

December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
at 10:00 a.m.

# The Booklet

The Third Sunday of Advent  
A Celebration of Holy Eucharist

*Livestream the service at*

*[www.facebook.com/saintalbans](http://www.facebook.com/saintalbans) or*

*[www.youtube.com/channel/UCdwV9f01mc4ymXD6YdNUBA](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdwV9f01mc4ymXD6YdNUBA)*



**ST ALBANS**

*Spirit-Led. Christ-Centred. Contemporary Urban Church*

**[www.stalbanschurch.ca](http://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](mailto:revmichael@stalbanschurch.ca) or send an email to our office [office@stalbanschurch.ca](mailto: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, Though Long Expected Jesus | 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 brings.  
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 light,  
who sent the Baptist to offer hope and to face the world's scorn:  
open our ears to hear the cries from the margins, exposing our fears,  
sharpening our vision and calling us to faith; 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 61:1-4, 8-11

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Psalm 126**

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, then were we like those who dream.

**Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy. Then they said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them."**

The Lord has done great things for us, and we are glad indeed.

**Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the watercourses of the Negev.**

Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy.

**Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.**

**The Second Reading:** 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee | Van Dyke**

Joyful, joyful, we adore You,

God of glory, Lord of love;

Hearts unfold like flow'rs before You,

Op'ning to the sun above.

Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;

Drive the dark of doubt away;

Giver of immortal gladness,

Fill us with the light of day!

All Your works with joy surround You,

Earth and heav'n reflect Your rays,

Stars and angels sing around You,

Center of unbroken praise;

Field and forest, vale and mountain,

Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,

Chanting bird and flowing fountain

Praising You eternally!

Always giving and forgiving,  
Ever blessing, ever blest,  
Well-spring of the joy of living,  
Ocean-depth of happy rest!  
Loving Father, Christ our Mother,  
Let Your light upon us shine;  
Teach us how to love each other,  
Lift us to the joy divine.

**The Gospel:** John 1:6-8, 19-28

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

**And also with you.**

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

**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](mailto:donate@stalbanschurch.ca), or through Canada Helps or Paypal through the St. Albans Website - <https://stalbanschurch.ca/donate/>*

#### **Light of the World | Lauren Daigle**

The world waits for a miracle  
The heart longs for a little bit of hope  
Oh come, oh come, Emmanuel  
A child prays for peace on Earth  
And she's calling out from a sea of hurt  
Oh come, oh come, Emmanuel

And can you hear the angels singing  
Glory to the light of the world  
Glory, the light of the world is here  
The drought breaks with the tears of a mother  
A baby's cry is the sound of love  
Come down, come down, Emmanuel

He is the song for the suffering  
He is Messiah, the Prince of Peace has come  
He has come, Emmanuel

Glory to the light of the world x4

For all who wait  
For all who hunger  
For all who've prayed  
For all who wonder  
Behold your King  
Behold Messiah  
Emmanuel, Emmanuel

Glory to the light of the world x3

Behold your King  
Behold Messiah  
Emmanuel, Emmanuel

The world waits for the miracle  
The heart longs for a little bit of hope  
Oh come, oh come Emmanuel

***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.*

**Welcome to Our World | Chris Rice**

Tears are falling, hearts are breaking  
How we need to hear from God  
You've been promised, we've been waiting  
Welcome Holy Child  
Welcome Holy Child

Hope that You don't mind our manger  
How I wish we could have known  
But long-awaited Holy Stranger  
Make Yourself at home  
Please make Yourself at home

Bring Your peace into our violence  
Bid our hungry souls be filled  
Word now breaking Heaven's silence  
Welcome to our world  
Welcome to our world

Fragile finger sent to heal us  
Tender brow prepared for thorn  
Tiny heart whose blood will save us  
Unto us is born  
Unto us is born

So wrap our injured flesh around You  
Breathe our air and walk our sod  
Rob our sins and make us holy  
Perfect Son of God  
Perfect Son of God

Welcome to our world

**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 | The Brilliance**  
Lost and weary traveler  
Searchin' for the way to go

Stranger, heavy-hearted  
Longin' for someone to know

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

There are weary travelers  
Searchin' everywhere you go  
Strangers who are searchin'  
Longin' deeply to be known

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

### ***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](mailto: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 17<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto:office@stalbanschurch.ca)

### **St. Albans Wardens**

Michelle Sorenson, Warden – On Leave

Robyn Sulkko, Warden - [robynsulkko@hotmail.com](mailto:robynsulkko@hotmail.com)

Leah Seabrook, Deputy Warden - [leah.seabrook@gmail.com](mailto:leah.seabrook@gmail.com)

Moira Alie, Deputy Warden

### **St. Albans Church**

454 King Edward Ave at Daly

Ottawa, ON K1N 7M8

613-236-0342

[www.stalbanschurch.ca](http://www.stalbanschurch.ca)



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