

January 5, 2025
at 10:00 am

The Booklet

Epiphany!
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

This is Creator's World | Maltbie D Babcock

This is Creator's world, and to my listening ears

All nature sings, and round me rings

The music of the spheres.

This is Creator's world: I rest me in the thought

Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas--

His hand the wonders wrought.

This is Creator's world: the birds their carols raise,

The morning light, the lily white,

Declare their Maker's praise.

This is Creator's world: He shines in all that's fair;

In the rustling grass I hear Him pass,

He speaks to me everywhere.

This is Creator's world: O let me ne'er forget

That though the wrong seems oft so strong,

God is the Ruler yet.

This is Creator's world: why should my heart be sad?

The Lord is King: let the heavens ring!

God reigns; let earth be glad!

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.

Creator of the heavens,

who led the Magi by a star to worship the Christ-child: guide and sustain us,
so that we may find our journey's end in Jesus Christ our Lord. **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 60:1-6

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the king's son;
that he may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice;
that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, and the little hills
bring righteousness.

**He shall defend the needy among the people, rescuing the poor and
crushing the oppressor.**

He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to
another.

**He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, like showers that
water the earth.**

In his time shall the righteous flourish; there shall be abundance of peace
till the moon shall be no more.

**The rulers of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute, and the rulers of
Arabia and Saba offer gifts.**

All rulers shall bow down before him, and all the nations do him service.

**For he shall deliver the poor who cries out in distress and the oppressed
who has no helper.**

He shall have pity on the lowly and poor and shall preserve the lives of the
needy.

**He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence, and dear shall
their blood be in his sight.**

The Second Reading: Ephesians 3:1-12

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

In The Bleak Midwinter | Christina Rossetti, Gustav Holst

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan

Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone

Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow

In the bleak midwinter, long, long ago

Our God, Heaven cannot hold Him, or earth sustain
Heaven and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign
In the bleak mid-winter a stable-place sufficed
Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ

Angels and archangels may have gathered there
Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air
But only His mother in her maiden bliss
Worshiped the Beloved with a kiss

What can I give Him poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would give a lamb
If I were a wise man, I would do my part
Yet what I can, I give Him; give my heart

The Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

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.

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.**

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/>

You Say| Lauren Daigle

I keep fighting voices in my mind that say I'm not enough
Every single lie that tells me I will never measure up
Am I more than just the sum of every high and every low
Remind me once again just who I am because I need to know

You say I am loved when I can't feel a thing
You say I am strong when I think I am weak
And you say I am held when I am falling short
And when I don't belong, oh You say I am Yours
And I believe, oh I believe what You say of me

The only thing that matters now is everything You think of me
In You I find my worth, in You I find my identity

You say I am loved when I can't feel a thing
You say I am strong when I think I am weak
And you say I am held when I am falling short
And when I don't belong, oh You say I am Yours
Taking all I have, and now I'm laying it at Your feet
You have every failure, God, You have every victory

You say I am loved when I can't feel a thing
You say I am strong when I think I am weak
And you say I am held when I am falling short
And when I don't belong, oh You say I am Yours

Prayer over the Gifts

Good and loving God,
we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be a blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, 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, 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, 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

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.*

Never See The End | Jessica Ray Langdon

Where can we run? Where can we hide
That You will not find us?
Deepest of depths, highest of heights
Your love, it chases us
No matter where we've been, no matter what we've done
We can't escape Your love

We will never see the end, we will never see the end
Of Your goodness (repeat)

Though we pass through the fire, or we pass through the flood
You will be with us

Though we walk through the valley, the darkest of night
Your love will be our light
When we are in plenty or we are in want
You will always be enough

We will never see the end, we will never see the end
Of Your goodness (repeat)

In our darkest hours, on our hardest days
We do not have to be afraid
For You will never leave, You will not forsake
The promises that You have made
(And we can say that)

We will never see the end, we will never see the end
Of Your goodness (repeat)

We Are Sent

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

We pray silently.

**Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation,
and in this meal we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh
in us, so that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made
known to us in 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

It Is Well | Horatio Gates Spafford

When peace like a river attendeth my way

When sorrows like sea billows roll

Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say

It is well, it is well, with my soul

It is well with my soul

It is well, it is well with my soul

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come

Let this blest assurance control

That Christ has regarded my helpless estate

And hath shed His own blood for my soul

It is well (it is well) with my soul (with my soul)

It is well, it is well with my soul

My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!

My sin, not in part but the whole

Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, o my soul!

It is well (it is well) with my soul (with my soul)

It is well, it is well with my soul

Sending

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Announcements

Meal @ Friel – Our first meal at Friel is January 15th. Please sign up and let's start off this semester well!

Non-Violent Crisis Intervention Training - 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.

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

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