

February 25th, 2024
at 10:00 a.m.

The Booklet

The Second Sunday of Lent
A Celebration of Holy Eucharist



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.

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.

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

His mercy endures for ever.

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.

Confession and Absolution

Dear Friends in Christ,
as we prepare for the Paschal Feast (Easter), continuing in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers, let us make ready our hearts to renew the covenant of our baptism.

Let us ask God to bring to light the things now hidden in darkness, and to disclose to us the secret purposes of our hearts.
And most especially, let us remember the covenant of our baptism and test our hearts and conscience to know how faithfully we have persevered in resisting evil, and whenever we fell into sin, have repented and returned to the Lord.

Silence

Holy and immortal God,
you formed us from the dust in your image, and redeemed us from sin and death by the cross of our Saviour. Through the washing of baptism you raised us up with him to share in the new covenant with all your holy people. But we have squandered the inheritance of your saints, and have wandered far in a land that is waste. Therefore we turn to you in penitence and humility. In your great mercy, forgive us and restore us, that we may rejoice in your presence, 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.

Tree of Life | Marty Haugen
Tree of Life and awesome mystery,
In your death we are reborn,

Though you die in all of history,
Still you rise with every morn, Still you rise with every morn.

We remember truth once spoken,
Love passed on through act and word,
Every person lost and broken
Wears the body of our Lord, Wears the body of our Lord.

Gentle Jesus, mighty Spirit,
Come inflame our hearts anew,
We may all your joy inherit
If we bear the cross with you, If we bear the cross with you.

Christ, you lead and we shall follow,
Stumbling though our steps may be,
One with you in joy and sorrow,
We the river, you the sea, We the river, you the sea.

Collect of the Day

Let us pray.

We pray silently.

God of Sarah and Abraham,
long ago you embraced your people in covenant and promised them your
blessing. Strengthen us in faith, so that, with your followers in every age,
we may proclaim our deliverance in Jesus Christ to generations yet unborn.
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: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 22:22-30

I will declare your name to my kindred; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.

Praise the Lord, you that fear God; stand in awe of God, O offspring of Israel; all you of Jacob's line, give glory.

For God does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither turns away from them; when they cry to the Lord, they are heard.

My praise is of God in the great assembly; I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship the Lord.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and those who seek the Lord shall give praise: "May your heart live for ever!"

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations shall bow before God.

For sovereignty belongs to the Lord, who rules over the nations.

To God alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; all who go down to the dust fall before God.

My soul shall live for God; my descendants shall serve God; they shall be known as the Lord's for ever.

The Second Reading: Romans 4:13-25

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

Red Sea Road | Ellie Holcomb

We, buried dreams. Laid them deep into the earth behind us

Said, our goodbyes. At the grave but everything reminds us

God knows, we ache. When He asks us to go on

How do we go on?

We will sing, to our souls. We won't bury our hope
Where He leads us to go. There's a red sea road

When we can't, see the way. He will part the waves
And we'll never walk alone. Down a red sea road

How, can we trust
When You say You will deliver us from
All, of this pain, that threatens to take over us
Well, this desert's dry
But the ocean may consume
And we're scared, to follow You

So we will sing, to our souls. We won't bury our hope
Where He leads us to go. There's a red sea road

When we can't, see the way. He will part the waves
And we'll never walk alone. Down a red sea road

Oh help us believe. You are faithful, You're faithful
When our hearts are breaking. You are faithful, You're faithful
Oh grant us eyes to see. You are faithful, You're faithful
Teach us to sing. You are faithful, You're faithful, You're faithful

And we will sing, to our souls. We won't bury our hope
Where He leads us to go. There's a red sea road

When we can't, see the way. He will part the waves
And we'll never walk alone. Down a red sea road

No, we'll never, walk alone. Down a red sea road
No, we'll never, walk alone. Down a red sea road

The Gospel: Mark 8:31-38

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

And also with you.

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

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

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/>

Wounded Healer | Audrey Assad

Image of the Invisible. In our pain we feel you near

God of heaven in flesh and bone. By your wounds we shall be healed

Wounded healer. We give our hearts to you.

Wounded healer. We give our hearts to you.

Arms stretched out not to part the seas. but to open up the grave

Blood poured out not for war, but peace, And to show us God's own face.

Wounded healer. We give our hearts to you.

Wounded healer. We give our hearts to you.

No fire; no fury just death into life
Over and over Til all things are right

Wounded healer. We give our hearts to you.
Wounded healer. We give our hearts to you.

Prayer over the Gifts

God our provider,
you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life.
Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty,
through Jesus Christ our 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 was tempted in every way, yet did not sin. By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died for us and rose again. Therefore with angels and archangels and all who have served you in every age, we raise our voices 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, God, 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, 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.

Still Making Me| Audrey Assad

When you wove me in the darkness. Were we already face to face?
When you knit me in my mother. In that fearful wonderful way
Did you love me when you hovered. Over her blood and her water
Before she knew my name? When you wove me in the darkness
Were we already face to face?

Is there an ocean of affection. Where I come from and where I'm bound?
Where all this fear and imperfection. Could be swallowed in love somehow
Is there a seat at this table. For every part of me that's able
To want to be found? Is there an ocean of affection
Where I come from and where I'm bound?

Maybe you're still making. You're still making me
Maybe you're still making. You're still making me

When I lay down in the evening. I am learning to believe again
It is all I can do some nights. When you're feeling like a long lost friend
But in the clear light of morning. I see you standing at the door
Like you have always been. So when I lay down in the evening
I am learning to believe again

Maybe you're still making. You're still making me
Maybe you're still making. You're still making me
Maybe still creating. And recreating me
Maybe you're still making. You're still making me

But in the clear light of morning I see you standing at the door
Like you have always been, So when I lay down in the evening
I am learning to believe again

We Are Sent

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

We pray silently.

Compassionate God,

you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage; may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts; 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

Doxology | Traditional/Troger

Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Praise God all creatures high and low

Praise God above, ye heavn'ly hosts

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost

Praise God the Father, Holy one

Praise Jesus Christ, Eternal Son

Praise Holy Spirit, seal of grace

Praise Triune God all of our days

For the Lord our God is good

Christ's mercy is forever sure;
The truth at all times firmly stood,
And shall from age to age endure.
Amen

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

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!

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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