

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

The Liturgy of the Word



St. Alban's Episcopal Church

333 South Drexel Avenue
Bexley, OH 43209

Fr. J. Devin Rodgers, Presiding and Preaching
The Rev. Craig Foster, Deacon

March 27, 2022

At St. Alban's Episcopal Church we seek to be transformed by the Holy Spirit by welcoming the stranger, striving for justice, loving God and neighbor, and promoting peace.

The Word of God

WE GATHER AS THE BODY OF CHRIST...

WELCOME AND DIGITAL WORSHIP INSTRUCTIONS

OPENING ACCLAMATION

The Presider says

Blessed be the God of our salvation:
People *Who bears our burdens and forgives our sins.*

COLLECT FOR PURITY

The Presider may say

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Hear the commandments of God to the people:

I am the Lord your God who brought you out of bondage.
You shall have no other gods but me.
Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not make for yourself any idol.
Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not steal.
Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not be a false witness.
Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.
Amen. Lord have mercy. Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not invoke with malice the Name of the Lord your God.
Amen. Lord have mercy.

Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.
Amen. Lord have mercy.

Honor your father and your mother.
Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not commit murder.
Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not commit adultery.
Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not steal.
Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not be a false witness.
Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.
Amen. Lord have mercy.

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. *1 John 1:8,9*

CONFESSION OF SIN

The Deacon says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Minister 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.*

ABSOLUTION

The priest says:

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*

KYRIE

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider May God be with you.

People *And also with you.*

Presider Let us pray.

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

WE HEAR THE SACRED STORIES AND PRAY...

FIRST READING: *Joshua 5:9-12*

A Reading from the book of the prophet Joshua.

The LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

People *Thanks be to God.*

PSALM: *Psalms* 32

1 Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, *
and whose sin is put away!

2 Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt, *
and in whose spirit there is no guile!

3 While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, *
because of my groaning all day long.

4 For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; *
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.

5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you, *
and did not conceal my guilt.

6 I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." *
Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

7 Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of
trouble; *
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.

8 You are my hiding-place;
you preserve me from trouble; *
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

9 "I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; *
I will guide you with my eye.

10 Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; *
who must be fitted with bit and bridle,
or else they will not stay near you."

11 Great are the tribulations of the wicked; *
but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.

12 Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD; *
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

SECOND READING: *2 Corinthians 5:16-21*

A Reading from the second letter of Paul to the church in Corinth.

From now on, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God

Reader	Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.
People	<i>Thanks be to God.</i>

GOSPEL *Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32*

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

People *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

All the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

So Jesus told them this parable:

"There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."' So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe--the best one--and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

"Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working

like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.
People *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

THE SERMON

Fr. J. Devin Rodgers

SERMON SHARING

Following the sermon a longer period of silence is kept for reflection.

Presider: The Word is Very near you. It is in your mouth and in your heart. –
Dueteronomy 30:14

We complete the sermon together. If something you have heard this morning brings to mind a personal experience we invite you to raise your digital hand to share. Listen to one another and listen to the silence. God speaks to us in both.

The Preacher offers additional instructions and assistance through sermon sharing. Please keep reflections centered on something you or your own community have experienced. We will hear from 2-3 individuals during sermon sharing.

THE NICENE CREED

*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:¹
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.*

¹ At the following words it is appropriate to bow as an act of reverence for the Incarnation.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE²

Deacon Have mercy on us, O God, according to your loving kindness; in your great compassion, hear our prayers.

Intercessor We pray for the whole church, all leaders and ministers, and all the holy people of God.

Wash us through and through,
And cleanse us from our sin.

We pray for our nation, for all the nations of the earth, and for all who govern and judge. We pray for Partners in Ministry in Liberia, our Caring & Sharing partner this month.

Purge us from our sin,
And we shall be pure.

We pray for those who hunger, those who thirst, those who cry out for justice, those who live under the threat of terror, and those without a place to lay their head.

Make them hear of joy and gladness,
that those who are broken may rejoice.

We pray for those who are ill, those in pain, those under stress, and those who are lonely.

Give them the joy of your saving help,
and sustain them with your bountiful Spirit.

In this season of Lent we pray for those who prepare for baptism, and we pray that we all might be given the grace and strength to repent and grow closer to you, O God.

²The Prayers of the People are written by Rev. Rick Morley, rector of St. Mark's, Basking Ridge, NJ, and adapted with permission for use in worship.

Create in us clean hearts, O God,
and renew a right spirit within us.

We pray for those who have died, especially Bob Monsarrat and who have entered into the land of eternal Light and your abiding peace.

Cast them not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from them.

