

St. Alban's

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

welcomes you



The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Holy Eucharist: Rite II

December 21, 2025

10:30 a.m.

Welcome to St. Alban's Episcopal Church!

If you are new today, we are very glad you are here. There is a Welcome Desk to the right of the front doors, under the blue and gold banner. Look for a friendly Greeter to answer any questions or point you in the right direction. Please complete a newcomer form at the Welcome Desk so that we can be in touch and send you our newsletter. We would love to get to know you and become your spiritual home.

Our Building

Our worship area/sanctuary is called the *nave*, which comes from a Latin word for “ship” because the ceiling of a church resembles the upside-down hull of a boat, and the people within are on a journey together with Christ.

The upstairs lobby area is called the *narthex*. Adjacent is the Reflection Room, which is used for meetings and classes. The hallway off the narthex leads to the office and the stairs.

Upstairs restrooms are located just off the narthex. A gender neutral/family restroom with a changing table is available in the Reflection Room.

You can access the lower floor by staircase or elevator. Once downstairs, turn left to find the nursery, Sunday School classrooms for children, and additional restrooms. Turn right to find the choir room, the youth room, and the parlor, which leads to the Parish Hall and another gender neutral/family restroom.

Worship

Our bulletin will guide you through the service. At times, the congregation will be invited to stand or kneel, but feel free to participate in whatever way is comfortable for you. Responses spoken by the congregation are included in the bulletin, and the full text of any parts not printed in the bulletin can be found in *The Book of Common Prayer* (the book with the cross on the cover) or the hymnal—see your bulletin for the page numbers. Hymnals and prayer books can be found beneath the chairs.

If you are new to Episcopal worship, feel free to simply listen and let the rhythms and cadences of the service wash over you. With time, you will find that many of the words in the service become imprinted on your heart.

Nametags

God calls us each by name, and we want to be able to call one another by name too. We encourage everyone to wear a nametag each time you come to church. If you need a nametag, a Greeter can help you in the narthex. When not in use, we have magnetic storage boards for nametags both upstairs in the narthex and downstairs in the parlor—feel free to pick the station closest to the entrance you tend to use most often.

Children

Children of all ages are always welcome in worship. The sounds of children in church are the sounds of a living, thriving church! Sitting close to the front can help little ones be more engaged in the service. Crayons and a coloring page are available just outside the nave. Sometimes kids (and adults!) need a little break, so feel free to visit the narthex or Reflection Room for more wiggle space if that would be helpful.

If desired, our nursery (for ages 3 and under) is open from 10:15 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. It is located downstairs in the Sunday School area. The nursery is staffed by a mix of volunteers and paid attendants, often Davidson College students. All nursery attendants have had background checks and follow safe church procedures.

Sunday School for ages 4 - 12th grade begins at 10:15 a.m. downstairs. Students will return to the nave during the Passing of the Peace, so that families can be together for Communion.

Refreshments & Fellowship

Following the service, all are invited to the Parish Hall for coffee, snacks, and friendly conversation. Whether you're a newcomer or a longtime member, you are encouraged to find someone you haven't met before and say hello!

The Word of God

*Thank you for worshiping with us today. In order to allow for private prayer, we ask that you refrain from loud conversation upon entering the nave. *The congregation is invited to stand as able when indicated by an asterisk.*

The Prelude: From Heaven Above to Earth I Came

Samuel David Gattermann

***The Processional Hymn: 56, O Come, O Come, Emmanuel,** *stanzas 7 & 8* VENI, VENI, EMMANUEL

***The Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

***The Opening Acclamation**

Book of Common Prayer (BCP) p. 355

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

***The Collect for Purity**

BCP p. 355

***The Kyrie: S 96**

Lord, have mercy

Schubert/Proulx

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy, have mer - cy.

***The Collect of the Day**

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson

Isaiah 7:10-16

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18 *Read responsively by half verse.*

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *

shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *

stir up your strength and come to help us.

Restore us, O God of hosts; *

show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

O Lord God of hosts, *

how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?

You have fed them with the bread of tears; *

you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *

and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

Restore us, O God of hosts; *

show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, *

the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.

And so will we never turn away from you; *

give us life, that we may call upon your Name.

Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; *

show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

The Second Lesson

Romans 1:1-7

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

***The Sequence Hymn: 640, Watchman, tell us of the night**

ABRIDGE

Stanzas 1-2 are sung before the Gospel, stanza 3 is sung following the Gospel.

***The Gospel**

Matthew 1:18-25

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Rev. Leslie Nuñez Steffensen

***The Nicene Creed**

BCP p. 358

Celebrant and People

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

***The Prayers of the People**

The congregation is invited to stand or kneel as able. Please read together the names on our prayer list, when prompted.

Deacon

As we anticipate the coming of our Lord, let us offer our prayers for the Church, the world, and all who are in need.

Intercessor

God of migrants and mangers, you are on the move. Be with us in every step along our Advent journey, and help us to wait for your Son with our hearts, minds, and doors wide open to receive him. In the stable of our hearts, **make room for our Christ.**

God of hope, give to your Church a hunger for justice and the will to welcome those who come seeking shelter and compassion. In the stable of our hearts, **make room for our Christ.**

God of peace, you sustained Abraham, Sarah, Ruth, Naomi, Mary, and Joseph on their sacred journeys. We ask you to protect and sustain all your people who are on the move. Help us break down the divisive barriers of our world. In the stable of our hearts, **make room for our Christ.**

God of joy, you accompany us in seasons of gladness and of sorrow. Bring comfort and healing to all who suffer. Together, we pray for... In the stable of our hearts, **make room for our Christ.**

God of love, we are grateful for your promise of eternal life. Embrace and welcome home all who have ended their earthly pilgrimage. In the stable of our hearts, **make room for our Christ.**

Celebrant

God of migrants and mangers, you are on the move. Move ever more deeply into our hearts, that they will be ready to greet your Son Jesus, in whose Holy Name we pray. **Amen.**

The Confession & Absolution

BCP p. 360

The congregation is invited to kneel as able.

