

# Bethesda Episcopal Church

**The Baptism of the Lord**

**11 January 2026**

## 8.00 Holy Communion

*The order of service is printed on the laminated card.*

*The Reading (Isaiah), Gospel, and Prayers of the People can be found below.*

## 10.00 Sung Eucharist

**Organ** Prelude on 'Buinessan'

*George McPhee (b. 1937)*

*All stand as the choir and ministers enter.*

### **The Entrance Hymn #616**

*From the Hymnal 1982*

*The Celebrant says*

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***

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

Let us pray. Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan didst proclaim him thy beloved Son and anoint him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with thee and the same Spirit liveth and reigneth, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

*All sit.*

### **The First Reading**

*Isaiah 42:1-9*

A reading from the Book of the Prophet, Isaiah.

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. I am the LORD, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

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

*Remain seated. The congregation may sing the verses in bold print.*

### **The Gradual** Psalm 29.1-4. 10-11

*Tone VIII.1*



1 Ascribe to the Lord, you gods. \* ascribe to the Lord glo-ry and strength.

2 **Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his Name; \***  
**worship the Lord in the beau-ty of ho-liness.**

3 The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thun-ders; \*  
the Lord is upon the might-y wa-ters.

4 **The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice; \***  
**the voice of the Lord is a voice of splen-dor.**

10 The Lord sits enthroned above the flood; \*  
the Lord sits enthroned as King for ev-ermore.

<sup>11</sup> **The Lord shall give strength to his peo-ple; \*  
the Lord shall give his people the bless-ing of peace.**

*Remain seated.*

### ***The Second Reading***

*Acts 10:34-43*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ--he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

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

*All stand.*

### ***The Alleluia***



*Verse:* Blessed be he that cometh in the name of the Lord: God is the Lord who hath showed us the light. **Alleluia.**

*Remain standing.*

### ***The Holy Gospel***

*Matthew 3:13-17*

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

Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water,

suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

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

### ***The Sermon***

*Jonathan Kimmel*

*After 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 today, we remember the Church in the Region of Central America, and in our diocese, Bishop Williamson and the people of St Andrew's, Albany. We ask God's blessing

on those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this week; and those whose year's mind falls at this time.

Lord God, you sent your Son to bring good news to the poor, sight to the blind, freedom to the captives and salvation to your people: anoint us with your Spirit; and rouse us to work in his name. Father, by your Spirit: **bring in your kingdom.**

Give comfort to the poor and freedom to the oppressed.  
Father, by your Spirit: **bring in your kingdom.**

Send us to tell the world the good news of your healing love. Father, by your Spirit: **bring in your kingdom.**

Help us to bring in your kingdom of mercy, justice, love and peace.  
Father, by your Spirit: **bring in your kingdom.**

Give to all the departed, the riches of eternal life.  
Father, by your Spirit: **bring in your kingdom.**

Let us commend ourselves and all for whom we pray to the mercy and protection of God, remembering at this time Julie and Eric.  
Father, by your Spirit: **bring in your kingdom.**

*Celebrant:* Almighty God, giver of strength and joy: change, we beseech thee, our bondage into liberty, and the poverty of our nature into the riches of thy grace; that, by the transformation of our lives, thy glory may be revealed; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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. During 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 #497**

*From the Hymnal 1982*

*Remain standing.*

### **The Eucharistic Prayer**

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. 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***

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.**

*Communion is administered at the altar rail. Please move at the direction of the ushers.*

***Agnus Dei*** Missa Brevis No. 4 (Corde Natus ex Parentis) *Healey Willan (1880-1968)*

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.

***Motet*** *William Byrd (1543-1623)*

Surge illuminare Jerusalem quia venit lumen tuum et gloria Domini super te orta est. Alleluia.

*Arise, shine Jerusalem for your light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon you.*  
*Alleluia. (Text: Isaiah 60.1)*

***Hymn #116*** *(Remain seated or kneeling)* *From the Hymnal 1982*

*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 #127*** *From the Hymnal 1982*

***Organ*** ‘Rigaudon’ *André Campra (1660-1744)*

## ***Notices***

**Welcome to Bethesda Church.** Thank you for joining us this morning. If you are interested in becoming a member of the parish, please introduce yourself to an usher, or complete the form on the back page.

**Thank you** to Fr Kriss, our celebrant, Jonathan Kimmel, our preacher this morning; and to those reading and leading prayers: Sonia Arcelay (8am); and Genna Henderson and Mark Claverie (10am).

Join us for **coffee and fellowship** following the 10am service. If you are able to provide refreshments in January and/or February 2026, add your name to the sheet in the narthex.

**Special Monthly Envelope for January.** The special monthly envelope for the month of January assists the church with the cost of fuel during the winter months. We are grateful for your assistance and generosity.

***Forward Day by Day*** The latest edition of *Forward Day by Day* is available on the back table. Copies are \$2 each.

**Parish Office** The office is open this week: Tuesday and Wednesday 10am -12.30pm; and Thursday 1pm – 3.30pm.

**Our Annual Parish Meeting** will take place following the 10am Sung Eucharist on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February.

**Holy Communion on Thursdays** will resume on 5 February.

**Cathedral in Bloom** from 16-18 January is the area's premier flower show. Enjoy the glory of the architecture of The Cathedral of All Saints in Albany combined with the talents of the some of the Capital Region's and northeast's artists with dozens of displays, workshops and presentations will be offered by floral professionals. Guided and self-guided tours, a café, and a flower market will welcome you, along with organ recitals with music inspired by flowers. To purchase tickets online go to [www.cathedralofallsaints.org/cathedral-in-bloom](http://www.cathedralofallsaints.org/cathedral-in-bloom)

**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 canned foods (including those low in salt, fat & sugar and gluten free) and personal hygiene products (soap, toothpaste/brushes, shampoo, razors, shaving cream, deodorant). Donations may be left in the box by the side door entrance.

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

## **When is Christmas over...?**

It depends on whom you ask. In secular culture, the holiday season' begins around Hallowe'en and runs until 26<sup>th</sup> December when Christmas trees are cast to the curb!

Liturgically, the Church has traditionally observed **twelve days** of Christmas, or alternatively, an 'octave of Christmas' running until New Year's Day, which is the feast of the Holy Name of Jesus.

A more modern understanding of the calendar (since the Roman Catholic reforms of Vatican II) has the Christmas cycle ending with the feast of the Baptism of Christ, always kept on the Sunday after the Epiphany.

A much older tradition, which is still the norm in many European countries - and was the norm in England until the nineteenth century, has Christmas running for 40 days, until the Presentation of Christ in the Temple (**Candlemas**) on 2<sup>nd</sup> February. In many places, including the Vatican and many cathedrals, Christmas decorations, or at least the Nativity crib, are still displayed until the Presentation.

There is a colonial era poem from Williamsburg which reads –

***When New Year's Day is past and gone;  
Christmas is, with some people, done;  
But further some will it extend,  
And at Twelfth Day their Christmas end.  
Some people stretch it further yet,  
At Candlemas they finish it.  
The gentry carry it further still  
And finish it just when they will;  
They drink good wine and eat good cheer  
And keep their Christmas all the year!***

*–The Virginia Almanack for the Year, 1765*





***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 \_\_\_\_\_

*The Reverend Charles Wallace, Rector*

Office Email: [office@bethesdachurch.org](mailto:office@bethesdachurch.org)

Office Telephone: (518) 584-5980

Website: [bethesdachurch.org](http://bethesdachurch.org)

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

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