We especially pray for Tad, Joe, Laura, Ricky, Barbara, Peter, Tasha, Naomi, Jill, Luci, Karen, Chuck. Mary, Charlie, Linda, Penny, Brad & Irene, Mike, Kristi, Khadijah, Garth, P, Alexander, Louis, Maria, Edward & Mary, Gretchen, Emily, Mort, Pete & Linda, Mary & Mike, Nancy Maturo, Perry & Nancy, Ben Dysart, and all others on the parish prayer list.

We pray for all serving in the military especially, Jake, Aaron, Peter, Greg, Abbey, Sean, and Tyler and for those serving in places of danger, especially Steven, Anne, Sam, Ben and Maria.

We pray for people in war torn countries especially Ukraine and other places where people live in fear and danger, for world leaders, for refugees everywhere, for victims of gun violence, those suffering from COVID 19 and its variants, their caregivers and medical providers, and those suffering from depression world wide.

We pray for those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this week...

We pray for guidance and wisdom as our search team discerns and interviews candidates to be our next parish administrator and colleague in mission. May God lead us to finding and hiring the right person. May God bless the candidates in their own search for new and life-giving work and also bless our search team who has been charged with this act of service and discernment.

Presider Lord Jesus, you were tempted by the Evil One in the wilderness and yet did not succumb. Be present to us who live with temptation day by day, and give us your strength, and your amazing grace. *Amen.*

THE PEACE

Presider: The Peace of Christ be always with you.

People: *And also with you*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE OFFERTORY

Presider: Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.



You may use the camera on your smart phone to access the online giving platform.

Or you may use this link:

[Donations to St Alban's](#)

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

The Book of Common Prayer reminds us that if one is unable to actually consume the consecrated bread and wine due to extreme sickness or disability, the desire is enough for God to grant all the benefits of communion (BCP, p. 457).

When being present at a celebration of the Eucharist is absolutely impossible, this act of prayer and meditation can provide the means by which you can associate yourself with the Eucharistic Action and open yourself to God's grace and blessing.

Presider: IN UNION, BLESSED JESUS, with the faithful gathered at every altar of your Church where your blessed Body and Blood are offered this day, we long to offer you praise and thanksgiving, for creation and all the blessings of this life, for the redemption won for us by your life, death, and resurrection, for the means of grace and the hope of glory.

And particularly for the blessings given us. (the people pray in thanksgiving for their blessings silently or aloud) We believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament, and, since we cannot at this time receive communion, we pray you to come into our hearts. We unite ourselves with you and embrace you with all our hearts, our souls, and our minds. Let nothing separate us from you; let us serve you in this life until, by your grace, we are welcomed to your glorious kingdom and unending peace. *Amen.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

*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*

Presider and People: *Come Lord Jesus and dwell in my heart in the fullness of your strength; be my wisdom and guide me in right pathways; conform my life and actions to the image of your holiness; and, in the power of your gracious might, rule over every hostile power that threatens or disturbs the growth of your kingdom, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.*

WE ARE SENT OUT INTO THE WORLD.

BLESSING

The Priest blesses the people, saying

*Life is short,
And we do not have much time
to gladden the hearts of those who
make the journey with us.
So... be swift to love,
and make haste to be kind.
And the blessing of God,
who made us,
who loves us,
and who travels with us
be with you now and forever. AMEN*

DISMISSAL

Deacon Let us bless the Lord.
 Thanks be to God!

Servers in Worship Today

Presider

The Rev. J. Devin Rodgers

Deacon

The Rev. Craig Foster

Happening at St. Alban's

Sunday Worship beginning NEXT WEEK, April 3

We will offer 3 worship services

8:00 a.m. Rite I Holy Eucharist

In person in the church

9:30 a.m. Family Service

In person in the Klages Education Building (upstairs)

10:30 a.m. Rite II Holy Eucharist--In person in the church

Strategic Plan

Updated mission statement and more

The St. Alban's strategic planning committee worked with Emily Swanson of Holy Cow! Consulting over three day-long sessions in the summer of 2021 to develop our strategic plan. After we received Emily's report, the committee resumed meeting to refine the plan before presenting it to the vestry and congregation. The eleven-person committee used the input gathered from the entire congregation in the CAT survey as the basis for its work. The vestry has approved the core values, mission statement, and vision statement. The strategic planning committee is continuing its work by refining the strategic targets, goals, and milestones that will guide St. Alban's growth in the coming years. Look for more details to come.

Core Values

The core values represent what is of deep significance to our congregation.

- *Welcoming*
- *Outreach*
- *Faith and Commitment*
- *Holy Spirit*
- *Community and Connection*
- *Worship*

Mission Statement

Our mission statement embodies our theology and our core values. It will guide our entire congregation and help define what we do.

At St. Alban's Episcopal Church we seek to be transformed by the Holy Spirit by welcoming the stranger, striving for justice, loving God and neighbor, and promoting peace.

Vision statement

Our vision statement is our picture of a preferred future in the context of our mission statement.

