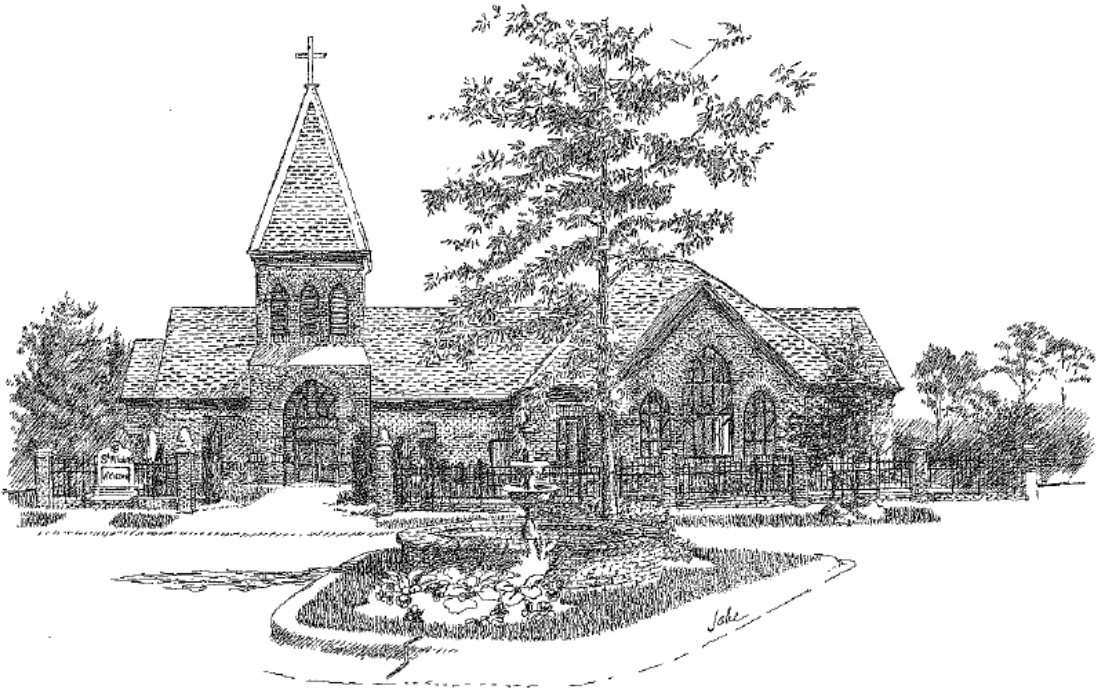


St. Alban's

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

welcomes you



The Third Sunday of Advent

Holy Eucharist: Rite II

December 15, 2024

10:30 a.m.

Holy Eucharist: Rite Two

Welcome to St. Alban's! 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. Page numbers in the bulletin refer to The Book of Common Prayer (BCP), the book with the cross on the cover. Hymnals and Prayer Books can be found beneath the seats. If you choose to kneel for parts of the service, please use the kneeler beneath your own chair. Children of all ages are always welcome in worship. Crayons and a Bible story coloring page are available on the table just outside the doors to the nave. If desired, our nursery is available for children age three and under, and is located downstairs. Sunday School for ages four-12th grade takes place from 10:15-11:00 a.m., with the children returning to the nave at the Exchange of the Peace. *The congregation is invited to stand as able when indicated by an asterisk.

The Word of God

The Prelude: Herald, Sound the Note of Judgment (Hymn 70) Robert Powell
The Clouds of Judgment Gather Irish melody, arr. David Paxton

***The Processional Hymn: 56 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, stanzas 5 & 6 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.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Canticle 9: The First Song of Isaiah

Isaiah 12:2-6

Read responsively by half verse.

Surely, it is God who saves me; *

I will trust in him and not be afraid.

For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, *

and he will be my Savior.

Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing *

from the springs of salvation.

And on that day you shall say, *

Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;

Make his deeds known among the peoples; *

see that they remember that his Name is exalted.

Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, *

and this is known in all the world.

Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, *

for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

The Second Lesson

Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

*The Sequence Hymn: 70 Herald, Sound the Note of Judgment

HERALD, SOUND

Stanzas 1 & 2 are sung before the Gospel, stanzas 3 & 4 are sung after.

