Bethesda Episcopal Church

The Feast of Dedication **4 October 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 Prelude in G Major *Alexandre Guilmant (1837-1911)*

Remain seated during the Introit, sung by the Choir.

We wait for thy loving kindness, O God, in the midst of thy temple. Alleluia.

Music: William McKie (1901-1984) *Text: Psalm 48:9*

All stand for the hymn.

The Entrance Hymn

Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ the head and cornerstone,
chosen of the Lord, and precious,
binding all the Church in one;
holy Zion's help for ever,
and her confidence alone.

2. All that dedicated city,
dearly loved of God on high,
in exultant jubilation
pours perpetual melody;
God the One in Three adoring
in glad hymns eternally.

3. To this temple, where we call thee,
come, O Lord of Hosts, today;
with thy wonted lovingkindness
hear thy servants as they pray,
and thy fullest benediction
shed within its walls alway.

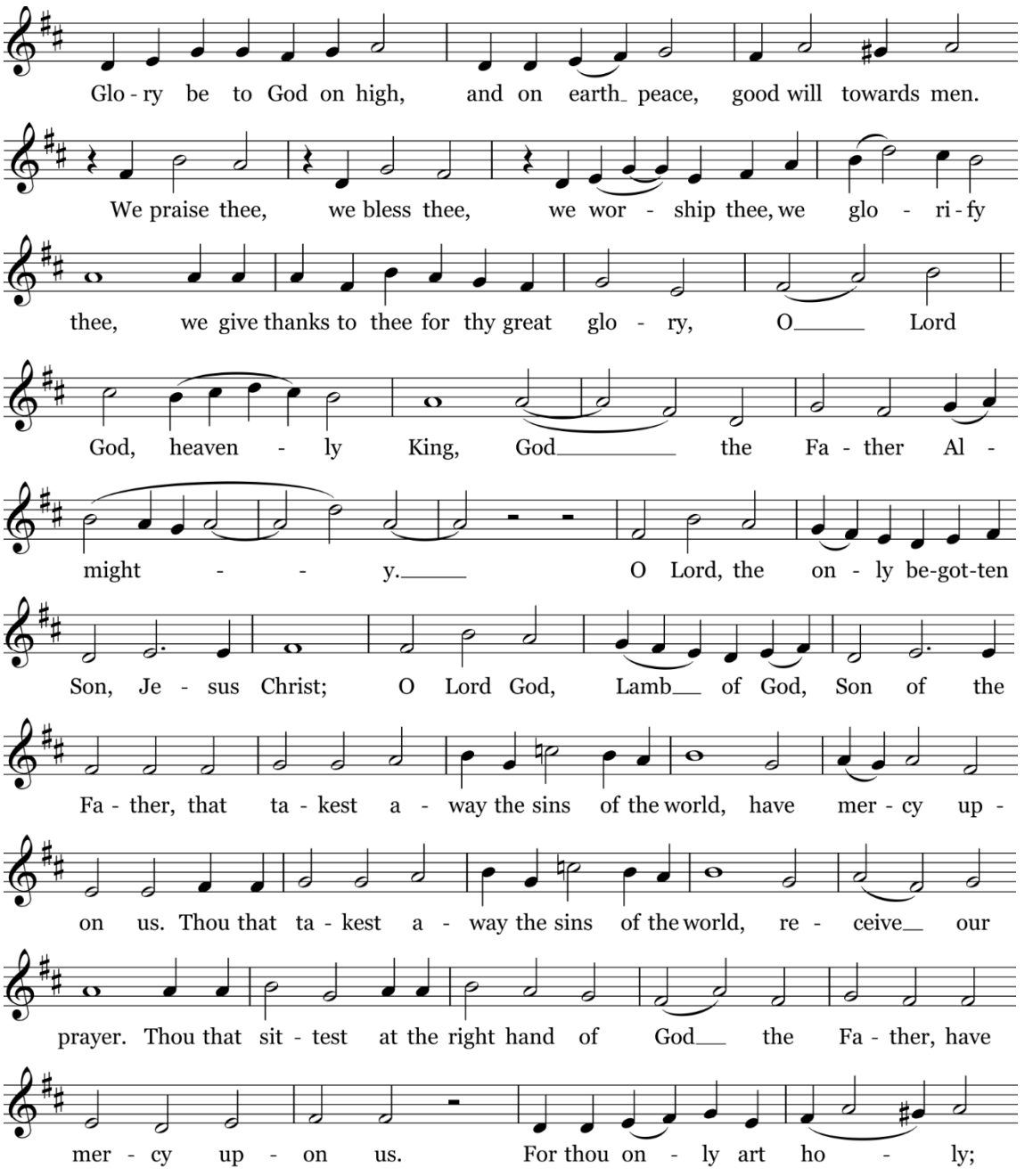
