

December 31st, 2023
at 10:00 a.m.

The Booklet

The First Sunday after Christmas
Morning Prayer

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 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

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.

A Penitential Office

A virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel.

Matthew 1:23

Let us confess our sins
against God and our neighbour.

God of all mercy,
**we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves and in the world you have created.
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done
and the evil done on our behalf.
Forgive, restore and strengthen us through
our Saviour Jesus Christ,
so that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. Amen.**

May the God of love and power
forgive us and free us from our sins,
heal and strengthen us by the Holy Spirit
and raise us to new life in Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

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.

Introductory Responses

Blessed are you, O Christ, incarnate Word,
you were before time began
and came into the world to save us.

Blessed are you, Sun of righteousness;
you shine with the love of God
and illumine the whole universe.

Blessed are you, Child of Mary;
born in a manger, you shared our humanity.
Let heaven and earth shout their praise.

With all the voices of heaven,
we celebrate your coming, O Emmanuel.
Let heaven and earth shout their praise.

With all the creatures on earth
we sing and dance at your birth, O Shoot of Jesse.
Let heaven and earth shout their praise.

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 glory, you have given us a new name and robed us in salvation. May we like Anna find our home in your presence, and like Simeon recognize Jesus as the Christ, so that, in joy and thanksgiving at becoming your children, we may join with all creation to sing your praise. **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 60:10-61:3

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord; my whole being shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

For as the earth brings forth its shoots and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

Or Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication and all the kings your glory, and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. You shall be a beautiful crown in the hand of the Lord and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 148

Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise God in the heights.

Praise the Lord all you angels; sing praises, all you heavenly host.

Praise the Lord, sun and moon; sing praises, all you shining stars.

Praise the Lord, heaven of heavens, sing praises, you waters above the heavens.

Let them praise the name of the Lord; who gave the command and they were created,

who made them stand fast for ever and ever, who gave them a law which shall not pass away.

Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea-monsters and all deeps;

fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing God's will;

mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;

wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and winged birds;

sovereigns of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world;

young men and young women, old and young together.

Let them praise the name of the Lord, whose name only is exalted, whose splendour is over earth and heaven.

The Lord has raised up strength for this people and praise for all loyal servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near to the Lord.

Hallelujah!

The Second Reading: Galatians 4:4-7

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir through God.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

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.

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah.

Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, “Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.” And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him.

Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul, too.”

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom, and the favor of God was upon him.

The Gospel of Christ

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection – Robyn Sulkko

Hear, O Israel,

the Lord our God, the Lord is one.

Love the Lord your God with all your heart,

with all your soul, with all your mind,

and with all your strength.

This is the first and the great commandment.

The second is like it: Love your neighbour as yourself.

There is no commandment greater than these.

The Litany

Holy One, by the good news of our salvation brought to Mary by the angel:

Hear us and grant us peace.

By the mystery of the Word made flesh:

Hear us and grant us peace.

By the birth in time of the timeless Son of God:

Hear us and grant us peace.

By the manifestation of your Beloved to the shepherds:

Hear us and grant us peace.

By the obedience of the Maker of the world to Mary and Joseph:

Hear us and grant us peace.

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.

The Lord's Prayer

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us and gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray as our Saviour taught us,

Our Creator (Mother/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.

Community Announcements

The Dismissal

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

May God, who has called us out of darkness into the marvellous light of Christ, bless us and fill us with peace. **Amen.**

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

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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