

December 3rd, 2023

at 10:00 a.m.

The Booklet

The First Sunday of Advent

A Celebration of Holy Eucharist



Livestream the service at

www.facebook.com/saintalbans or

www.youtube.com/channel/UCdwV9f01mc4ymXD6YdNUBA



ST ALBANS

Spirit-Led. Christ-Centred. Contemporary Urban Church

www.stalbanschurch.ca

Welcome to St Albans Church!

We welcome all people, no matter their age, ability, gender, cultural background, sexual orientation, income level or faith tradition to join us as we seek to deepen our relationship with God and each other.

Together we're exploring how we are called to serve in the world, right here in downtown Ottawa.

If this is your first time at St. Albans welcome! If you would like to be on our mail or email list, or have any other questions or requests, please feel free to place a written note on the offering plate when it is circulated, speak to a fellow congregation member, Michael our priest revmichael@stalbanschurch.ca or send an email to our office office@stalbanschurch.ca

During the service, if you are a breastfeeding parent, you are welcome to breastfeed where you are seated or anywhere else in the church, as you feel comfortable.

About this booklet

This booklet is your guide to our worship. You're going to experience and participate in worship through music, prayer, readings, reflections and

silence. Every time it's your turn to say or do something, you'll see it here in this booklet (usually in bold). If there are surprises, or you have questions, ask a neighbour.

Participation

Our hope is that everyone gathered will feel able participate in our worship this morning. At various points in the service we may suggest certain postures. But please feel free to adopt whatever posture (standing, sitting, kneeling) is appropriate for you at any time. If you would like to do some sketching or writing during the service, you are most welcome – at the back of the church is our Art Cart, stocked with books and art supplies. The books are communal so please date your work, no need to sign it, but the Art Books will become over time an anthology of our collective experience.

Welcome

So The Day Dawn For Me | Timothy Dudley-Smith and David Ashley White

So the day dawn for me, so the day break,
Christ watching over me, Christ as I wake.
Be the day shine for me, be the day bright,
Christ my companion be, Christ be my light.

Be the day dark to me, be the day drear,
Christ shall my comfort be, Christ be my cheer.
Be the day swift to me, be the day long,
Christ my contentment be, Christ be my song.

So the day close for me, so the night fall,
Christ watching over me, Christ be my all.

Land Acknowledgement

Dear friends, we gather on traditional Anishinaabe Algonquin territory.

May we dwell on this land with respect and peace.

In a spirit of reconciliation, may we always seek to respect the history, spirituality, and culture of First Nations, Metis, and Inuit.

May we do all in our power to support all efforts to establish an equal presence on this land.

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.**

Collect of the Day

Let us pray.

We pray silently.

God of unveiled truth,

in times of darkened sun and waning moon, lift up our hearts and waken our love to announce the coming dawn of unexpected peace; through Jesus Christ, the one who is to come. **Amen.**

We Proclaim the Word

Each Sunday we read from sections of the Bible: the Old Testament, Psalms, New Testament and the Gospel. These same readings will be proclaimed to over a billion Christians around the world today.

The First Reading: Isaiah 64:1-9

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 80:1-7,16-18

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us.

Restore us, O God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?

You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

You have made us the derision of our neighbours, and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

Restore us, O God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

They burn it with fire like rubbish; at the rebuke of your countenance let them perish.

Let your hand be upon the one at your side in honour, the one you have made so strong for yourself.

And so will we never turn away from you; give us life, that we may call upon your name.

The Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 42 | Claude Goudimel, Johann

Olearius, and Catherine Winkworth

Comfort, comfort ye my people, speak ye peace,
thus saith our God;

Comfort those who sit in darkness mourning 'neath
their sorrows' load.

Speak ye to Jerusalem of the peace that waits for
them;

Tell her that her sins I cover, and her warfare now is
over.

Hark, the voice of one that crieth in the desert far
and near,

Calling us to new repentance since the kingdom now
is here.

Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a
way;

Let the valleys rise to meet him and the hills bow
down to greet him.

Make ye straight what long was crooked, make the
rougner places plain;

Let your heart be true and humble, as befits his holy reign.

For the glory of the Lord now o'er earth is shed abroad;

And all flesh shall see the token that the word is never broken.

The Gospel: Mark 13:24-37

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.

The Gospel is read

The Gospel of Christ

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily – Rev. Michael

We say the Apostles Creed to affirm our faith using words of the ancient church

**I trust in God,
the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I trust in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

I trust in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Confession and Absolution

In our time of confession we recognize our need for reconciliation with God and with each other. In response to our need God embraces us and calls us beloved.

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

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

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.*

La paix du Seigneur soit toujours avec
vous.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Share a sign of peace in church, online or in your home.

We Celebrate the Eucharist

Offering



Thank you for donating to the ministry of St. Albans! You may also make an offering via the donation box at the by the soundboard – envelopes can be found there as well. You can also donate electronically by e-transfer to donate@stalbanschurch.ca, or through Canada Helps or Paypal through the St. Albans Website - <https://stalbanschurch.ca/donate/>

I Wonder As I Wander | Traditional
Appalachian carol, adapted John Jacob Niles
I wonder as I wander out under the sky,

How Jesus the Savior did come for to die,
For poor ord'n'ry people like you and like I,
I wonder as I wander out under the sky.

