

Bethesda Episcopal Church

The Feast of Pentecost: Whitsunday

24 May 2026

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

Organ *Andante con moto*

C.V Stanford (1852-1924)

All stand when the sacristy bell rings.

The Entrance Hymn #516

From the Hymnal 1982

The Opening Acclamation

Remain standing.

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

The Lord be with you. **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

Acts 2.1-21

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.

Remain seated.

The Gradual

Richard Shephard (1941-2021)

God's love has been shed abroad in our hearts through the Holy Spirit
he has given us. (Rom 5: 5)

The Second Reading

1 Corinthians 12.3b-13

A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

No one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit. Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses. For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body-- Jews or Greeks, slaves or free-- and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

All stand.

The Alleluia



Verse: O send forth thy Spirit and they shall be made; and thou shalt renew the face of the earth. **Alleluia.**

Remain standing.

The Holy Gospel

John 20.19-23

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

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side.

Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

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 this week, we remember the Church in the Philippines; and in the Albany diocese, Jeremiah, our bishop, and the Church of the Holy Spirit, Schenevus. 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 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 Gerry and Joe. **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. At 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 #228

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. 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



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

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Remain kneeling.

Agnus Dei from Missa Simplex

Rihard Dubra (b. 1964)

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona nobis pacem.

*O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.*

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

Motet Spiritus Domini

Gerald Near (b. 1942)

Alleluia. Spiritus Domini replevit orbem terrarum, alleluia.	
Non vos relinquam orphanos;	Veni Creator Spiritus,
Vado et venio ad vos,	Mentes tuorum visitas;
Et gaudebit cor vestrum,	Imple superna gratia,
Alleluia.	Quae tu creasti pectora. Amen.

<i>Alleluia. The Spirit of the Lord filleth the whole world, alleluia.</i>	
<i>I will not leave you orphaned;</i>	<i>Come Creator Spirit,</i>
<i>I go, and come again to you,</i>	<i>Visit the souls of your devoted;</i>
<i>And your heart shall rejoice.</i>	<i>With your divine grace fill</i>
<i>Alleluia.</i>	<i>The hearts which you have created. Amen.</i>

Communion Hymn #513 (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 God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that 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

Come, Holy Ghost, Our Souls Inspire

David Cherwien (b. 1957)

Music Notes Today's organ music reflects the dual nature of the Holy Spirit as both a gentle breath and a transformative fire. The prelude, C.V. Stanford's Andante con moto, utilizes the lyrical Irish tune "St. Columba" to evoke the "Still Small Voice" and the comforting presence of the Spirit as seen in the quiet "breathing" of life into the early Church. In stark contrast, the postlude by David Cherwien is a virtuosic, "fiery" treatment of the ancient plainsong chant Veni Creator Spiritus. This selection provides a dramatic liturgical bookend, shifting the atmosphere from prayerful invocation to a powerful sonic representation of the "rushing mighty wind" and "tongues of fire" described in the Acts of the Apostles.

Notices

Welcome! If you wish to be added to our parish mailing list, please email the office, or complete the form on the back page.

Please join us for refreshments after today's 10am service. Thank you to the Spring family for hosting.

Thank you to those **reading and leading prayers** at 8am Mary Withington; and at 10am Genna Henderson and Tom Remington.

The Flowers on the Altar today are given in memory of all members of the Armed Forces who died serving our nation. If you would like to **contribute** flowers for the altar or eucharistic elements (bread and wine) in June, July, or August as a memorial, or in thanksgiving for a birthday or anniversary, email: office@bethesdachurch.org

Choral Season Today is the final Sunday our Choir will sing for the spring season. We look forward to welcoming them back in September. We extend our heartfelt thanks to all our musicians for sharing their talents with us, and especially to our Choir Director, Kathleen Slezak, and Organist, Derek Stannard, for their leadership and dedication. If you, or someone you know, are interested in joining Bethesda's Choir for the fall season, now is the perfect time to speak with Kathleen or Derek. You bring the voice — we'll provide the training.

Donations from the Monthly Envelope in **May** 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. Please support this enriching experience for children.

Bethesda hosts a **fundraising concert** by violinist, Luellen Abdoo and pianist, Christopher Oldfather of the New York City Ballet Orchestra on Thursday 4 June at 6.30pm. Music of Mozart, Brahms, Philip Glass. Admission by donation.

Former Presiding Bishop, Michael Curry, will preside at a **Revival Service** at Christ the King Center, Greenwich, on 18 June at 7pm: www.albanyepiscopaldioecese.org/revival

Deo Volente! God willing, the Bishop of Albany, Jeremiah Williamson, will ordain Jonathan Kimmel to the Sacred Order of Deacons at 4pm on Saturday 20 June in the Cathedral of All Saints, Albany. Your prayers and presence are requested.

Parish Office During the summer, please contact us via email or voicemail.

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

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 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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