

# ***Bethesda Episcopal Church***

**The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost**

**10 August 2025**

## **8.00 Holy Communion**

*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**

*Music before the liturgy:*

First Movement, La Majesté from *Marches Héroïques*

Georg Philipp Telemann (1681-1767)

John Fatuzzo, trumpet

*All stand as the minsters enter.*

*Celebrant:* Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
*All:* **And blessed be his kingdom now and forever. Amen.**

Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy, welcoming sinners and inviting them to his table. Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, firmly resolved to keep God's commandments, and to live in love and peace with all.

*All kneel. After a period of silence, the Celebrant begins the Confession, saying*

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.*

**Hymn #48**

*From the Hymnal 1982*

*Remain standing.*

## ***The Collect of the Day***

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

Let us pray. Grant to us, Lord, we beseech thee, the spirit to think and do always such things as are right, that we, who cannot exist without thee, may by thee be enabled to live according to thy will; 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***

*Genesis 15:1-6*

The word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." But the word of the Lord came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

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

*All stand.*

## ***The Alleluia***



*The cantor sings the appointed verse.*

*All repeat:* **Alleluia.**

*Remain standing.*

## ***The Holy Gospel***

*Luke 12:22-40*

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

Jesus said to his disciples, "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food and the body more than clothing. Consider the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! And which of you by worrying can add a single hour to your span of life? If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest? Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive

today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, you of little faith! And do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. For it is the nations of the world that seek all these things, and your Father knows that you need them. Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.

"Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near, and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

"Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves. But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

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

### ***The Sermon***

*All stand.*

### ***The Nicene Creed***

**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 in Rwanda; and in the Albany Diocese, all Beaver Cross campers and staff. We ask God's blessing on those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this week; and those whose year's mind falls at this time. Let us pray together as a family of faith from every time and place, saying, Lord in your mercy, *hear our prayer*.

Let us pray for the church; for the unity of the body of Christ, that needless division might cease; for Sean our Presiding Bishop, and Jeremiah our Diocesan Bishop, and for all who nurture our life together, that the Church may be strengthened and our common life enriched: Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

Let us pray for our parish; for our presence in this community, that all may find here the forgiveness of God and acceptance of each other: Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

Let us pray for the world; for the leaders of nations, that wisdom and integrity might prevail; for regions torn by conflict; that peace and harmony might be restored: Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

Let us pray for those in need; for the hungry and homeless; for the oppressed and downtrodden; and for the sick and the suffering, remembering by name, Bethany, Ryan, Jack and Fred. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

By your power, Lord God, you raised Christ Jesus, and in him we too will be raised. Let us pray for those who have died, that they may continue in your love. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

*Celebrant:* Into your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves this day. Let your presence be with us to its close. Strengthen us to remember that in whatsoever good work we do, we are serving you. Give us a diligent and watchful spirit, that we may seek in all things to know your will, and knowing it, may gladly perform the same; to your honour and glory. **Amen.**

*All stand. At the exchange of the Peace, you may greet those around you in the name of the Lord.*

### ***The Peace***

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

### ***Hymn at the Offertory #637***

*From the Hymnal 1982*

*Remain standing.*

## *The Eucharistic Prayer*

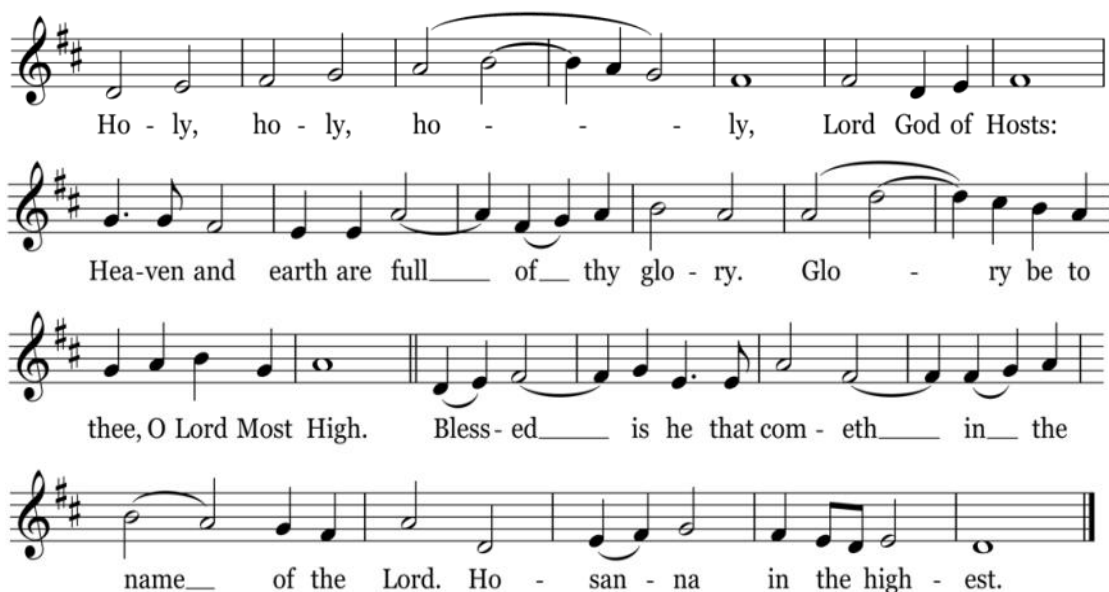
*Celebrant*  
*People*  
*Celebrant*  
*People*  
*Celebrant*  
*People*

