

December 10th, 2023
at 10:00 a.m.

The Booklet

The Second 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.

Liturgical Note: In the context of Christian Liturgy, Israel does not refer to the current political state, but either to the historic Hebrews of the ancient Near East or, in Christian theology, to all people who put their faith and trust in Jesus Christ.

Welcome

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus | Charles Wesley

Come, thou long expected Jesus
Born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us,
Let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth thou art;
Dear desire of every nation
Joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver
Born a child, and yet a king,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all sufficient merit,
Raise us to thy glorious throne.

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 hope, you call us from the exile of our sin
with the good news of restoration; you build a highway through the
wilderness; you come to us and bring us home.
Comfort us with the expectation of your saving power,
made known to us in Jesus Christ our Lord. **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 40:1-11

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

You have been gracious to your land, O Lord, you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

You have forgiven all the iniquity of your people * and blotted out all their sins.

I will listen to what you, Lord God, are saying, for you are speaking peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to you.

Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you, that your glory may dwell in our land.

Mercy and truth have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

Truth shall spring up from the earth, and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

Lord, you will indeed grant prosperity, and our land will yield its increase.

Righteousness shall go before you, and peace shall be a pathway for your feet.

The Second Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-15a

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

O Come, O Come Emmanuel | Traditional

O come, O come Emmanuel

And ransom captive Israel

That mourns in lonely exile here

Until the Son of God appear

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, O key of David, come

And open wide our heavenly home;

Make safe the way that leads on high,

And close the path to misery.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by thine advent here.
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadow put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of humankind;
O bid our bitter conflict cease,
And be for us our Prince of Peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

The Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

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/>

Behold| Natalie Taylor Leonhardt
The empty filled, the wounded healed
The broken back together

The poor are blessed, the weary rest
We will dance forever

The blinded see, the chained are free
The doubtful now believer
The outcast known, the orphan home
You are my Redeemer

Behold, behold, behold what love can do
Behold, behold, He's making all things new

The lost return, the voiceless heard
The mourner now rejoicing
The mountains shake, the world awake
Creation all composing

The sad untrue, the earth renewed
The song has found its singer
The darkness light, the dead alive
You are my Redeemer

Behold, behold, behold what love can do
Behold, behold, He's making all things new

We've been struck down, we're not destroyed
We've sown in tears, we'll reap in joy

Behold, behold, behold what love can do
Behold, behold, He's making all things new

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

God of promise, you prepare a banquet for us in your kingdom.

Happy are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb.

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.*

Shepherd | CityAlight

Though I walk through the valley, and I can't see the way
When the shadows surround me, I will not be afraid
For I know You are with me; You will always provide
Though the path may be lonely, You will stay by my side
I will rest my soul; I'll trust in You alone

For the Lord my Shepherd leads me, leads me
And He is all I need
In the darkest valley I know, I know
My Shepherd is all I need

Lord I know that You seek me when I'm trying to hide
And Your love it pursues me all the days of my life
I will rest my soul; I'll trust in You alone

For the Lord my Shepherd leads me, leads me
And He is all I need
In the darkest valley I know, I know
My Shepherd is all I need

I rest my soul In You alone
You light my way; You lead me on

For the Lord my Shepherd leads me, leads me
And He is all I need

In the darkest valley I know, I know
My Shepherd is all I need

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

It Is Well With My Soul | Horatio Gates Spafford

When peace like a river attendeth my way
When sorrows like sea billows roll
Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say
It is well, it is well, with my soul

It is well with my soul
It is well, it is well with my soul

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come
Let this blest assurance control
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate
And hath shed His own blood for my soul

It is well (it is well)
With my soul (with my soul)
It is well, it is well with my soul

My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!
My sin, not in part but the whole
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, o my soul!

It is well (it is well)
With my soul (with my soul)
It is well, it is well with my soul

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 - leah.seabrook@gmail.com

Moira Alie, Deputy Warden

St. Albans Church

454 King Edward Ave at Daly

Ottawa, ON K1N 7M8

613-236-0342

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