

February 14, 2024
at 7:00 p.m.

The Booklet

Ash Wednesday
A Celebration of Holy Eucharist

Livestream the service at

www.facebook.com/saintalbans or

www.youtube.com/channel/UCdwV9f0Imc4ymXD16YdNUBA



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

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.

Gathering for Worship

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

We pray silently

Gracious and merciful God,

you despise nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our brokenness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

All My Favorite People | Over the Rhine

All my favorite people are broken

Believe me, my heart should know

Some prayers are better left unspoken

I just want to hold you and let the rest go

All my friends are part saint and part sinner
We lean on each other, try to rise above
We are not afraid to admit we are all still beginners
We are all late bloomers when it comes to love

All my favorite people are broken
Believe me, my heart should know
Orphaned believers, skeptical dreamers, step forward
You can stay right here, you don't have to go

Is each wound you've received just a burdensome gift
It gets so hard to lift yourself up off the ground
But the poet says we must praise a mutilated world
We're all working the graveyard shift
You might as well sing along

Cause all my favorite people are broken
Believe me, my heart should know
As for your tender heart, this world's going to rip it wide open,
It ain't gonna be pretty, but you're not alone

All my favorite people are broken
Believe me, my heart should know
Orphaned believers, skeptical dreamers, you're welcome
Yeah, you're safe right here, you don't have to go

Cause all my favorite people are broken
Believe me, I should know
Some prayers are better left unspoken
I just want to hold you and let the rest go

We Proclaim the Word

The First Reading: Joel 2.1–2, 12–17

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

Ps 103: 8-18

You are full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and of great kindness.

You will not always accuse us, nor will you keep your anger for ever.

You have not dealt with us according to our sins, nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.

For as the heavens are high above the earth, so is your mercy great upon those who fear you.

As far as the east is from the west, so far have you removed our sins from us.

As parents care for their children, so do you, O Lord, care for those who fear you.

For you yourself know whereof we are made; you remember that we are but dust.

Our days are like the grass; we flourish like a flower of the field;

when the wind goes over it, it is gone, and its place shall know it no more.

But your merciful goodness endures for ever on those who fear you, and your righteousness on children's children;

on those who keep the covenant and remember the commandments and do them.

The Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5.20b—6.10

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

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.

Time of Reflection

Exhortation

Dear friends in Christ, every year at the time of the Christian Passover we celebrate our redemption through the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Lent is a time to prepare for this celebration and to renew our life in the paschal mystery.

We begin this holy season by remembering our need for repentance, and for the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I invite you therefore, in the name of the Lord, to observe a holy Lent by self-examination, penitence, prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, and by reading and meditating on the word of God. Let us stand before our Creator and Redeemer.

Silence

Psalm 51

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

Wash me through and through from my wickedness
and cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight.

And so you are justified when you speak and upright in your judgement.

Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth,
a sinner from my mother's womb.

For behold, you look for truth deep within me,
and will make me understand wisdom secretly.

Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure;
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.
Make me hear of joy and gladness,
that the body you have broken may rejoice.
Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquities.
Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence and
take not your holy Spirit from me.
Give me the joy of your saving help again
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.
I shall teach your ways to the wicked, and sinners shall return to you.
Deliver me from death, O God, and my tongue shall sing of your
righteousness, O God of my salvation.
Open my lips, O Lord, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.
Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice,
but you take no delight in burnt-offerings.
The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.
Be favourable and gracious to Zion, and rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.

Litany of Penitence

**Most holy and merciful God, we confess to you, to one another,
and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth,
that we have sinned by our own fault 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, and mind, and strength.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We have not forgiven
others, as we have been forgiven. **Have mercy on us, Lord.**

We have been deaf to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have
not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.
Have mercy on us, Lord.

We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives, **We confess to you, Lord.**

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, **We confess to you, Lord.**

Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves, **We confess to you, Lord.**

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work, **We confess to you, Lord.**

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us, **We confess to you, Lord.**

Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done: for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

For all false judgements, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbours, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;
Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great.