The Lord be with you.  
**And with thy spirit.**  
Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them up unto the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.  
**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,

## *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. The Celebrant says the Eucharistic Prayer (p. 341 of the BCP), which concludes,*

... 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 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*** *The text and music can be found on page S-158 of the Hymnal.*

*Communion is distributed at the altar rail. Please come forward at the direction of the ushers.*

## ***During Communion***

***Music:*** "Non lo diro col labbro" from *Tolomeo* *G.F. Handel (1685-1759)*

*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 passes 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 Spirit, be amongst you and remain with you always. Amen.**

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

## ***The Closing Hymn #535***

*From the Hymnal 1982*

***Music*** Allegro ma non troppo, from Sonata No. 1 in D

*Henry Purcell (1659-1695)*

## **Parish Notices**

**Welcome to Bethesda Church!** Thank you for worshipping with us this morning. If you are interested in becoming a member of the parish, introduce yourself to Fr Wallace or complete the form on the back page.

**Thank you** to those reading and leading prayers: at 8am Sonia Arcelay; and at 10am Judy Aronstamm and Tom Remington.

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 cookies and lemonade** after the 10am service. Thank you to Judi and Michael Thomas for providing today's refreshments. Help!! We are still looking for someone to host refreshments next Sunday.

**Confirmation and Reception** For more information about being confirmed or received into the Anglican Communion when the bishop visits Bethesda in October, speak to the Rector: [office@bethesdachurch.org](mailto:office@bethesdachurch.org)

**Bethesda Book Club** meets on Thursday 16 October at 5.30pm to discuss *The Testament of Mary* by Irish author, Colm Tóibín. For further information, or to register (if you have not already done so) please contact [office@bethesdachurch.org](mailto:office@bethesdachurch.org)

**Special Monthly Envelope Donations** in August are in support of *Wellspring*. Founded over 40 years ago, *Wellspring* has grown to become a vital resource for survivors of domestic abuse and sexual assault in Saratoga and Washington counties, operating an emergency shelter, a 24-hour hotline & live-chat, counselling, housing assistance, case management, and a number of educational and prevention programs. Services are free, non-judgmental, and confidential. Thank you for your generosity.

**Life Transitions Presentation** Saratoga Presbyterian—United Church of Christ is hosting a presentation on the Saratoga Senior Center's Life Transitions Program on Thursday, September 25, 2025, at 1:30 p.m. The purpose of the program is to give an updated overview of the volunteer opportunities available at the Saratoga Senior Center. This includes volunteering at the new facility on West Avenue, being matched with seniors who need rides or other services, and the new Senior Life Transitions Program that supports seriously ill seniors in home settings. Presenters will be Lois Celeste (Executive Director), Donna Alese-Cooke (Volunteer Coordinator), and Phil Di Sorbo (Director of the Senior Life Transitions Program). They will explain how faith communities can assist their congregants who are facing serious illness, as well as help serve senior adults in the larger community as part of a supportive care team. The program will take place at the Presbyterian United Church of Christ at 24 Circular Street in Saratoga Springs. No advanced registration is required. Be advised that parking spaces are limited. For more information, contact 518-584-6091.

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

### **Today's Guest Musician: John Fatuzzo**

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.



***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 Reason:***

- ☐ 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 \_\_\_\_\_

*The Reverend Charles Wallace, Rector*

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