

ST ALBANS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST



SUNDAY, JANUARY 5, 2025

9:30AM

THE REVEREND DR WILLY CRESPO
INTERIM PRIEST

JUSTIN HANSEN, ORGANIST

Welcome Newcomers!

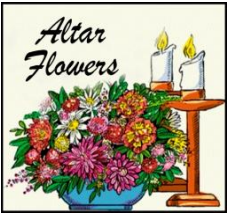
We are blessed to have you with us today. Please sign our newcomer's book at the back of the church, introduce yourself to the priest, and join us for coffee hour in the Parish Hall immediately after the service, just across the courtyard.

Our hope is that you find a home among us, in a place where the love of God is shared, the mystery of grace is experienced and the joy and laughter of the Christian life is taught.

To learn more about St. Alban's call the office at (619) 444-8212 or email us at: generalbusiness@stalbanschurch.info. Also, check out our website at www.st-albans-church.org.



Children are welcome in our worship! Sunday School is available in the building across the courtyard at 9:30am. The children return to their parents at the church for the Communion service.



Flowers are given today to the glory of God

Have you ever wondered how we get such beautiful flowers at St. Alban's on Sundays? They are paid for by parishioners who dedicate flowers to commemorate a special occasion such as an anniversary, a baptism, a birthday, a graduation, or in memory of departed loved ones. If you would like to dedicate flowers for a special occasion or memorial, you can do so by filling out a flower donation envelope found in the narthex (the main church entrance), place your check or cash in the envelope and put it in the offering plate or in one of the wooden boxes at the front or back of the church. Please remember to mark on your envelope who you are and who you are commemorating with your gift.

To maintain a peaceful worship environment, please silence your cell phone. Thank you!



ACCESSIBLE RESTROOMS ARE LOCATED IN THE PARISH HALL ACROSS THE COURTYARD

The Entrance Rite

Prelude

Please stand as you are able.

Opening Hymn – Hymnal 127 “Earth has many a noble city”

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

Celebrant: Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and charity; and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever, **Amen.**

Gloria – S280

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY –

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**

O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE WORD OF GOD

FIRST READING – Isaiah 60:1-6

Lector: A reading from the book of Isaiah.

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;

but the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.

Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;

your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.

Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,

because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.

They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

Lector: The word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God.

The Psalm – Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

BCP pg. 685-686

<p>1 Give the King your justice, O God, * and your righteousness to the King's Son;</p> <p>2 That he may rule your people righteously * and the poor with justice;</p> <p>3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, * and the little hills bring righteousness.</p> <p>4 He shall defend the needy among the people; * he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.</p> <p>5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, * from one generation to another.</p> <p>6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, * like showers that water the earth.</p>	<p>7 In his time shall the righteous flourish; * there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.</p> <p>10 The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute, * and the kings of Arabia and Saba offer gifts.</p> <p>11 All kings shall bow down before him, * and all the nations do him service.</p> <p>12 For he shall deliver the poor who cries out in distress, * and the oppressed who has no helper.</p> <p>13 He shall have pity on the lowly and poor; * he shall preserve the lives of the needy.</p> <p>14 He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence, * and dear shall their blood be in his sight.</p>
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THE NEW TESTAMENT – Ephesians 3:1-12

Lector: A reading from the book of Ephesians.

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles-- for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

Lector: The word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God.

A period of silence is kept.

SEQUENCE HYMN

THE GOSPEL – Matthew 2:1-12

Celebrant: The holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

All: **Glory to you Lord Christ.**

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,

are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;

for from you shall come a ruler

who is to shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon – The Reverend Dr Willy Crespo

Celebrant: Let us stand together and say the Nicene Creed.

The Nicene Creed

All say together:

**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.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE - (*Please stand or kneel if you are able*)

Intercessor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you**

Intercessor: Let us pray.

Intercessor: We pray for those around us as they live their lives.

People: **For those close, for those far away, and for those who have no one else to pray for them.**

Intercessor: For our communities, especially El Cajon.

People: **For friends, strangers, and the ties that keep them together.**

Intercessor: For our nation – we pray for wisdom for its leaders, particularly our President, and for the health and safety for those serving in the military. Especially Riley, Lindzy, Denny, Cris, Bryan, Matt, Clarence, David Nye, Kristyn, Donovan, Christopher and Joshua Ibanez, Brandon, Travis Warner, Phoenix Locken, and for all our veterans.

People: **May it shine forth as a beacon of nobility and compassion.**

Intercessor: We pray for this earth, your creation;

People: **That we may be faithful stewards of its bounty.**

Intercessor: We pray for unity in the Church, and peace for all its members;

People: **For those who spread your Gospel by word or by action.**

People: **We pray for the leaders of our church; for Sean our presiding bishop, Susan our bishop, Willy our interim priest, and for all bishops, priests and deacons.**

Intercessor: We pray for people in our world. Most especially for our Christian brothers and sisters in Ukraine, Myanmar (known as Burma), Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Egypt, Pakistan, Tunisia, Eritrea, Yemen, Nigeria, Somalia, Israel, and Palestine, and all places on earth where people are in danger and treated unfairly.