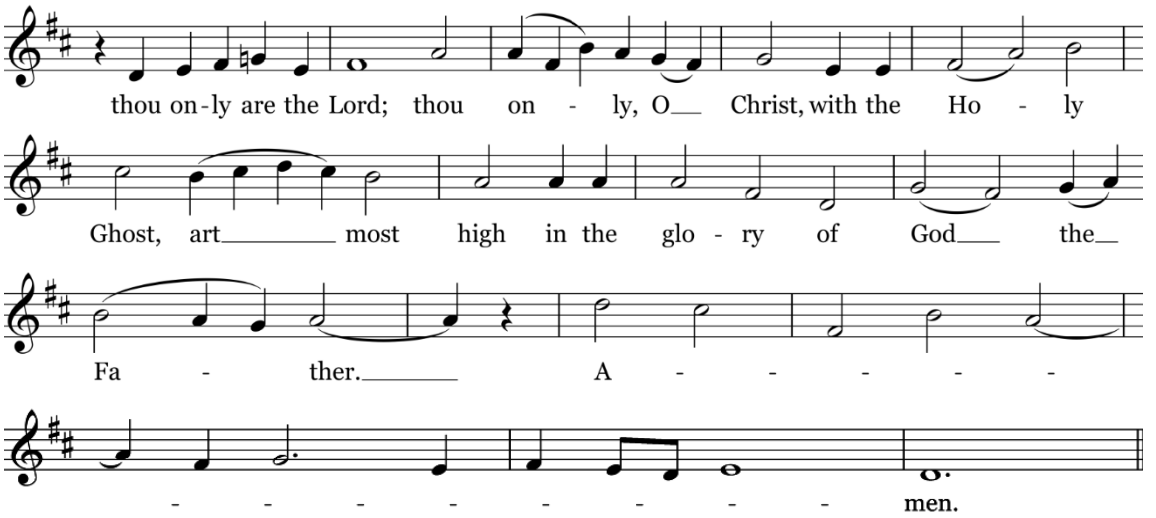
4. Here vouchsafe to all thy servants
what they ask of thee to gain;
what they gain from thee, for ever
with the blessèd to retain,
and hereafter in thy glory
evermore with thee to reign.

5. Laud and honor to the Father,
Laud and honor to the Son,
Laud and honor to the Spirit,
Ever three, and ever One;
One in might, and one in glory,
While unending ages run.

At the altar, 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)*



Remain standing.

The Collect of the Day

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

Let us pray. O Almighty God, to whose glory we celebrate the dedication of this house of prayer: We give thee thanks for the fellowship of those who have worshipped in this place; and we pray that all who seek thee here may find thee, and be filled with thy joy and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

All sit.

The First Reading *1 Kings 8.22-30*

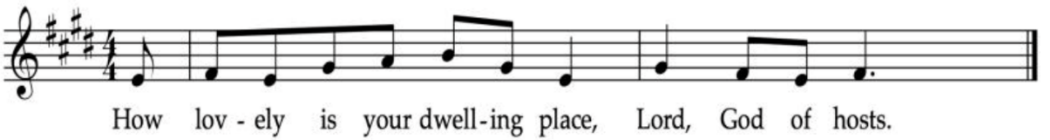
A reading from the First Book of Kings.

