Wednesday**, 14 February, there will be liturgies at 12.10pm and 7pm.

Thursday service of Holy Communion in Lent at 12.10pm beginning 15 February.

Our **Lent Study** 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, major works and teachings. We will explore the relevancy of his teachings as they help develop a contemplative lifestyle in the midst of our anxious, complicated world. The group, 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.

Consecration Fr Jeremiah Williamson will be ordained a Bishop in Christ's one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church, and seated as Tenth Bishop of Albany at All Saints' Cathedral, Albany, on Saturday 24 February at 11am. If you're interested in attending, please speak to Fr Wallace.

February's Special Monthly Envelope supports the Franklin Community Center. Located in downtown Saratoga Springs but serving all of Saratoga County, the Franklin Community Center has been providing support to local individuals and families since 1983. All programs and services provided through the Center focus on those in need, regardless of race, religion or color, to improve their quality of life: for example, operating 'Project Lift', a free after-school prevention program for qualifying children at local schools; or Franklin Community Manor, providing safe and affordable rental housing to low-income adults. From Monday to Thursday, Franklin runs a Food Pantry and Donation Center offering clothing and household items. Thank you for supporting our neighbors at Franklin Community Center and their excellent work in our community.

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.

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 hygiene products: soap, toothpaste/brushes, shampoo, razors, deodorant.
- Please leave donated items *in the box by the side door entrance* of the church. Thank you!



Rembrandt van Rijn (1606–1669)
Simeon's Song of Praise, 1631

As chronicled in the Gospel of Luke, the elderly Simeon was promised that he would not die before seeing the Messiah. Rembrandt depicts a divinely illuminated Simeon acknowledging the child in his arms. Mary and Joseph sink in astonishment while the prophetess, Anna, appears before the group to offer a blessing.

From last week's Annual Meeting:

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

** 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:

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

Income:

Pledge and Plate	281,545
Other unrestricted	1,000
Dividends & distributions	17,000
Total Income	299,545
Net Income	12,342

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

Annual Meeting ...

Other items discussed at the Annual Meeting:

1. Fr Wallace reported that our **average attendance** in **2023** was 102. There was an average attendance of 93 in **2022** and 91 in **2021**.
2. Sara Manny reported that we have received (to date) 62 pledges for **2024**, totaling \$195,000. **In 2023**, there were 55 pledges totaling \$157,000.
3. Appointment of Parish **Audit Committee**: Kathleen Higle, Warren Olsen and Craig Walton.

4. **Elections**

The following **Members of Vestry** were all re-elected to new terms:

Sara Manny (Senior Warden);
Mark Claverie (Junior Warden);

Holly Sofarelli, David MacVane, David Harper, Margaret Verrigni; Richard Wissler and Marcia Macdonald (at-large members).

Karen Finkbeiner continues as Treasurer and Tim Holmes as Clerk.

Lynne Priestley and Charles Maze were re-elected as delegates to this year's **diocesan convention**, scheduled for May 2024.

5. Mark Claverie reported on **building work** completed in 2023: clerestory window restoration with additional exterior painting, caulking and installation of protective exterior glass; restoration of the (eagle) lectern and lantern; snow rails installed on the new roof; repairs to gutters; caulking of masonry cracks to eliminate water leaks in the east wall.

Projects planned for 2024 include maintenance to the tower sprinkler system at the end of February; the removal of the last three pews providing more space/flexible usage for special events, baptisms, coffee hour, etc.; repair of sinks in the sacristy and restroom; and removal of items from the undercroft.

The west lot lease with Bonacio Construction has been extended for an additional six months (ending May 31) for \$12,500. Funds have been deposited in our capital funds account.

6. In 2023, Bethesda provided financial support to the following parish* and community projects through our **Special Monthly Envelope** initiative:

February	\$358	<i>Franklin Community Center</i>
March	\$778	<i>LifeWorks</i>
April	\$1325	<i>Thomas Parke Music Fund*</i>
May	\$1000	<i>Beaver Cross Camp</i>
June	\$598	<i>Wellspring</i>

Special **Monthly Envelope** giving, continued ...

July	\$787	<i>NYRA Race Track Chaplaincy</i>
August	\$518	<i>Shelters of Saratoga</i>
September	\$568	<i>Habitat for Humanity</i>
October	\$598	<i>Food pantry/kitchen, Christ Church Ballston Spa & Presbyterian—NE Congregation, Saratoga</i>
November	\$713	<i>Children's Empty Stocking Project</i>
December	\$1773	<i>Organ restoration fund*</i>

7. **Financial Trends**

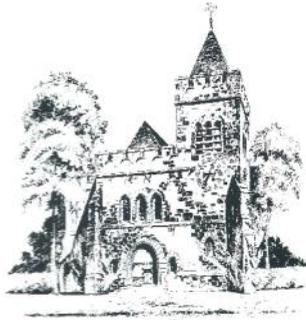
- 2023 Operations were fully funded by Parishioner giving
- 2022 Operations were fully funded by Parishioner giving
- 2021 Included PPP loan and increased parishioner giving
- 2020 Included PPP loan and residual Proctor bequest
- 2019 Ended with positive Net Income thanks to Proctor bequest

We will again rely on parishioners in 2024:

- To support the church with time, talent and treasure;
- To ensure we finish the year with positive Net Income;
- To continue additional giving for special offerings and activities.

Thank You for your prayers and generous support!





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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