

February 2nd, 2025
at 10:00 am

The Booklet

Presentation of Jesus in the Temple
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, O Fount | American Folk Tune, Robert Robinson

Come, O Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing your grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of endless praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount; I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unfailing love.

Here I pause in my sojourning, giving thanks for having come,
Come to trust, at every turning, God will guide me safely home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God,
Came to rescue me from danger, blessed body, precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor daily I am drawn anew!
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to you.
Prone to wander, I can feel it, wander from the love I've known:
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for your very own.

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 Anna and Simeon,
whose law makes known the gift of life, whose love exposes our hardness of
heart: by your Spirit, may we receive your faithful word and know your
reconciling presence offered for all the world; through Jesus Christ, the Light
and Glory of God. **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: Malachi 3:1-4

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 84

How dear to me is your dwelling, O Lord of hosts! My soul has a desire and
longing for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh rejoice in the
living God.

The sparrow has found her a house and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; by the side of your altars, O Lord of hosts, my Sovereign and my God.

Happy are they who dwell in your house! They will always be praising you.
Happy are the people whose strength is in you, whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way!

Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.

They will climb from height to height, and you, the God of gods, will reveal yourself in Zion.

Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; hearken, O God of Jacob.

Behold our defender, O God; and look upon the face of your anointed.

For one day in your courts is better than a thousand in my own room, and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God than to dwell in the tents of the wicked.

For you, Lord God, are both sun and shield; you will give grace and glory; no good thing will you withhold, O Lord, from those who walk with integrity.

O Lord of hosts, happy are they who put their trust in you!

The Second Reading: Hebrews 2:14-18

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

Dunedin |Vernon Griffiths, Horatius Bonar

O Love of God, how strong and true,
Eternal and yet ever new;
Uncomprehended and unbought,
Beyond all knowledge and all thought.

O wide embracing, wondrous Love,
We read thee in the sky above;
We read thee in the earth below,
In seas that swell and streams that flow.

We read thee best in him who came
To bear for us the cross of shame,
Sent by the Father from on high,
Our life to live, our death to die.

We read thy power to bless and save
E'en in the darkness of the grave;
Still more in resurrection light
We read the fullness of thy might.

The Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

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/>

Spirit, Open My Heart | Traditional Irish Melody, Ruth Duck

Refrain

Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving,
Spirit, open my heart.

God, replace my stony heart with a heart that's kind and tender.
All my coldness and fear to your grace I now surrender.

Refrain

Write your love upon my heart as my law, my goal, my story.
In each thought, word, and deed, may my living bring you glory.

Refrain

May I weep with those who weep, share the joy of sister, brother.
In the welcome of Christ, may we welcome one another.

Refrain

Prayer over the Gifts

God of life and freedom,
we celebrate the revelation of Jesus as the Christ who makes all creation
new. Accept all we offer you this day and make us new in him, who is Lord
for ever and ever. **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.

Holy God, Lover of creation,
we give you thanks and praise for in the ocean of your steadfast love you
bear us and place the song of your Spirit in our hearts.

When we turn from your love and defile the earth, you do not abandon us.
Your Spirit speaks through Huldah and Micah, through prophets, sages, and
saints in every age, to confront our sin and reveal the vision of your new
creation. Joining in the song of the universe we proclaim your glory singing:

**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**

Gracious God,
in the fullness of time you sent Jesus the Christ
to share our fragile humanity.
Through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection
you open the path from brokenness to health,
from fear to trust, from pride and conceit
to reverence for you.

Rejected by a world that could not bear the Gospel of life,
Jesus knew death was near. His head anointed for burial
by an unknown woman, Jesus gathered together those who loved him.
He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it and gave it to his friends,
saying, "Take and eat: this is my body which is given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper, Jesus took the cup of wine, gave you thanks,
and said "Drink this all of you, this is my blood of the new covenant which is
shed for you and for many. Whenever you drink it, do this for the
remembrance of me."

And now we gather at this table in response to his commandment, to share
the bread and cup of Christ's undying love, and to proclaim our faith.
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Breathe your Holy Spirit, the wisdom of the universe, upon these gifts that
we bring to you: this bread, this cup, ourselves, our souls and bodies,

that we may be signs of your love for all the world and ministers of your transforming purpose.

Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours, Creator of all, and we bless your holy name 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 the bread of life, and that life is the light of the world.

God here among us, light in the midst of us, bring us to light and life.

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.

God's Eye Is On The Sparrow | Civilla Martin, Charles Gabriel

Why should I feel discouraged, why should the shadows come,
Why should my heart be lonely and long for heaven and home,
When God is ever my portion? My constant friend will be:
God's eye is on the sparrow, and I know God watches me.
God's eye is on the sparrow, and I know God watches me.

I sing because I'm happy, I sing because I'm free,
God's eye is on the sparrow, and I know God watches me.

"Let not your heart be troubled," Christ's tender word I hear,
And resting on God's goodness, I let go of my fears;
Though by the path God leads me but one step I may see:
God's eye is on the sparrow, and I know God watches me.
God's eye is on the sparrow, and I know God watches me.

I sing because I'm happy, I sing because I'm free,
God's eye is on the sparrow, and I know God watches me.

Whenever I am tempted, whenever clouds arise,
When song gives way to sighing, when hope within me dies,
When times seem only in turmoil, despair is all I can see:
God's eye is on the sparrow, and I know God watches me.
God's eye is on the sparrow, and I know God watches me.

I sing because I'm happy, I sing because I'm free,
God's eye is on the sparrow, and I know God watches me.

We Are Sent

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

We pray silently.

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of 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

Land of Rest | American Folk Melody, Annabel Buchanan, Brian Wren

I come with joy to meet my Lord,

Forgiven, loved, and free,

In awe and wonder to recall

His life laid down for me.

I come with Christians far and near

To find, as all are fed,

The new community of love

In Christ's communion bread.

As Christ breaks bread and bids us share,
Each proud division ends.
That love that made us makes us one,
And strangers now are friends.

And thus with joy we meet our Lord.
His presence, always near,
Is in such friendship better known:
We see and praise him here.

Together met, together bound,
We'll go our different ways,
And as his people in the world
We'll live and speak his praise.

Sending

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Announcements

Meal @ Friel – Our next meal at Friel is February 12th. Please sign up for future meals and let's continue to make a difference in the lives of students! The remainder of the meals are: February 26, March 12, March 26.

Community Compassion: Strategies to Support Vulnerable Individuals - February 19 and 20th 630-9pm we are partnering with Centre 454 to offer this important training, all are invited and will benefit. Please talk to Rev. Michael for more information.

Coldest Night of the Year - is a winterrific family-friendly fundraising walk in support of local charities. **St. Albans** has registered our team "**Walking With Hope**" as part of Ottawa Lowertown Location Walk in support of 2 local charities: Jericho Road & Capital City Mission. **We Walk February 22, 2025!** Click on this link to join our team, walk, fundraise or encourage our St. Albans walkers with a team donation.

<https://secure.e2rm.com/registrator/TeamFundraisingPage.aspx?teamID=1026271> To find out more about CNOY check out this video https://cnoy.org/video_changethetune

Cleaning Bee – On February 23rd join us for our quarterly church cleaning bee, after church. Pizza will be served, and we will clean!

Vestry – St. Albans annual meeting will be after church (about 11:45am) on March 2. More details to follow.

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

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