Imposition of Ashes

Almighty God,
from the dust of the earth you have created us. May these ashes be for us a sign of our mortality and penitence, and a reminder that only by

your gracious gift are we given eternal life through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

The Receiving of Ashes

Those who desire to receive ashes come forward, and the ashes are applied to the forehead of each person with the following words: "Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return." After all who desire ashes have received them, the celebrant leads the congregation in the conclusion of the confession.

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,
That we may show forth your glory in the world.

By the cross and passion of your Son, our Lord,
Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.
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/>

If It Be Your Will | Leonard Cohen

If it be your will that I speak no more
And my voice be still as it was before
I will speak no more, I shall abide until
I am spoken for, if it be your will

If it be your will that a voice be true
From this broken hill I will sing to you
From this broken hill, all your praises they shall ring
If it be your will to let me sing

If it be your will, if there is a choice
Let the rivers fill, let the hills rejoice
Let your mercy spill on all these burning hearts in hell
If it be your will to make us well

And to draw us near, and bind us tight
All your children here in their rags of light
In our rags of light, all dressed to kill
And end this night, if it be your will

Prayer over the Gifts

O God, you delight not in pomp and show, but in a humble and contrite heart. Overturn our love of worldly possessions and fix our hearts more firmly on you, so that, having nothing, we may yet possess everything, a treasure stored up for us in heaven. **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,
because you bid your faithful people to cleanse their hearts
and to prepare with joy for the paschal feast; that reborn through the
waters of baptism and renewed in the eucharistic mystery,
we may be more fervent in prayer and more generous in the works of love.
Therefore we raise our voices to you in praise 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, Father, 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 sons and daughters; 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 Father, 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

**We break this bread,
Communion in Christ' s body once broken.**

Let your Church be the wheat which bears its fruit in dying.
**If we have died with him, we shall live with him; if we hold firm,
we shall reign with him.**

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.*

Have Mercy on Me| Sandra McCracken

Have mercy on me. Have mercy on me.
O Lord, have mercy. O Lord, have mercy

Lord, help my unbelief. Lord, help my unbelief
O Lord, have mercy. O Lord, have mercy

We Are Sent

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

We pray silently.

**God of compassion,
through your Son Jesus Christ you reconciled your people to yourself.
Following his example of prayer and fasting, may we obey you with willing
hearts and serve one another in holy love; through Jesus Christ our 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

Lead Me | Alice Boman

Don't know where I'm going. Don't know where I'm going
But I am not alone
Closer come closer. Closer come closer.
You can't know what's to come

Lead me, Lead me, Lead me

When you look at me. When you look at me.
I feel all exposed
I swear it feels like. I swear it feels like.

You can see right through my soul

Lead me x 6

Sending

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Announcements

Meal @ Friel –Our next meal is February 29th! We are meeting February 22nd to finalize roles and the plan! Please let Rev Michael or Daniel (Meal Coordinator) know if you would like to get involved!

Coldest Night of the Year – Hope Versluis is leading a CNOY walk in support of Jericho Road & Capital City Mission. The walk date is **Sat Feb 24, 5:00pm**. Our walk location is **Ottawa Lowertown**. There are other walks in Ottawa that day, but we will be part of Lowertown location.

Talk to Hope for more information. Or go to this link

<https://secure.e2rm.com/registant/TeamFundraisingPage.aspx?teamID=1009649&langPref=en-CA>

Vestry – Our Annual Vestry meeting is quickly approaching – it will be March 3rd after the service. We will also be having our after church potluck after the service before we meet. 2023 was an amazing year at St. Albans. Come and remember all that we did, and help plan and influence our activity and ministry into the future!

Cleaning Bee – Is there a better way to express the solemnity and self-denial that Lent calls us to than by spending two hours cleaning the church?!? Of course not – March 7th from 7-9pm @ St. Albans.

Church Retreat – Our next church retreat is March 14th from 6:30pm-8:00pm at the National Gallery of Canada. Admission is free on Thursday nights, so we will take advantage of that and seek to mediate, congregation, and experience God in and through the art. Contact Rev. Michael if you are interested!

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 – michelle.rg.sorenson@gmail.com

Robyn Sulkko, Warden – On Leave

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

Moira Alie, Deputy Warden

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