

December 22, 2024
at 10:00 a.m.

The Booklet

Fourth Sunday of Advent
A Celebration of Holy Eucharist



ALL ARE WELCOME. ALL ARE LOVED. ALL BELONG.

ST ALBANS

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.

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 in the black box by the sound board, 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 service. You're invited to participate 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 to 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. If you have a prayer request, please feel free to put it on an index card located at the back and put it into the basket, only indicate person's first name, and we will pray for them (or you) during the Prayers of the People.

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 Thou Long Expected Jesus | Charles 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 bring.
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 promise,

you look with favour on the lowly, you scatter the proud and you fill the hungry. May we, like Mary, respond to your call and be obedient to your will; through Jesus Christ 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: Micah 5:2-5a

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

Luke 1:46-55

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour; for he has looked with favour on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed: the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm, he has scattered the proud in their conceit. He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel, for he has remembered his promise of mercy, the promise he made to our fathers, to Abraham and his children for ever.

The Second Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

O Come, O Come Emmanuel | JM Neale

O come, O come, Immanuel,
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, O Key of David, come
and open wide our heavenly home.
Make safe the way that leads on high
and close the path to misery.
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, Thou Dayspring come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here.
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night.
And deaths' dark shadow put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of humankind;
O bid our bitter conflict cease
And be for us our Prince of Peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel.

The Gospel: Luke 1:39-55

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.

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/give/>

Peace | Paula Best

Broken conversations, broken people, we're broken Lord.
Terrified illusions, seeking comfort, we're seeking more.
We need each other more than we need to agree.
Father, Son, Spirit bless us with your love, with your grace and peace.
Peace, let there be peace.

Let there be peace.

Let there be peace.

Let us see and not destroy. Let us listen. Let us listen.

Let us suspend judgement for the sake of love, for the sake of love.

We need each other more than we need to agree.

Father, Son, Spirit bless us with your love, with your grace and peace.

Love, let there be love.

Let there be love.

Let there be love.

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. If you have a prayer
need at most services at the front left there are two skilled prayers who are
there to pray for and with you.*

You Cannot Lose My Love | Sarah Groves

You will lose your baby teeth.
At times, you'll lose your faith in me.
You will lose a lot of things,
But you cannot lose my love.

You may lose your appetite,
Your guiding sense of wrong and right.
You may lose your will to fight,
But you cannot lose my love.

You will lose your confidence.
In times of trial, your common sense.
You may lose your innocence,
But you cannot lose my love.

Many things can be misplaced;
Your very memories be erased.
No matter what the time or space,

You cannot lose my love.
You cannot lose,
You cannot lose,
You cannot lose my love.

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

All The Way Home | Larry Norman
Let this good life be the life I lead
Let my faith grow like a mustard seed
And let your love be all the love I need
To carry me all the way home.

This life is hard and the road is long that leads me toward the light
Sometimes I trip and stumble in the night.
My mind becomes so weary I just wanna lay down
But I got to keep on going 'til I reach the higher ground.

Let this good life be the life I lead...

I've had my share of trouble as I've tried to walk this path
Sometimes it's been so hard I've had to laugh
I've spent so many years in sorrow, much of my life in pain
But that's just the way it is, you get the sunshine and the rain.

Let this good life be the life I lead...

Hoping to learn, every wrong turn is a step toward the past.
Going astray, losing my way, but I found it at last.

Let this good life be the life I lead...

Sending

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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 giving.

December Services – We are having a variety of additional services in December please consider coming!

Dec 24 – Christmas Eve at 7pm

Dec 25 – Christmas Day – annual mimosa morning at 10am

Community Compassion: Strategies to Support Vulnerable Individuals

February 19 and 20th 630-9pm we are partnering with Centre 454 to Non-Violent Crisis Intervention Training. Please plan to come, this is another tool for each of us to have as we navigate the complexities of our Parish Neighbourhood.

St. Albans Staff

The Rev. Michael Garner revmichael@stalbanschurch.ca

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

Mary-Martha Hale, Warden – mmhale65@gmail.com

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