People: **Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Intercessor: We lift up to you our concerns, praying especially for: all who are refugees, Hilda Ro & family, Christine P, Judith Taylor, Victoria, Mike & Penny, Ralph McMillen, Georgina & Phil, Bonnie, George Elia, James M, Terri, Ken H, Steve V, Kent C, Ben, Mu Tay, Lothar, Barbara D, the family of Almas Issa, Jacky, Ihlam, Intissar, Nazar, Lisa H, Zina & Steven.

(Please take a few moments to express thanks to God either vocally or silently.)

Intercessor: We pray for those who have died.

People: **Grant rest to their souls and comfort to those they have left behind.**

Intercessor: Almighty God, we pray for the guidance of your Holy Spirit as we seek a new priest for our church. You know our special needs and the task that lies to our hand. Direct us in our search and give us insight to perceive the leader you would choose for us. And we further pray, O Lord, that in this time of waiting we may all devote ourselves afresh to your service, so that nothing be lost of the faithful work of the past, but rather that it may be brought to a rich harvest in the years to come. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Celebrant: Lord hear the prayers of your people; and what we have asked faithfully, grant that we may obtain effectually, to the glory of your name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

A period of silence is kept.

All say together:

**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.**

Absolution

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you † in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Please remember that Passing the Peace is part of our liturgy. It is a time to welcome each other and to share a phrase like: "The peace of the Lord be with you", and to hear a response in kind like "And also with you". It is not intended to be a time for discussion. It is better to keep discussions for before or after church, at Coffee Hour is a great place for fellowship. At this time, you are invited to greet others with a handshake, a wave or hug in peace as you are comfortable.

Announcements – *Sunday School students join their families.*

Special Prayers for Birthdays, Anniversaries, and Travelers: If you had a birthday, anniversary last week or this week, or if you are going to travel soon, please stand / come forward and we will pray for you.

Birthday: O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servant(s) _____ as *he/she/they* begin another year. Grant that *he/she/they* may grow in wisdom and grace and strengthen *his/her/their* trust in your goodness all the days of *his/her/their* life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Many happy returns on the day of your birth. May seasons of joy be given. May God in his mercy prepare you on earth for a beautiful birthday in heaven. Amen.

Anniversaries: Lord, we thank you for this couple _____ and for all of the years that they have had together. Today, as we celebrate their anniversary, our prayer is that you will continue to bless them. Lord, we pray that you will honor their commitment to each other and to You by granting them many more years of happiness together. Amen.

Travelers: O God, our heavenly Father, whose glory fills the whole creation, and whose presence we find wherever we go: Preserve those who travel _____; surround them with your loving care; protect them from every danger; and bring them in safety to their journey's end; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Children's Time with Father Willy

OFFERING PRAYER

Celebrant: Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving and make good your vows to the Most High. *Psalm 50:14*

OFFERTORY – *"We three kings" - Piano Solo – Justin Hansen*

Doxology – Hymnal 380 (all sing)
Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise him, all creatures here below.
Praise him above, ye heavenly hosts.
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost, Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Sursum Corda (Please stand, as you are able)

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: **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.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

The Sanctus – Hymnal S-130

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of power and might,

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of power and might,

**heaven and earth are full,
full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Hosanna in the highest.

Then the Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him.

Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom. All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever.

All: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Officiant: And now let us pray as our Lord has taught us:

(To be read in unison)

<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>
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THE HOLY COMMUNION

A moment of reverence is kept.

The Breaking of the Bread

The Invitation - Celebrant

This is the table, not of the church but of Jesus Christ.

It is made ready for those who love him and who want to love him more.

So come, you who have much faith and you who have little;

you who have been here often and you who have not been for a long time;

you who have tried to follow and you who have failed;

come, not because the church invites you; it is Christ, and he invites you to meet him here.

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Communion Hymn – Hymnal 112, “In the bleak midwinter”

Please stand as you are able.

Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant and People:

Eternal God, heavenly Father,

you have graciously accepted us as living members

of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,

and you have fed us with spiritual food

in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.

Send us now into the world in peace,

and grant us strength and courage

to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart;

through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing

Recessional Hymn – Lift Every Voice (LEV) 78, “Blessed be the name”

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

All: Thanks be to God. Postlude



PRAYERS



Please remember in your prayers, praying especially for: all who are refugees, Hilda Ro & family, Christine P, Judith Taylor, Victoria, Mike & Penny, Ralph McMillen, Georgina & Phil, Bonnie, George Elia, James M, Terri, Ken H, Steve V, Kent C, Ben, Mu Tay, Lothar, Barbara D, the family of Almas Issa, Jacky, Ihlam, Intissar, Nazar, Lisa H, Zina & Steven.

