

Bethesda Episcopal Church

The Sunday after the Ascension

1 June 2025

8.00 Holy Communion

*At the 8am service, the order of service is printed on the laminated card.
The Reading, Gospel, and Prayers of the People can be found below.*

10.00 Sung Eucharist

Organ

Prelude on 'Bunessan'

George McPhee (b. 1937)

The Entrance Hymn #214

From the Hymnal 1982

The Opening Acclamation

The people standing, the Celebrant says

Celebrant
People

Alleluia. Christ is risen.
The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

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
People***

The Lord be with you.
And with thy spirit.

Let us pray. O Almighty God, whose blessed Son our Savior Jesus Christ ascended far above all heavens that he might fill all things: Mercifully give us faith to perceive that, according to his promise, he abides with his Church on earth, even unto the end of the ages; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

All sit.

The Reading

Revelation 22:12-14,16-17,20-21

A reading from the Revelation of St John the Divine.

At the end of the visions I, John, heard these words: "See, I am coming soon; my reward is with me, to repay according to everyone's work. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end." Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they will have the right to the tree of life and may enter the city by the gates. "It is I, Jesus, who sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star."

The Spirit and the bride say, "Come." And let everyone who hears say, "Come." And let everyone who is thirsty come. Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift. The one who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Amen.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

All stand.

The Gradual Hymn #478

From the Hymnal 1982

Remain standing.

The Holy Gospel

Luke 24:44-53

*Celebrant
People*

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

Jesus said to his disciples, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you-- that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to thee, O Christ.

The Sermon

Deacon Helene Patterson

All stand.

The Nicene Creed *Said by all*

**I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
and of all things visible and invisible;
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of his Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God;
begotten, not made;
being of one substance with the Father;
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation
came down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary,
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered and was buried:
and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,
and ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of the Father;
and he shall come again, with glory,
to judge both the quick and the dead;
whose kingdom shall have no end.
And I believe in the Holy Ghost, The Lord, and Giver of Life,
who proceedeth from the Father and the Son;
who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified;
who spake by the Prophets.
And I believe one holy Catholic and Apostolic Church;
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins;
and I look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

All kneel.

The Prayers of The People

In our prayers for the Anglican Communion, we remember the Church of the Province of Burundi; in the Albany Diocese, we pray for Jeremiah, our bishop, and the ministry of Loaves and Fishes Soup Kitchen, Arbor Hill.

Let us join our prayers with those of our Savior Jesus Christ, seeking the Father's blessing, and the gifts of the Spirit, saying, *Lord, graciously hear us.*

Jesus Christ, our great high priest, living for ever to intercede for us, pray for the Church, your broken body in the world. Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Jesus Christ, king of righteousness, enthroned at the right hand of your majesty on high, pray for this troubled world, and make it subject to your just and gentle rule. Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Jesus Christ, Son of Man, drawing humanity into the life of God, pray for your brothers and sisters in any need, distress or sorrow, especially Richard, Marcia, Lew and Fred. Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Jesus Christ, pioneer of our salvation, bringing us to glory through your death and resurrection, surround with your saints and angels those who have died trusting your promises. We pray at this time for the repose of the soul of Christophe Clement. Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Jesus Christ, Lord over all things, ascended far above the heavens and filling the universe, pray for us who bear witness to your glory and power. Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Celebrant: O Lord Jesu Christ, who prayed for thy disciples that they might be one, even as thou art one with the Father: draw us to thyself, that in common love and obedience to thee we may be united to one another, in the fellowship of the one Spirit, that the world may believe that thou art Lord, to the glory of God the Father. **Amen.**

The Confession and Absolution

Celebrant Let us humbly confess our sins to Almighty God.

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against thee
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved thee with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in thy will,
and walk in thy ways,
to the glory of thy Name. Amen.**

The Celebrant says the Absolution.

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 Peace, you may greet those around you in the name of the Lord.

The Peace

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

Hymn at the Offertory #494

From the Hymnal 1982

Remain standing.