When Mary birthed Jesus, all in a cow's stall,
Came wise men and farmers and shepherds and all,
And high from the heavens a star's light did fall;
The promise of the ages it then did recall.

If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing,
A star in the sky or a bird on the wing,
Or all of God's angels in heav'n for to sing,
He surely could have had it, 'cause he was the king.

Prayer over the Gifts

God of abundance,
we bring before you the precious fruits of your
creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us
patience and hope as we care for all those in need
until the coming of your Son, our Saviour and Lord.
Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer

May God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to God our Creator.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, gracious God,

creator of heaven and earth;

we give you thanks and praise

through Jesus Christ our Lord,

who in the fullness of time came among us in our
flesh,

and opened to us the way of salvation.

Now we watch for the day when he will come again

in power and great triumph to judge this world,

that we, without shame or fear,

may rejoice to behold his appearing.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices

with angels and archangels and with all the company
of heaven,

who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of
your name.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth of your glory are full.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the
Lord. X2**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth of your glory are full.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. X2**

We give thanks to you, Lord our God, for the
goodness and love
you have made known to us in creation; in calling
Israel to be your people;
in your Word spoken through the prophets; and
above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus your Son.

For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate
from the Virgin Mary, to be the Saviour and
Redeemer of the world.
In him, you have delivered us from evil,

and made us worthy to stand before you.

In him, you have brought us out of error into truth,
out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and
death,

a death he freely accepted, our Lord Jesus Christ
took bread;

and when he had given thanks to you,

he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, “

Take, eat:

this is my body which is given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper he took the cup of wine;

and when he had given thanks,

he gave it to them, and said,

“Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new
covenant,

which is shed for you and for many for the
forgiveness of sins.

Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance
of me.”

Therefore, Creator, according to his command,

**we remember his death,
we proclaim his resurrection, we await his coming
in glory;**

and we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving
to you, Lord of all; presenting to you, from your
creation,
this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God,
to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts,
that they may be the sacrament of the body of Christ
and his blood of the new covenant.

Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we,
made acceptable in him, may be sanctified by the
Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, reconcile all things in Christ,
and make them new, and bring us to that city of light
where you dwell with all your children;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all
creation,
the head of the Church, and the author of our
salvation;
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours,
almighty God, now and for ever.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Please feel free to use the language of your choice.

Our Creator (Father/Mother)

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.**

The Breaking of the Bread

Creator of all, you gave us golden fields of wheat, whose many grains we have gathered and made into this one bread.

So may your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth into your kingdom.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Communion

At St Albans, all are welcome to receive communion or a blessing. Communion is received in a series of semi-circles at the front of the church. Please cross your arms over your chest if you would prefer to receive a blessing instead of the bread and/or wine. Please also indicate if you would prefer to receive a rice wafer instead of a wheat wafer.

It Is Well With My Soul | Philip P. Bliss arr.

Charlie Edholm

We Are Sent

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

We pray silently.

God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. 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

May You Find A Light | John Arndt and David Gungor

Lost and weary traveler, searching for the way to go
Stranger, heavy-hearted, longing for someone you
know

May you find a light
May you find a light
May you find a light to guide you home

There are weary travelers searching everywhere you
go
Strangers who are searching, longing deeply to be
known

Sending

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*Thank you for coming to church today – if you have
any questions or concerns or comments about the
service, we want to hear from you*

office@stalbanschurch.ca.

Announcements

End of Year Giving – We have had an amazing year at St. Albans, and sit at the cusp of so many interesting possibilities for ministry in our neighbourhood and amongst our congregation. Please consider St. Albans as a possible recipient of your end of year givings.

Advent/Christmas Services – St. Albans has three special services over the Advent/Christmas season:
Blue Christmas – On December 17th at 730pm we will be holding a Blue Christmas service. Blue Christmas is a service that opens space for the shadow side of Christmas and gives space to our grief, loneliness, or other emotions that are not part of “typical” Christmas, but embedded and present in the Christmas story nonetheless.

Christmas Eve – Our annual Christmas eve service will be lead by Liturgy Club and be at 4pm. Regular Sunday service (Advent 4) will also take place at 10am.

Christmas Day – We will gather on Christmas Day to sing carols and celebrate the birth of Jesus at 10am.

St. Albans Staff

The Rev. Michael Garner

revmichael@stalbanschurch.ca

Office Hours - on campus Déjà Vu 232B - 11am-1pm;
open for connecting Wednesdays 9am-12noon.

Available at other times by appointment.

In the event of a pastoral emergency please call Rev.
Michael 613-797-9802

Church Administration office@stalbanschurch.ca

St. Albans Wardens

Michelle Sorenson, Warden – On Leave

Robyn Sulkko, Warden - robynsulkko@hotmail.com

Leah Seabrook, Deputy Warden -

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Moira Alie, Deputy Warden

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