Pray for those serving in the military especially: Riley, Lindzy, Denny, Cris, Bryan, Matt, Clarence, David Nye, Kristyn, Donovan, Christopher and Joshua Ibanez, Brandon, Travis Warner, Phoenix Locken, and for all our veterans.

We pray for peace in the Holy Land most especially for our Christian brothers and sisters in Ukraine, Haiti, Myanmar (known as Burma), Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Egypt, Pakistan, Tunisia, Eritrea, Yemen, Nigeria, Somalia, Israel and Palestine, and all places on the earth where people are in danger and treated unfairly, who are suffering deprivation, torture, and death for confessing Christ as their Lord.

In our Diocesan cycle of prayer, we give thanks today for the Clergy and people of Holy Cross in Carlsbad. And also, for the growth of evangelism in the diocese.

In the Anglican cycle of prayer, we give thanks today for The Episcopal Church.

Participants in Today's In-Person and Online Worship

Interim Priest: The Reverend Dr Willy Crespo

Prayers: Judy Brown

Streaming Tech: Hsa Blu Moo

Verger: Judy Brown

Reader (English):

Gospel Readers: Arabic Nawal Yousif, Mary Zori, Jamil Shorees, Ibtisam Bashee, Nahrien Patak, Intissar Razoq, & Samir Karen Angelynn Than

Usher: Sharon Hathaway



Thank You for Your Support
During these challenging times, we
encourage you to support your home church.
If you have no home church and like what you see here
you may support St Alban's Ministries by going to:
<https://st-albans-church.org/giving>

Announcements for the week of 01/05/2025

2025 Kalendars are here

Get your 2025 Kalendar! The new Episcopal Kalendar is now available for 2025 for just \$5.00! A convenient size, and all the important dates relevant to the Episcopal calendar year are clearly designated with helpful information on the back of each month's page. Visit or call the St Alban's office, (T-F, 9am-1pm, 619-444-8212) and get yours today!

Weekly Bible Study on Zoom, with Fr Willy

Please join us on Wednesdays, 6-7pm, on Zoom. Contact Fr Willy for details.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83513559709> Meeting ID: 835 1355 9709 Passcode: 139092

Sunday School

Except on the 1st and 5th Sundays (see further information), Sunday School starts **each Sunday at 9:30 am**. The children will be attending in-person at St. Alban's Church in the Education Room. (If your child needs to attend the Sunday School via Zoom please contact Caroline Mahon Hurd for details.)

Children who attend the in-person Sunday School can join their families for communion during the church service.

We will not be having Sunday School on the 1st Sundays of each month. Please join us for the family service at church on those days.

On months with 5 Sundays: on the 5th Sunday please bring your children to service for a children's sermon!

Also, we welcome Laurie Ibanez to the Sunday School staff. Laurie will be occasionally assisting in Sunday School. She is a long-time member of our church. You may recognize her as one of our Vacation Bible School leaders. We really appreciate her service to our Sunday School!

Sunday School email: stalbansundayschool@gmail.com

Please use this email with any questions about Sunday School, or special needs attendance.

Where to Find Other St Alban's Regular Meetings

The Monthly Vestry meeting - **The Vestry meeting is on the 3rd SUNDAY of each month following the worship service.**

Sunday Worship Service at 9:30am, in our sanctuary, 490 Farragut Circle, El Cajon, CA 92020. If you cannot attend in person but have access to Facebook our services stream live on Sundays on our Facebook page. We hope you will join us there Sundays, at 9:30 am PDT

Bi-Lingual (Arabic) Eucharist Service at 8:30am, on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month followed by the food distribution pantry.

Regular Notices

Prayer Requests: To make a request for the prayer chain or bulletin or to update requests, please call the St Alban's office: 619-444-8212, or email: generalbusiness@stalbanschurh.info. You are also invited to add a prayer request to be read in our Sunday public prayers. Names added will be listed for three weeks only, unless otherwise requested. We can also now receive prayer requests through our website: www.st-albans-church.org

Parking: If you are able-bodied, please park in the lot on Camden or the side streets, saving the prime spots for those who require a closer parking space. Thank you!

Report Misconduct: As part of our ongoing commitment to creating a safe haven for everyone, our diocese trains people in the prevention of misconduct and encourages all to report misconduct. All reported incidents are taken seriously and investigated thoroughly and confidentially. If you believe you have experienced misconduct of any kind, please contact Mr. John Seitman, jseitman@pacbell.net, 858-793-4555 or the Rev. Janet Wheelock, jwheelock@edsd.org, 952-240-8067.

St. Alban's Episcopal Church
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