*The Gospel

Luke 3:7-18

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

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

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin 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." And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages." As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

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

In this Advent season, as we await the coming of Christ, let our expectant souls join with Mary, rejoicing in God our Savior, for the Almighty One has done great things for us, and holy is God's name.

Intervenor

God of hope, magnify the faith of your Church so that all flesh shall see your salvation in us and through us. Empower us to reach out to a world in desperate need of your goodness. We thank you for sending your Son to be with us, for you have done great things for us, **and holy is your name.**

God of peace, magnify the wisdom of the leaders of our nation and world. Protect all your children who face the perils of war, violence, or persecution. We thank you for the witness of your Son and his commitment to justice, for you have done great things for us, **and holy is your name.**

God of joy, magnify our gratitude for all our blessings. Help us take holy pauses in this busy season. We thank you for the gift of this community, for you have done great things for us, **and holy is your name.**

God of love, magnify our compassion for ourselves and our neighbors. You have lifted up the lowly, filled those who are hungry, and comforted all who are in need of healing. We pray especially for... Be with us as we mourn for those who dwell with you in eternity. We thank you for the mercy you bestow upon us all, for you have done great things for us, **and holy is your name.**

Celebrant

Almighty One, hear these prayers of your people. Hasten the coming of your kingdom, and grant that we your servants may rejoice to behold your Son at his birth and his return. **Amen.**

The Confession & Absolution

BCP p. 360

The congregation is invited to kneel as able.

Deacon

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: Comfort, Comfort Now My People

arr. John Ferguson

Please see Hymn 67 for the words of the anthem.

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**

***Doxology: Hymn 324 King of Kings, Born of Mary, Stanza 2**

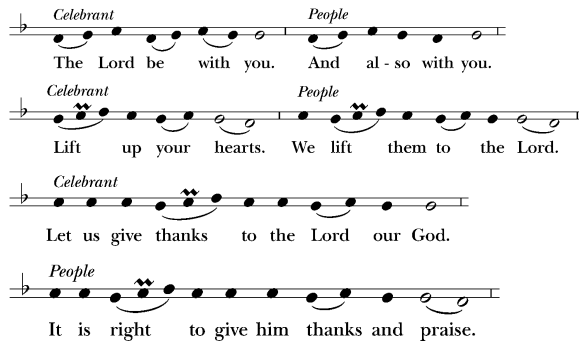
PICARDY

King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords in human vesture, in the body and the blood
he will give to all the faithful his own self for heavenly food.

***The Great Thanksgiving, Prayer A**

BCP p. 361

***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 125**

Holy, Holy, Holy

Richard Proulx

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

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

Celebrant: Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

People: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

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.

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 choose to intinct, please 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 Hymn: Rejoice in the Lord Always (sing twice)

Evelyn Turner

1 F C7 F
 Re - joice in the Lord al - ways, and a - gain I say, re - joice!
 2 C7 F
 Re - joice in the Lord al - ways, and a - gain I say, re - joice!
 3 C7 F
 Re - joice! Re - joice! And a - gain I say re - joice!
 4 C7 F
 Re - joice! Re - joice! And a - gain I say re - joice!

The Communion Hymn: 640 Watchman, Tell Us of the Night

ABERYSTWYTH

***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: 76 On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry**

WINCHESTER NEW

***The Dismissal**

BCP p. 366

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Postlude: Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

Swedish folk tune

Altar Arrangement

The altar arrangement this morning is given to the glory of God by Bob Beckham, in loving memory of Donna Bierfischer Beckham and remembrance of her birthday on December 12th.

Welcome to St. Alban's!



St. Alban's is a friendly, inclusive, and growing congregation that seeks to honor the Lord Jesus Christ through worship, fellowship, and outreach. 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

The Reverend Valerie Davis, Deacon

John Bailey, Organist and Choirmaster

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

Connor Fulton, Matthew Goodson, Sarah Hicks, James Kennedy, Annamarie Klemm, Allison Kratt, Mike McDonnell, Cheryl Nealy, Dave Pylipow, Mike Sass, Joseph Torok



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