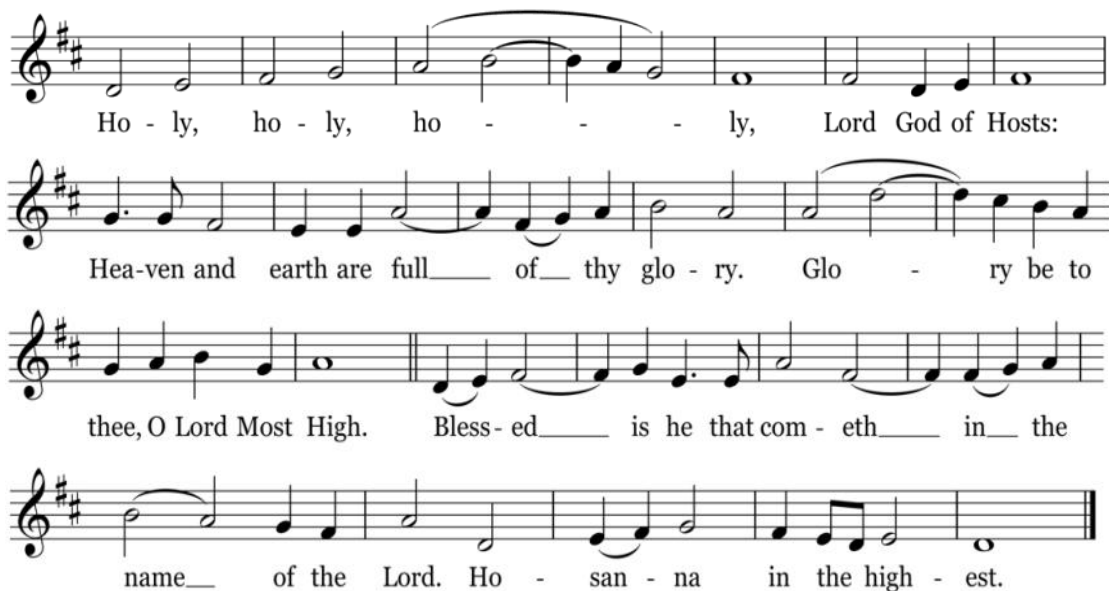
The Eucharistic Prayer

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. Through thy dearly beloved Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who after his glorious resurrection manifestly appeared to his disciples; and in their sight ascended into heaven, to prepare a place for us; that where he is, there we might also be, and reign with him in glory. 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.**

The Lord's Prayer

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 Agnus Dei

Healey Willan (1880-1968)



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 high altar.

At Communion

Organ Elegy from *A Downland Suite*

John Ireland (1876-1962)

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 God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

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

The Closing Hymn #483

From the Hymnal 1982

Organ Pièce pour Grand Orgue

Joseph Jongen (1873-1953)

Today at Bethesda

Welcome to Bethesda Church! Thank you for worshipping with us this morning. If you are interested in joining the parish, complete the form on page 12 and place it on the collection plate.

Thank you to Helene Patterson for preaching this morning and to those reading and leading prayers: at 8am Lynne Priestley; and at 10am Colette and Sara Manny.

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.

Please join us for a cookies and lemonade after the 10am service. Thank you to Jay and Kathy Higle for providing today's refreshments. If you are able to host one week, please sign up using the sheet in the Narthex.

Thank you to all of the volunteers who have been working around the church, painting the columns, repairing the exterior doors, mowing the lawn and cleaning in the basement. **June Special Monthly Envelope** Our appeal in **June** supports the work of Habitat for Humanity. Habitat for Humanity is a non-profit organization that helps people build, repair and improve homes and neighborhoods, particularly in urban areas, by working with communities to address their housing needs. It also works closely with local agencies to respond quickly to communities affected by natural disasters.

Parish Office is now closed for the summer. Phone messages and emails will be checked regularly. Thank you to Sara, Christine and Diane, our office volunteers, for the many hours of hard work and care in preparing bulletins, responding to messages, and maintaining social media pages and the church website. We are very grateful to you!

Parking The lot adjacent to the church, which is accessible via Congress Street, offers free parking for the first two hours.



Sunday after the Ascension

In many depictions of the Lord's Ascension in medieval Western art, a little pair of feet can be seen dangling from a cloud! For an example, see the print on p.11. Such images are not without their charm, or, indeed, ability to articulate spiritual truths. But it must be said, the Byzantine Church has always had the edge when it comes to distilling doctrine into a picture.

In icons of the Ascension from the Eastern Christian world, Christ is shown, not disappearing out of the scene, but enthroned above it, with arms outstretched, so that all of Creation falls within his embrace. He sits on the throne of heaven (represented by a rainbow) in the redeemed humanity of his risen body: in him, our fallen, human nature, is healed, transfigured, and taken into the very heart of God.

But the risen, ascended Lord not only reigns over all things, he intercedes for us as well, and sends the Holy Spirit to fill his Church with his abundant life. And in these days before Pentecost, we, like the disciples, are also waiting until we have been 'clothed with power from on high'. So this week, let us pray, 'Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful people, and kindle in us the fire of your love!'



'The Ascension' by Albrecht Dürer (German, Nuremberg 1471–1528)



Please place this form in the collection plate if you would like us to get in touch with you:

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email address: _____

Home address: _____

Preferred contact method: _____

Contact Reasons:

- ☐ 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, Rector

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

Website: bethesdachurch.org
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/bethesdaepiscopalchurch>

Bethesda Episcopal Church Office
178 Elm Street, Suite 5
Saratoga Springs NY 12866