

December 24th, 2023
at 10:00 a.m.

The Booklet

The Fourth 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

O Come All Ye Faithful | John Francis Wade/Traditional

O, come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant!

O, come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.

Come and behold him, born the King of angels;

O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;

O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.

God of God, Light of Light,

lo, He abhors not the virgin's womb;

very God, begotten not created;

O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;

O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation;

Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!

Glory to God, Glory in the highest;

O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;

O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this happy morning;

Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n. Word of the Father,

Now in flesh appearing;

O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;

O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.

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 scandalous love,

Mary consented to bear the shame and carry your Word within herself:

may her courage give hope to all people who yearn to sing new songs of justice and find the world a dwelling place for God; 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: 2 Samuel 7:1-11

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

Luke 1:46-55

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant. Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name; indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty. He has come to the aid of his child Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

The Second Reading: Romans 16:25-27

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

Mary, Did You Know | Lowry/Henry

Mary did you know, that your ancient words
would still leap off our pages?

Mary did you know, that your spirit song
would echo through the ages?

Did you know that your holy cry would be subversive word.

that the tyrants would be trembling when they know your truth is heard?

Mary did you know, that your lullaby
would stir your own Child's passion?
Mary did you know, that your song inspires the work of liberation?
Did you know that your Jubilee is hope within the heart of all who dream
of justice, who yearn for it to start?

The truth will teach, the drum will sound, healing for the pain
The poor will rise, the rich will fall. Hope will live again

Mary did you know, that we hear your voice for the healing of the
nations?

Mary did you know, your unsettling cry can help renew creation?
Do you know, that we need your faith, the confidence of you,
May the God that you believe in, be so true.

The Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

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

And also with you.

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

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/>

Wexford Carol | Traditional

Good people all, this Christmas time
Consider well and bear in mind
What our good God for us has done
In sending his beloved son

With Mary holy we should pray
To God with love this Christmas Day
In Bethlehem upon that morn
There was a blessed Messiah born

Near Bethlehem did shepherds keep
Their flocks of lambs and feeding sheep
To whom God's angels did appear
Which put the shepherds in great fear

Prepare and go, ' the angels said
'To Bethlehem, be not afraid
For there you'll find, this happy morn
A princely babe, sweet Jesus born

With thankful heart and joyful mind
The shepherds went, this babe to find
And as God's angel had foretold
They did our saviour Christ behold

Within a manger he was laid
And by his side the virgin maid
Attending on the Lord of life
Who came on earth to end all strife

Prayer over the Gifts

Gracious God, by the power of the Spirit who sanctified the mother of your Son, make holy all we offer you this day. We ask this in the name of Jesus

Christ the 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.

No Crowded Eastern Street | Major/Flemming

No crowded eastern street,
no sound of passing feet;
far to the left and far to right,
the prairie snows spread far and white;
yet still to us is born tonight
the child, the King of glory.

No rock-hewn place of peace
shared with the gentle beasts,
but sturdy farm house, stout and warm,
with stable, shed, and great red barn;
and still to us is born tonight
the child, the King of glory.

No blaze of heavenly fire
no bright celestial choir,
only the starlight as of old,
crossed by the plane's flash, red and gold;
yet stil to us is born tonight
the child, the King of glory.

No kings with gold and grain,
no stately camel train:
Yet in his presence all may stand
with loving heart and willing hand;

for still to us is born tonight
the child, the King of glory.

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

I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day | Longfellow/Calkin

I heard the bells on Christmas day
Their old familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet the words repeat
Of peace of earth, good will to all.

And in despair I bowed my head:
"There is no peace on earth," I said,
"For hate is strong, and mocks the song

Of peace on earth, good will to all.”

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:

"God is not dead, nor does He sleep;
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,
With peace on earth, good will to all.”

Till, ringing, singing on its way,
The world revolved from night to day
A voice, a chime, a chant sublime,
Of peace on earth, good will to all.

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

Advent/Christmas Services – St. Albans has three special services over the Advent/Christmas season:

Christmas Eve – Our annual Christmas eve service will be lead by Liturgy Club and be at 4pm tonight!

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

Student Meal – Our first meal for students will be happening on January 25th. Rev. Michael sent an email to the list of people who we noted were interested in helping. If you didn't receive that email, and are interested in learning more or getting involved in this important Campus initiative for St. Albans. Please reach out to Rev. Michael.

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 - robysulkko@hotmail.com

Leah Seabrook, Deputy Warden - leah.seabrook@gmail.com

Moira Alie, Deputy Warden

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