Celebrant

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. *Silence is kept.*

Celebrant and People

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 neighbors 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.

***The Exchange of the Peace**

BCP p. 360

The people greet one another in the name of the Lord.

The Greeting and Announcements

The Holy Communion

The Offertory Anthem: Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

Peter Niedmann

Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord. To utilize our text-to-give option, simply text "ALBANS" to 73256.

***The Presentation of Gifts**

***At the Presentation: 76, On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry, stanza 5**

WINCHESTER NEW

All praise, eternal Son, to thee,
whose advent doth thy people free;
whom with the Father we adore
and Holy Spirit evermore.

***The Great Thanksgiving, Prayer B**

BCP p. 367

***The Sursum Corda**

Celebrant *People*
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Celebrant *People*
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

The Celebrant continues.

***The Sanctus: S 124**

Holy, holy, holy

David Hurd

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, hea - ven and
earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Celebrant: Therefore, according to his command, O Father,
 People: **we remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection, we await his coming in glory;**

Celebrant *People*
A-men.

BCP p. 364

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

David Hurd

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world:
have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

BCP p. 365

All are welcome to gather at the Lord's table. At the appropriate time, you may come forward to the altar rail, filling in from right to left. Kneeling is optional. Gluten-free wafers are available; please make your need known to the clergy. Wine is available either by sipping from the common cup (silver chalice) or by intinction (dipping the wafer into the pottery chalice). If you are choosing the common cup, it will be stationed in front of the altar rail in the center – please make your way there after consuming your wafer at the rail. If you choose to intinct, please remain where you are and hold your wafer visibly to indicate that is your preference. Please take utmost care to keep your fingers from touching the wine as you dip. You may choose to receive only the bread or the wine, as either one alone is a full Communion. Please tell an usher if you need Communion brought to you. In the Episcopal Church, it is customary that those receiving Communion have been baptized in any Christian tradition, and no one who comes to the altar in faith is turned away. If you would like to learn more about Baptism at St. Alban's, please be in touch with the clergy. If you are not receiving Communion, we hope you will come forward and cross your arms over your chest, so that we might share a blessing with you.

**The Communion Hymns: 324, Let all mortal flesh keep silence
60, Creator of the stars of night**

PICARDY
CONDITOR ALME

***The Post Communion Prayer**

BCP p. 366

The congregation is invited to stand or kneel as able.

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; 7and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

***The Blessing**

***The Recessional Hymn: 57, Lo, he comes with clouds descending**

HELMSLEY

***The Dismissal**

BCP p. 366

People: Thanks be to God.

The Postlude: The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns

David N. Johnson

*Thank you to Lois Buesser, who is serving as our interim organist and
choir director during our time of staff transition.*

Copyright Notices: S-96: (c) 1985, S-124: (c) 1981, S-161: (c) 1981, ALL (c) by G.I.A. Publications, Inc.; Hymn 56, *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*, tune Veni Emmanuel, stanzas 7-8: public domain; Hymn 640, *Watchman, tell us of the night*, tune Abridge: public domain; Hymn 76, *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*, tune Winchester new, stanza 5: public domain; Hymn 324, *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*, tune Picardy: public domain; Hymn 60, *Creator of the Stars of Night*, tune Conditor alme: public domain; Hymn 57, *Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending*, tune Helmsley: public domain; *From Heaven Above to Earth I Came*, Samuel David Gattermann: (c) The Leopold Foundation; *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*, music by Peter Niedmann: (c) 1997 Augsburg Publishing; *The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns*, David N. Johnson: (c) Augsburg Publishing House.

Welcome to St. Alban's!

Together We...*Gather to Worship, Scatter to Serve, Love Like Jesus*



We pray that your worship with us will bring you the grace, peace, and joy of Christ. If you are new to our faith community, we would love to connect with you. Please fill out a purple sheet located on the Welcome Center table in the narthex or scan the QR code to the left with the camera on your smart phone which will direct you to an online newcomer form.

St. Alban's is a Parish in the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina

The Right Reverend Samuel Sewall Rodman, III, Bishop of North Carolina

The Right Reverend Jennifer Brooke-Davidson, Assistant Bishop

The Clergy and Staff

The Reverend Carmen Germino, Rector

The Reverend Kevin Lloyd, Associate Rector

Davidson College Campus Minister

The Reverend Leslie Nuñez Steffensen, Priest Associate

Bob Beckham, Acting Facility Manager

Jessica Ewell, Parish Administrator and Communications Director

Courtney Fossett, Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry

Erin Garrett, Director of Finance

Matt Presson, Director of Children's Choir and Stream Team

Nadia Rahaim, Preschool Director

The Vestry of St. Alban's

Denise Badgett, Sandy Beetner, Zee Berl, Connor Fulton, Gordon Garrett, Matthew Goodson, Sarah Hicks, James Kennedy, Mike Kingsley, Annamarie Klemm, Mike McDonnell, Dave Pylipow



301 Caldwell Lane, Davidson, NC 28036

Office: 704-892-0173 | Preschool: 704-892-8955 | www.saintalbansdavidson.org



The paper in this bulletin is made with recycled post-consumer fiber and from certified sustainably managed forests.