Then Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands to heaven. He said, 'O Lord, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and steadfast love for your servants who walk before you with all their heart, the covenant that you kept for your servant my father David as you declared to him; you promised with your mouth and have this day fulfilled with your hand. Therefore, O Lord, God of Israel, keep for your servant my father David that which you promised him, saying, "There shall never fail you a successor before me to sit on the throne of Israel, if only your children look to their way, to walk before me as you have walked before me." Therefore, O God of Israel, let your word be confirmed, which you promised to your servant my father David. 'But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Even heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you, much less this house that I have built! Have regard to your servant's prayer and his plea, O Lord my God, heeding the cry and the prayer that your servant prays to you today; that your eyes may be open night and day

towards this house, the place of which you said, "My name shall be there", that you may heed the prayer that your servant prays towards this place. Hear the plea of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray towards this place; O hear in heaven your dwelling-place; heed and forgive.

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

Remain seated for the Psalm.

Psalm 84 *The congregation sings the Refrain.* *Geoffrey Boulton-Smith*

My soul is longing and yearning for the courts of the Lord. My heart and my soul ring out their joy to God, the living God. **Refrain**

The sparrow herself finds a home and the swallow a nest for her brood; she lays her young by your altars, Lord of hosts, my king and my God. **Refrain**

They are happy, who dwell in your house, for ever singing your praise. They are happy, whose strength is in you, they walk with ever growing strength. **Refrain**

One day within your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. The threshold of the house of God I prefer to the dwellings of the wicked. **Refrain**

The Second Reading *1 Peter 2.1-5, 9-10*

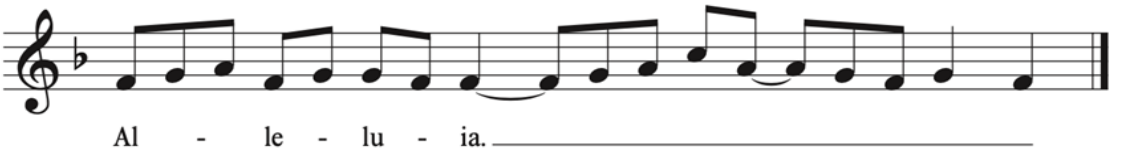
A reading from the First Letter of Peter.

Rid yourselves, therefore, of all malice, and all guile, insincerity, envy, and all slander. Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

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

All stand.

The Alleluia

Cantor: I will worship toward thy holy temple, and give glory to thy name. **Alleluia.**

Remain standing.

The Holy Gospel *John 5.1-18*

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

After this there was a festival of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate there is a pool, called in Hebrew, Bethesda, which has five porticoes. In these lay many invalids—blind, lame, and paralysed. One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time, he said to him, 'Do you want to be made well?' The sick man answered him, 'Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; and while I am making my way, someone else steps down ahead of me.' Jesus said to him, 'Stand up, take your mat and walk.' At once the man was made well, and he took up his mat and began to walk. Now that day was a sabbath. So the Jews said to the man who had been cured, 'It is the sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your mat.' But he answered them, 'The man who made me well said to me, "Take up your mat and walk." ' They asked him, 'Who is the man who said to you, "Take it up and walk"?'

Now the man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had disappeared in the crowd that was there. Later, Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, 'See, you have been made well! Do not sin any more, so that nothing worse happens to you.' The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well. Therefore the Jews started persecuting Jesus, because he was doing such things on the sabbath. But Jesus answered them, 'My Father is still working, and I also am working.' For this reason the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because he was not only breaking the sabbath, but was also calling God his own Father, thereby making himself equal to God.

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

The Sermon *Fr Kriss*

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 Episcopal Church of Brazil. Within our own Diocese, we pray for Jeremiah, our bishop, and for this parish as we celebrate our Dedication Festival today. We also hold in our prayers all those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this week, and we give thanks for yesterday's baptism of Wyatt Cole, praying that God will bless him and keep him.

