

St. Alban's

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

welcomes you



The Third Sunday of Advent

Holy Eucharist: Rite II

December 14, 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

***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

Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 146:4-9 *Read responsively by half verse.*

Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! *

whose hope is in the Lord their God;

Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; *

who keeps his promise for ever;

Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, *

and food to those who hunger.

The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind; *

the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;

The Lord loves the righteous; the Lord cares for the stranger; *

he sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

The Lord shall reign for ever, *

your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!

The Second Lesson

James 5:7-10

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

***The Sequence Hymn: 76, On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry**

WINCHESTER NEW

Stanzas 1-2 are sung before the Gospel, stanzas 3-4 are sung following the Gospel.

***The Gospel**

Matthew 11:2-11

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

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

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me." As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' "Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon

The Rev. Kevin Lloyd

***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.

Intervenor

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:

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, verse 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 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 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

The Celebrant continues.



*The Lord's Prayer

BCP p. 364

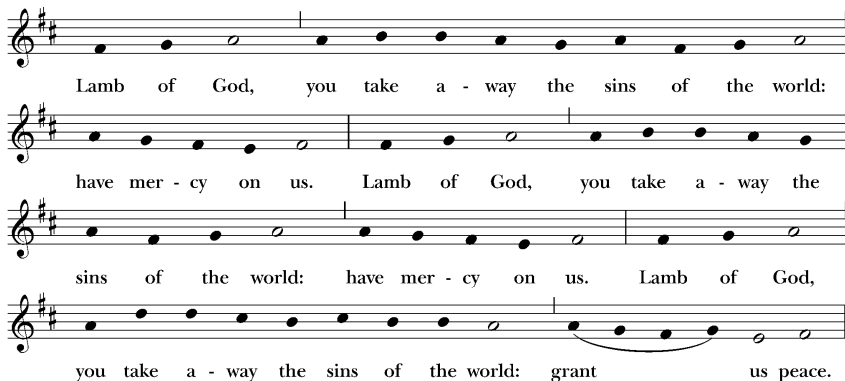
Celebrant and People

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



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 Hymns: 376, Joyful, joyful we adore Thee
481, Rejoice, the Lord is King**

HYMN TO JOY
GOPSAL

***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: 67, Comfort, comfort ye my people**

PSALM 42

***The Dismissal**

BCP p. 366

People: Thanks be to God.

The Postlude

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

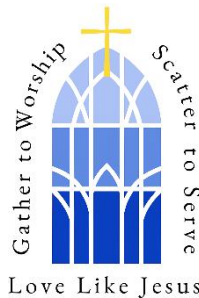
Erin Garrett, Director of Finance

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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