

# ***Bethesda Episcopal Church***

**The Feast of Pentecost**

**8 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** Meditation on 'Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether' Gerre Hancock (1934-2012)

*All stand as the Ministers enter.*

## ***The Opening Hymn #516***

*From the Hymnal 1982*

*At the step, the Celebrant says,*

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***      The Lord be with you.  
***People***        **And with thy spirit.**

Let us pray. O God, who on this day didst teach the hearts of thy faithful people by sending to them the light of thy Holy Spirit: Grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgment in all things, and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort; through the merits of Christ Jesus our Savior, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the same Spirit, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

*All sit.*

***The First Reading***

*Genesis 11:1-9*

A reading from Genesis.

Now the whole earth had one language and the same words. And as they migrated from the east, they came upon a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. And they said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks, and burn them thoroughly." And they had brick for stone, and bitumen for mortar. Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves; otherwise we shall be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth." The LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which mortals had built. And the LORD said, "Look, they are one people, and they have all one language; and this is only the beginning of what they will do; nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them. Come, let us go down, and confuse their language there, so that they will not understand one another's speech." So the LORD scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city. Therefore it was called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of all the earth; and from there the LORD scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth.

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

*Remain seated.*

***The Gradual*** O Lord, Give Thy Holy Spirit

*Thomas Tallis (1505-1585)*

O Lord, give thy Holy Spirit into our hearts, and lighten our understanding, that we may dwell in the fear of thy name all the days of our life; that we may know thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent.

*Text: Lidley's Prayers (1566)*

*Remain seated.*

## ***The Second Reading***

*Acts 2:1-21*

*Evangeline McVicker (in Filipino) & Elvin Gonzalez (in Spanish)*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

When the day of Pentecost had come, the disciples were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs-- in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: 'In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.' "

**The Word of the Lord.**

**Thanks be to God.**

*All stand.*

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CAPETOWN

FRIEDRICH FILITZ, 1847

*In moderate time*

1 Gra-cious Spi - rit, Ho - ly Ghost, Taught by thee we cov - et most,  
 2 Love is kind, and suf - fers long, Love is meek, and thinks no wrong,  
 3 Pro - phe - cy will fade a - way, Melt - ing in the light of day;

Of thy gifts at Pen - te - cost, Ho - ly, heav'n-ly love.  
 Love than death it - self more strong; There-fore, give us love.  
 Love will ev - er with us stay; There-fore, give us love. A-men.

4 Faith and hope and love we see,  
 Joining hand in hand, agree,  
 But the greatest of the three,  
 And the best, is love. Amen.

CHRISTOPHER WORDSWORTH, 1862, *alt.*

**The Holy Gospel**

John 14:8-17 (25-27)

*Celebrant  
 People*

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

Philip said to Jesus, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you."

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 remember the Church in Canada; in the Albany Diocese, we pray for Jeremiah, our bishop, and for the staff of Beaver Cross Camp.

We give thanks for the life of Lewis Bruce and commend his soul to God's gracious keeping. May he rest in peace and be raised in glory.

Let us pray to God the Holy Spirit, saying, "*Come, Holy Spirit, come.*"

Come, Holy Spirit, creator, and renew the face of the earth. **Come, Holy Spirit, come.**

Come, Holy Spirit, counsellor, and touch our lips that we may proclaim your word. **Come, Holy Spirit, come.**

Come, Holy Spirit, power from on high: make us agents of peace, and ministers of wholeness. **Come, Holy Spirit, come.**

Come, Holy Spirit, comforter, give to all who are sick, or in special need, your strength and guidance, remembering at this time: Richard, Marcia, John and Fred. **Come, Holy Spirit, come.**

Come, Holy Spirit, breath of God, give life to the dry bones of this exiled age, and make us a living people, holy and free. **Come, Holy Spirit, come.**

Come, Holy Spirit, wisdom and truth: strengthen us in the risk of faith. **Come, Holy Spirit, come.**

*Celebrant:* Come, Holy Spirit, come! Come as the Fire and burn. Come as the Light and shine. Come as the Wind and cleanse. Convict us, convert us, and consecrate us, until we are wholly thine. **Amen.**