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying "We thank you, Lord."

For the Church universal, of which this building is a visible symbol, **We thank you, Lord.**

For your presence whenever two or three have gathered in your name, **We thank you, Lord**.

For this place where we may be still and know that you are God, **We thank you, Lord.**

For the fulfilling of our desires and petitions as you see best for us, **We thank you, Lord.**

For our past and a vision of the future that lies ahead, **We thank you, Lord.**

For the gift of the Holy Spirit and new life in baptism, **We thank you, Lord.**

For the pardon of our sins when we have fallen short of your glory, **We thank you, Lord.**

For the holy eucharist in which we have a foretaste of your eternal kingdom, **We thank you, Lord.**

For the blessing of our vows and the crowning of our years with your goodness, **We thank you, Lord.**

For all those who, in years past, have worshipped in this place and now rest in the peace of Christ, **We thank you, Lord.**

Celebrant: Lord, make us instruments of thy peace: where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. O divine Master, grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. **Amen.** *(Prayer of St Francis of Assisi)*

The Confession and Absolution

Let us humbly confess our sins to Almighty God.

Almighty God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
maker of all things, judge of all men:
We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness,
which we from time to time most grievously have committed,
by thought, word, and deed, against thy divine Majesty,
provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us.
We do earnestly repent,
and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings;
the remembrance of them is grievous unto us,
the burden of them is intolerable.
Have mercy upon us,
have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;
for thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake,
forgive us all that is past;
and grant that we may ever hereafter
serve and please thee in newness of life,
to the honor and glory of thy Name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Celebrant pronounces 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 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.**

During the hymn, a collection is taken to support the work and ministry of Bethesda Church.

Hymn at the Offertory #520

From the Hymnal 1982

Remain standing.

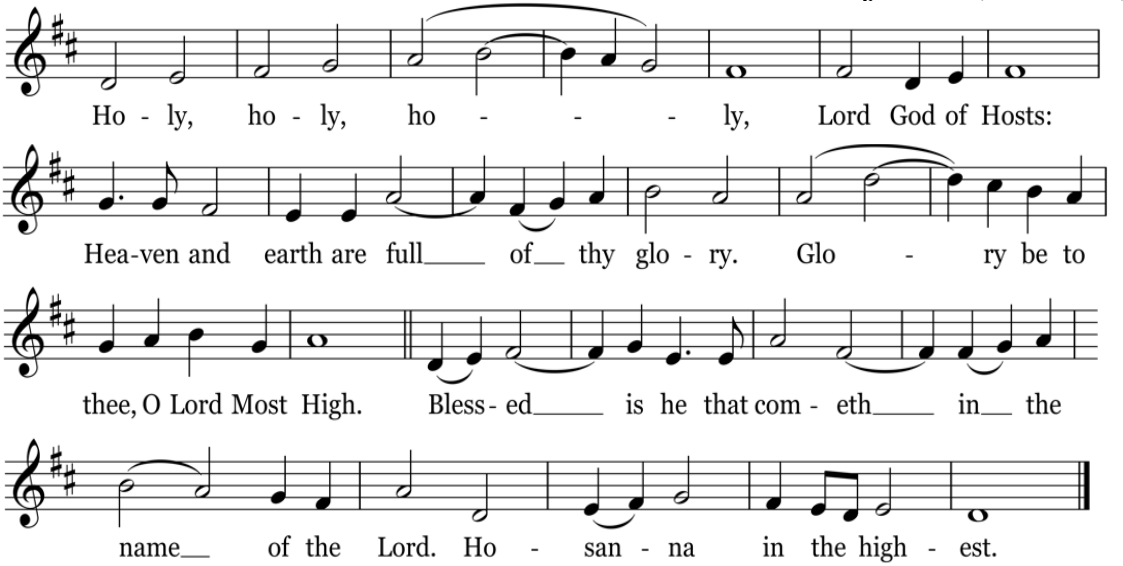
The Eucharistic Prayer

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 great High Priest; in whom we are built up as living stones of a holy temple, that we might offer before thee a sacrifice of praise and prayer which is holy and pleasing in thy sight. 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)



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.

