

Bethesda Episcopal Church

The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

16 June 2024

Music Sonata No. 1 in D Major *Henry Purcell (1659-1695)*
I. Allegro pomposo, II. Andante maestoso, III. Allegro ma non troppo

John Fatuzzo, trumpet

All stand as the minsters enter. 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 Opening Hymn #656

From the Hymnal 1982

Remain standing.

The Collect of The Day

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

Keep, O Lord, we beseech thee, thy household the Church in thy steadfast faith and love, that by the help of thy grace we may proclaim thy truth with boldness, and minister thy justice with compassion; for the sake of our Savior Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

All sit.

The Lesson

2 Corinthians 5:6-10, 14-17

We are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord-- for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them. From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

The Lector concludes
The People respond

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

All stand.

The Alleluia



Following the verse, all repeat: **Alleluia.**

Remain standing.

The Holy Gospel

Mark 4:26-34

*Celebrant
People*

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

Jesus said, “The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.”

He also said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”

With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

*Celebrant
People*

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

The Address

Sister Charla Commins, CSJ

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 the Anglican Communion, we pray today for the Church of Bangladesh; and in the Albany Diocese, for our bishop, Jeremiah Williamson; and for the St. Francis Mission Soup Kitchen.

We give thanks for our fathers' today, and pray that God will strengthen them to be examples of his love.

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 all who work for justice and peace, 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; and we pray at this time for Scott Wing; let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who have died, remembering Rhoda Nimsker and Robert Louis Fish, and all who mourn, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

We 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

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.**

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
People*

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

Hymn at The Offertory #686

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. 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
People*

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
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)

O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a - way the

sins of the world, have mer - cy up - on

us. O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a -
 way the sins of the world, have mer - cy up -
 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.

Music during Communion

Elegia, Op 48
 Marches Héroïques, No. 2 "La Grâce"

Sergio Milatello (b. 1968)
 Georg Philipp Telemann (1681-1767)

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

The Closing Hymn #525

From the Hymnal 1982

Music Marches Héroïques, No. 1 "La Majesté"

Telemann

Today's Gospel: When Jesus reaches for metaphors that describe the kingdom of God, he often uses untidy images. *I am the vine, you are the branches* comes to mind (*John 15.5*). No stately cedar tree of Lebanon here – Jesus chooses a gnarled, knotted plant that requires patient, careful husbandry. And one that is hardly pretty to look at either. Actually, it is ugly to look at – but taste the fruit of the vine, and don't judge on appearances!

In another short parable today, he compares the kingdom of heaven to a mustard seed – one of the smallest seeds that grows into *the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches*. The image is ironic, and possibly even satirical. You might expect the kingdom of God to be compared to the tallest and strongest of trees. But Jesus likens the Church to something that sprouts up quite quickly from almost nothing, and then develops into an ungainly spindly shrub that barely holds up a bird's nest.

The Church, then, can take some comfort from the lips of Jesus. Like the mustard seed, it can be an untidy sprawling shrub. Like a vine, it can be knotted and gnarled. Neither plant is much to look at. But Jesus was saying something quite profound about the nature of the Church: it will be rambling, extensive and just a tad jumbled. And that's the point. It often isn't easy to find your place in neat and tidy systems. And maybe you'll feel alienated and displaced for a while. But, in a messy and sometimes disorderly Church, all may find a home.

Reflections on the Gospel by Martin Percy

Notices

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

8am Bob Bullock
10am Paula Pinion & Tom Remington

Today's Speaker Born and raised in Syracuse, **Sister Charla Commins** has been a Sister of St. Joseph for over 60 years. A founding staff member of Catholic Charities in Saratoga County in 1975, she also guided the process of merging with Catholic Charities in Warren and Washington Counties in 1977. A Licensed Clinical Social Worker, her early days were spent counseling individuals and families until assuming the role of Executive Director in 1988, a position she holds to this day. Collaborating with other providers and faith communities to address social problems facing the community, Sister Charla was a founding board member for Domestic Violence/Rape Crisis Services of Saratoga County, Community

Hospice, the HIV/AIDS Coalition, the original task force responding to the need for a permanent shelter for the homeless, the area's first Community Home for the Dying and many other boards, coalitions and task forces throughout the region. Catholic Charities serves all persons regardless of race, creed or lifestyle with special emphasis on the poor and vulnerable.

The **flowers on the High Altar** are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Henry (Jerry) MacDonald by his wife, Marcia.

Lemonade will be served after the 10am service. Thank you to Tim and Libby Smith-Holmes for hosting today. If you are able to host one week this summer, please sign up using the sheet in the Narthex.

