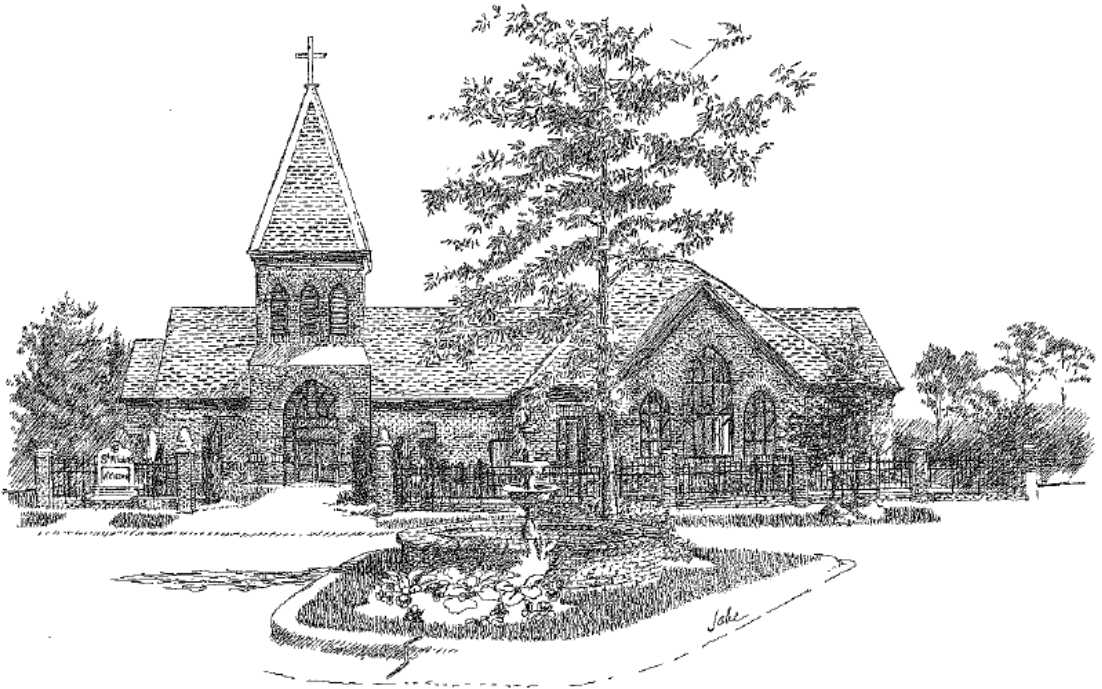


# St. Alban's

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

*welcomes you*



## **The Second Sunday of Advent**

Holy Eucharist: Rite II

December 7, 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:** Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Roberta Rowland-Raybold

**\*The Processional Hymn: 56 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel,** *stanzas 3 & 4* 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.

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## The First Lesson

Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19** *Read responsively by half verse.*

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; \*

**he shall rescue the poor and crush 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.**

Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, \*

**who alone does wondrous deeds!**

And blessed be his glorious Name for ever! \*

**and may all the earth be filled with his glory. Amen. Amen.**

## The Second Lesson

Romans 15:4-13

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just

as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name"; and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope." May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**\*The Sequence Hymn: 75, There's a voice in the wilderness crying**

ASCENSION

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

**\*The Gospel**

**Matthew 3:1-12**

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

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**The Sermon**

The Rev. Carmen Germino

**\*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.

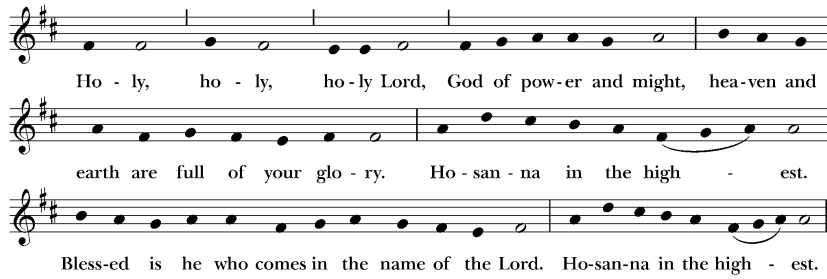
*Silence is kept.*



**\*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.

*The Celebrant continues. The congregation is invited to stand or kneel as able.*

**Celebrant:** Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

**People:** we remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection, we await his coming in glory;

*The Celebrant continues.*



*Celebrant* *People*  
 A-men.

**\*The Lord's Prayer**

*BCP p. 364*

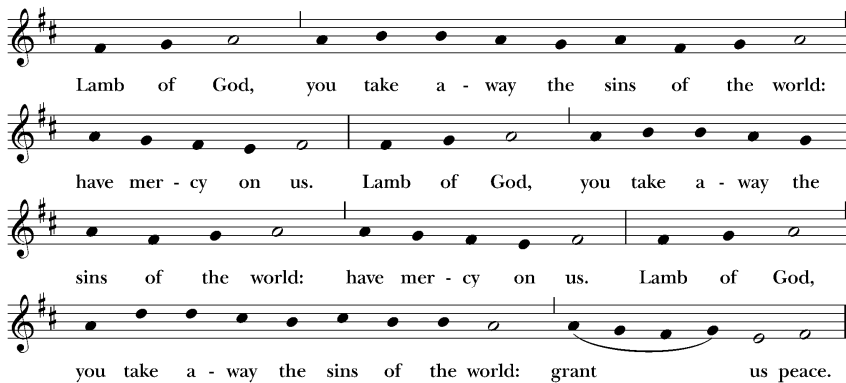
*Celebrant and People*

**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.**

**\*The Fraction Anthem: S 161**

**Lamb of God**

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.

## The Ministration of Communion

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 Anthem: Magnificat

Children's Choir

## The Communion Hymn: 81, Lo, how a rose e'er blooming

ES IST EIN ROS

## \*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; and 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: 66, Come, thou long-expected Jesus

STUTT GART

## \*The Dismissal

BCP p. 366

Deacon: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

## The Postlude: Hark, the Glad Sound!

C.S. Lang

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## 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

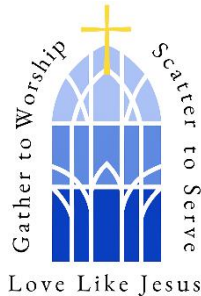
**Erin Garrett**, Director of Finance

**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



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