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.

Remain kneeling.

Agnus Dei *from Communion Service in A 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 rail. Please move at the direction of the ushers. During Communion, the Choir sings

O Lord of Hosts, how lovely are Thy dwellings. My soul longs for Thy courts, O Lord. My heart and flesh cry out. O blest are they whose hope is forever in Thee; Who praise Thy name, who sing their songs within Thy holy house. O Lord, incline Thine ear. My spirit longs for Thee. A Sun and Shield is the Lord of Hosts. O Lord of Hosts, how lovely are Thy dwellings. My soul longs for Thee. My heart and flesh cry out. In Thee I trust; Look down and hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer.

Music: Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924) Text: Paraphrase of Psalm 84

Communion Hymn #593 *(sung kneeling or seated)* *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 #525 *From the Hymnal 1982*

Organ The Heavens Declare (Psalm XIX) *Benedetto Marcello (1686-1739)*

Welcome to Bethesda Church! If you are new to the parish and wish to be added to our mailing list, complete the form on the back page and place it in the collection plate. Join us for **refreshments** after the 10am service. Thanks to Claire and Tim Wood for hosting.

Thank you to those **reading and leading prayers**, at 8am Bob Bullock, and at 10am, Lynda Redman and Joyce Cole.

Church School for children begins today. For more information, please contact Roxanne Baugh or Sara Manny, call the church office: 518.584.5980.

Today's Music This morning's instrumental music bridges two distinct golden ages of sacred composition. The service opens with the serene Prélude in G major (1893) by the prominent French Romantic organist and composer Alexandre Guilmant. Best known for his massive, symphonic organ works, this delicate miniature showcases Guilmant's lyrical side, utilizing a pastoral, flowing meter and warm, singing foundation stops to establish a contemplative acoustic space. The service concludes with a joyful leap back to the Italian Baroque with Benedetto Marcello's famous The Heavens Declare. Originally composed in 1724 as a choral setting of Psalm 19 *("I cieli immensi narrano"*), this beloved instrumental transcription perfectly echoes today's appointed Psalm text: "The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament shows his handiwork." Characterized by its crisp, rhythmic drive and cascading fanfares, the piece utilizes contrasting organ divisions to create dramatic echo effects, ending the service on a triumphant note of praise for the majesty of creation.

TODAY: Choral Concert Join us this afternoon at 3pm for *In Sacred Song*, featuring the music of Michael Harrison (composer-in-residence with Saratoga Voices). Enjoy church anthems, carols, and hymn arrangements sung by an octet of some of the Capital District's finest choral singers. Free-will offering at the door to support music at Bethesda. All welcome!

The fall meeting of the **Bethesda Book Club** will be held Thursday, October 8th at 5:00 to discuss Joanna Cannon's delightful *The Problem with Goats and Sheep*. Please email the church office to sign up or speak to Mary Sanders Shartle if you have any questions.

The **Special Monthly Envelope** in October supports RISE Housing and Support Services, a local nonprofit serving Saratoga County and the surrounding area. RISE helps individuals and families facing homelessness, mental health and substance-use challenges, and other times of crisis. Through housing, outreach, recovery services, and practical assistance, it helps people in our community find greater stability and independence. As a donor-supported organization, RISE depends upon the generosity of individuals and local organizations to continue this important work. Thank you for your consideration and support.

The Office at 178 Elm Street, is open Tuesday 10 - noon, and Thursday from 1 - 3pm.

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 continues to receive donations of canned foods and personal hygiene products through the summer. Items may be left in the box by the side door entrance.

Parking The lot adjacent to the church offers free parking for the first two hours.

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*

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