Special Monthly Envelope Donations from the Monthly Envelope in **June** will be directed to the **Beaver Cross Camp Scholarship Fund**. Beaver Cross, our diocesan camp in Greenwich, NY, seeks to make its summer programs available to every eligible child who wishes to participate in its activities, regardless of a family's financial circumstances. Each year, funds are raised to meet the need for scholarships. Last year, Bethesda raised \$1000 to support this enriching experience for children.

Vestry Meeting Parishioners are invited to attend the upcoming Vestry meeting following the 10am service on Sunday, 23 June. The meeting will include an update on parish building work and finances.

Summer Music 2024 Thank you to all who have provided financial support towards this year's music series. Upcoming artists include:

June 23 -	Elizabeth Huntley, harp
June 30 -	Karen Becker, piano
July 7 -	Bob Moore, saxophone

During the summer, the **parish office** is open Tuesdays from 10.30-11.30am.

Altar Flowers during the Summer If you would like to contribute flowers for the altar or eucharistic elements (bread and wine) as a memorial, or in thanksgiving for a birthday or anniversary, please contact the office: office@bethesdachurch.org

Today's Guest Artist: John Fatuzzo

We extend a warm welcome and thanks to **John Fatuzzo**, our first featured artist in this year's summer music series. John is a music educator and professional trumpeter from New York's Capital Region. He is a graduate of the Eastman School of Music, where he studied with James Thompson, former Principal Trumpet of the Montreal and Atlanta Symphony Orchestras. John is currently on the music faculty at Guilderland Central High School, where he directs the Wind Ensemble and Jazz Ensemble. The 2023 recipient of the New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) Early Career Achievement Award, Mr. Fatuzzo's ensembles have exclusively received Gold and Gold with Distinction ratings at NYSSMA Major Organization Festivals. Outside of teaching, John has an active performing schedule as a freelance trumpet player. He has performed with the Glens Falls Symphony Orchestra, Schenectady-Saratoga Symphony Orchestra, Capital Region Wind Ensemble, and Albany Pro Musica, among other local professional ensembles. In 2016, he was a semifinalist in the Graduate Solo Division of the National Trumpet Competition.

SCUBA VBS

**JULY 8TH-12TH
8:30AM-11:30AM**



DIVE DEEP INTO AN AMAZING UNDERSEA ADVENTURE TO EXPERIENCE THE EVER-FLOWING, NEVER-ENDING LOVE OF GOD. AT SCUBA VBS, KIDS WILL BE IMMERSSED IN THE WORD AND DISCOVER WHAT LIVING WATER IS REALLY ALL ABOUT!

[HTTPS://VBSPRO.EVENTS/P/EVENTS/CHRISTCHURCHBSPA](https://vbspro.events/p/events/christchurchbspa)

**CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
15 WEST HIGH STREET
BALLSTON SPA**



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!

St. Francis Mission Soup Kitchen (or “Loaves and Fishes”) is an emergency feeding program with 501c3 status operating every Saturday out of St. Francis Mission on Clinton Avenue in Albany. As a Christian ministry, we endeavor to live out Christ’s love for the poor. Three parts of the Baptismal Covenant guide the work we as a feeding ministry try to do: with God’s help we seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbor as ourselves; we strive for justice and peace, and respect the dignity of every human being; and by doing these, we hope that by example we “proclaim the Good News of God in Christ.” We served 14,451 meals in 2023. To assist financially or to volunteer, please contact: loavesandfishesalbany@gmail.com

Foundations of Benedictine Spirituality: **Upcoming Retreats** for New and Returning Retreatants:

Tuesday - Thursday, September 10 - 12, 2024

or

Friday - Sunday, September 13 - 15, 2024

Some 1500 years ago, amid political, eco-nomic, cultural, moral, and social collapse, in a world in dread of war, famine, and plague, Benedict of Nursia crafted a way for Christians to grow in personal holiness and wholeness, and to live in thriving, healthy communities.

His orderly rhythm of prayer, work, study, service, hospitality, and relationships has enabled countless monks and laypeople alike to live a harmonious, balanced life in deeper union with God. Those who follow this path of Christian tradition experience growth in peace, joy, and strength, both as individuals and in families, churches, and communities. Benedictine spirituality strongly influenced the Book of Common Prayer and the spiritual life of the Anglican tradition that continues in the Episcopal Church.

Confusion, worry, and darkness are all around us still. If you yearn for more of the quiet depths of God’s love below the anxious, stormy waves of life, join us. In an environment of refreshment, rest, prayer, quiet, and fellowship, you will learn and develop values, principles, and practices that you can build into your life right now, so that you can begin and continue to enjoy a deeper walk with God.

This retreat will feature the teaching of Bishop Michael Smith and Pat Stone of the Diocese of Dallas. The retreat will take place in the beautiful Barry House Library. Please call the diocesan office for further information: 1.518.692.3350.



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

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