

January 2, 2022
at 10:00 am

The Booklet

Epiphany

A Service of the Word

Livestreaming on Facebook at
www.facebook.com/saintalbans,

or on Youtube at
www.youtube.com/channel/UCdwV9f01mc4ymXD16YdNUBA



ST ALBANS

Spirit-Led. Christ-Centred.
Contemporary Urban Church
www.stalbanschurch.ca

Welcome/Bienvenue

Welcome to St. Albans, livestreaming from beautiful downtown Ottawa, Ontario.

*Join **online** via livestream at
www.facebook.com/saintalbans or
www.youtube.com/channel/UCdwV9f01mc4ymXD16YdNUBA*

Our French-language sister community worships at noon on Sundays online at facebook.com/CommunauteStBernard.

*All that we have is a gift from God. Please consider a donation to St. Albans, via e-transfer to donate@stalbanschurch.ca, or with a secure credit card donation at www.stalbanschurch.ca/connect/donations
Thank you!*

Land Acknowledgement

St Albans gathers on the unceded territory of the Algonquin Anishnaabeg people. We remember the Indigenous peoples on whose land we are gathered, wherever we are. Our acknowledgement is also a statement of our commitment to the ongoing work of reconciliation with our Indigenous neighbours.

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

And also with you.

The Opening Prayer

Almighty God,
**to you all hearts are open, all desires
known, and from you no secrets are**

hidden. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Angels We Have Heard On High

Tune: Gloria (French)

Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains

Refrain Gloria, in excelsis Deo
Gloria, in excelsis Deo

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heavenly song?

Refrain

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing,
Come, adore on bended knee,
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

Refrain

Collect of the Day

Let us pray.

We pray silently.

Eternal God,
**who by a star led wise men to the
worship of your Son. Guide by your light
the nations of the earth, that the whole
world may know your glory; through
Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and
reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one
God, now and for ever.
Amen.**

We Proclaim the Word

The First Reading | *Isaiah 60:1-6*

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all

those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord. Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the king's son;

that he may rule your people righteously
and the poor with justice;

that the mountains may bring prosperity
to the people,
and the little hills bring righteousness.

He shall defend the needy among the
people,
**rescuing the poor and crushing the
oppressor.**

He shall live as long as the sun and
moon endure,
from one generation to another.

He shall come down like rain upon the
mown field,
like showers that water the earth.

In his time shall the righteous flourish;
**there shall be abundance of peace till
the moon shall be no more.**

The rulers of Tarshish and of the isles
shall pay tribute,
**and the rulers of Arabia and Saba offer
gifts.**

All rulers shall bow down before him,
and all the nations do him service.

For he shall deliver the poor who cries
out in distress
and the oppressed who has no helper.

He shall have pity on the lowly and poor
and shall preserve the lives of the needy.

He shall redeem their lives from
oppression and violence,
and dear shall their blood be in his sight.

Second Reading | *Ephesians 3:1-12*

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles - for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the

Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

The First Noel

Anonymous (1833)

The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields
as they lay;
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east, beyond them far;
and to the earth, it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night.

Refrain

The Gospel | *Matthew 2:1-12*

Le Seigneur soit avec vous. The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him,

“In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’”

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the

house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The Gospel of Christ

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily

The Rev. Simone Hurkmans

The Affirmation of Faith

You, O God, are supreme and holy. You create our world and give us life. Your purpose overarches everything we do. You have always been with us. You are God.

You, O God, are infinitely generous, good beyond all measure. You came to us before we came to you. You have revealed and proved your love for us in Jesus Christ, who lived and died and rose again. You are with us now. You are God.

You, O God, are Holy Spirit. You empower us to be your gospel in the world. You reconcile and heal; you overcome death. You are our God. We worship you.

Prayers of the People

Confession and Absolution

Dear friends in Christ,
God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy;
God welcomes sinners
and invites them to the table.

Let us confess our sins,
confident in God's forgiveness.

Silence is kept.

Most merciful God,
**we confess that we have sinned against
you in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone
We have not loved you with our whole
heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as
ourselves.**

**We are truly sorry and we humbly
repent.**

**For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us,
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Almighty God have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all
goodness,
and keep you in eternal life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace

In the sharing of the Peace we celebrate our reconciliation with God and extend the gift of peace to one another (Matt 5:23-24). We are also reminded that it is in meeting others that we meet Christ. Share a sign of peace online or in your home.

La paix du Seigneur soit toujours avec vous

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

The Lord's Prayer

Please feel free to use the language of your choice

As our Saviour taught us, let us pray,

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name,

**Your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever.**

Amen.

We Are Sent

Closing Prayer

Let us pray.

We pray silently.

God of all the nations of the earth,
guide us with your light.

**Help us to recognize Christ as he comes
to us in the sacraments and in our
neighbours.**

**May we welcome him with love,
for he is Lord now and for ever. Amen.**

Glory to God,
whose power, working in us can do
infinitely more
than we can ask or imagine.

**Glory to God, from generation to
generation in the Church and in Christ
Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Community Announcements

Blessing

What Child Is This

W. Chatterton Dix, Greensleeves

What Child is this, who laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?

Refrain This, this is Christ, the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!

Why lies He in such mean estate,
Where ox and ass are feeding?
All people here, come lend your ears
The silent Word is pleading. *Refrain*

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh,
Come, peasant, king to own Him.
The King of kings freedom brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone Him. *Refrain*

Sending

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

After the Service: Zoom coffee hour:

Georgina and Leo Bartos have offered to host the post-service coffee hour on Sunday mornings. Grab a mug of the hot beverage of your choice and join in for conversation and reflection on what we heard today in the service.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84144050737?pwd=cTVDR2RIS3pKZUdQN2NtOXFWT2w3Zz09> Meeting ID: 841 4405 0737,
Passcode: Coffee

Thursdays: Morning Prayer/Bible Study:

Each Thursday at 9 am, join us on Zoom to pray and to study the readings for the upcoming Sunday. A lovely way to start the day! <https://bit.ly/3k7yekT> Meeting ID: 821 0277 5595; Passcode: 574469

2021 Charitable Tax Receipts

St. Albans issues charitable tax receipts electronically, which saves clerical time and postage. That said, if you prefer to receive a paper receipt via Canada Post, our envelope secretary Brian will happily provide one! You can contact him at donate@stalbanschurch.ca.

St. Albans Contacts

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Church Administration Hours

W and F, 10 – 4