### ***The Confession and Absolution***

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.*

## ***The Peace***

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

*You are invited to greet those around you in the name of the Lord.*

## ***Hymn at The Offertory #228***

*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 Jesus Christ our Lord; according to whose true promise the Holy Ghost came down on this day from heaven, lighting upon the disciples, to teach them and to lead them into all truth; uniting peoples of many tongues in the confession of one faith, and giving to thy Church the power to serve thee as a royal priesthood, and to preach the gospel to all nations. 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*** from the Service in E minor

*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 high altar. Please move at the direction of the usher.*

## **Communion Motet**

Niccolo Antonio Zingarelli (1752-1837)

*Go not far from me, O God; cast me not away in the time of age. Forsake me not when my strength faileth me. O let my mouth be filled with thy praise: that I may sing thy glory and honor all the day long. (from Ps. 71)*

*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.**

Alleluia. Go into the world rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia.**

## **The Closing Hymn #500**

*From the Hymnal 1982*

**Organ**

Voluntary in D Minor (Andante, Allegro)

*William Boyce (1710-1779)*

## **Notices**

**Welcome!** Thank you for worshipping with us this morning. If you are interested in joining the parish, you may place a completed form on page 12 on the collection plate.

**Thank you** to members of the “Bethesda Quartet” for singing at the 10am service today: Elizabeth Sterling, soprano; Karen Becker, alto; Alec Noll, tenor; John Ryan, bass; and to those reading and leading prayers: at 8am Bob Bullock; and at 10am Rick Wissler, Evangeline McVicker, Elvin Gonzalez and Daniel Beach.

**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.

**All things come of Thee, O Lord!** Thanks to Laurie Brenenstuhl and Caroline for providing refreshments after the 10am service; and to Deb LaCombe and Gerry Garrelts for offering the altar flowers from their garden.

**Vestry Meeting** Parishioners are invited to attend the Vestry meeting following the 10am service on Sunday, 22 June. The meeting will include an update on the old Rectory project and parish finances.

**Christ the King Center** will host a retreat for people in recovery based upon the 12-Step recovery programs. All are welcome regardless of faith tradition: AA, Alanon, NA, Naranon, OA, *etc.* or those wishing to learn more about 12-step recovery. The retreat will be led by Brian Nordwick. Date: 20 –22 June. For information, go to [www.ctkcenter.org](http://www.ctkcenter.org)

Members of the **Orchestra of the NYC Ballet** will perform a recital at Bethesda on Thursday 10 July at 4pm. All welcome.

**Excelsior Vocal Ensemble** will present a summer concert at Bethesda on the evening of Saturday, 19 July. Details to follow.

**Parking** The lot adjacent to the church offers free parking for the first two hours. You will require a credit card to enter and exit the lot which is accessible via Congress Street.



### **Celebrating Pentecost**

The Day of Pentecost is one of the highest feast days in the liturgical year. It is the day that we remember and celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Church. This pivotal moment in Christian history is the fulfillment of Christ's promise to send a helper – a *comforter* - who would empower and guide his followers after his Ascension into heaven. The descent of the Holy Spirit transformed the lives of the disciples, emboldened them to preach the Gospel, and marked the beginning of the Christian mission in the world.

The term Pentecost comes from Greek and means “fiftieth” since it fell fifty days after Passover. Although the Christian Pentecost no longer aligns with the Jewish festival, we still call it Pentecost in commemoration of the event and because we celebrate it on the fiftieth day of Easter. Long a favorite day for baptisms, it is common for those who receive baptism on Pentecost to wear white baptismal robes, symbolizing the washing away of sins and their new life in Christ. Pentecost not only concludes the Easter season but also marks the beginning of the season after Pentecost, or Ordinary Time.

The Church sees Pentecost as the birth of the Church. Before this event, the followers of Jesus were a disparate group of disciples. The coming of the Holy Spirit empowered them, uniting them into a single body with a shared mission, marking the beginning of the Church as a distinct entity committed to following the Lord. The Holy Spirit united the followers of Jesus and called them to fulfill his Great Commission - to spread the Gospel through all the earth. For individuals, the Holy Spirit's arrival at Pentecost also leads to spiritual transformation, renewing hearts and minds to reflect Christ more closely.



***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*

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