To be a thriving Episcopal faith community where people feel loved, energized, equipped, and empowered to serve and make disciples.

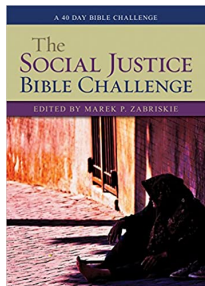
Update: Search for Next Parish Administrator

Our search for a new Parish Administrator continues. The closing date for submitting an application was March 15.

We've had over 100 views of our posted job and 27 applications. Fifteen candidates were ruled out because they lacked essential skills; we attempted to schedule initial interviews with the remaining 12 candidates and we were able to interview 6 candidates. We scheduled 3 for 2nd interviews. Fr. Devin will interview several candidates in the next few days.

We hope/anticipate that the new parish administrator will begin his/her work with us sometime in late April. Janet Lewis' last day as Parish Administrator is March 31st. Janet will continue in a part-time capacity as Finance Administrator and will assist in training the new parish administrator.

Lenten Formation gatherings
Wednesdays in Lent
7:00 - 8:00 pm



Adult Formation: In person gathering from 7:00-8:00 pm in the living room

We will use "*The Social Justice Bible Challenge*" as our reference for reflection and conversation.

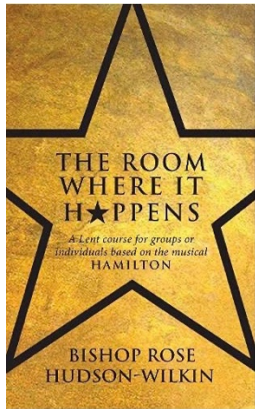
Here are the dates & leaders:

March 30: Kristen Fout

April 6: Fr. Devin

Books are \$15.00 --please write "Lenten Formation" in the memo line of your check--

The books are available at the church.



Young Adult Formation: Middle School -- College Adults

We will be gathering on Wednesday evenings **beginning March 9** at 7-8pm in the **EYC room in the Ed Building**.

The Room Where It Happens takes us on a Lenten journey exploring identity and belonging, ambition and temptation, forgiveness and redemption, love and sacrifice, and hope and courage through adversity utilizing the musical *Hamilton*.

We invite all middle school- college age folks to join us for this journey through Lent beginning March 9th.

Caring and Sharing

March's partner is: *Partners In Ministry In Liberia*

What is "Caring and Sharing?" --St. Alban's Social Concerns Committee selects an organization to receive the loose plate offering each month on Caring and Sharing Sunday. Contributions can also be made at any time during the month.

Liberia, on the west coast of Africa, has had ties with our country since 1822 when freed slaves from the United States were repatriated to that country in the belief that ex-slaves would have greater freedom and equality in Africa. Slaves freed from slave ships were also sent there instead of being returned to their countries of origin. In 1847, the Republic of Liberia was founded and a government modeled on that of the United States was established. The capital city, Monrovia, was named after James Monroe, the fifth President of the United States and a supporter of the colonization of Liberia.

Modernization followed investment by the United States during World War II. Liberia was a founding member of the United Nations. The 1980s brought a period of political and economic instability followed by two successive civil wars (1989 – 2003) leaving approximately 250,000 people dead and destroying the country's infrastructure and economy. Since a peace agreement in 2003 and democratic elections in 2005, Liberia is recovering from the lingering effects of the civil war and related health, education, and economic problems.

Partners-in-Ministry-in Liberia (PIMIL) was established in 2005 at St. Matthews Episcopal Church in Westerville by The Rev. Abeoseh Flemister (whose only brother was killed in the civil conflict) to focus on the education and health needs of the people in Liberia, an effort to rebuild the human resources of the country. St. Albans, guided by the Millennium Development Goals established by the United Nations and adopted by the Episcopal Church, has been a partner in this ministry since its inception. We were the primary sponsor of two

nursing students, who have graduated from Cuttington University in Liberia and are now helping others with their health needs. More recently, funding has been directed toward primary education of children. Due to COVID, many of PIMIL's fundraising and promotional activities have not been possible.

The Mission of PIMIL through education:

- Demonstrating God's Love through Jesus.
- Restoring Hope.
- Transforming Lives.
- Enabling Dreams.
- Helping to rebuild Liberia
- Fulfilling the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals 2015** and adopted by the Episcopal Church at the General Convention 2016. (An extension of the MDGs 2000)

In 2021, PIMIL paid tuition costs for 206 students and a record number of 26 new students were added to the PIMIL program due to COVID 19. The Ebola outbreak in 2014–2016 left numerous orphans. Many students sponsored by PIMIL are those orphaned or otherwise affected by the Ebola virus. In addition, PIMIL sent rice to help those who were hungry during the Ebola epidemic and the present pandemic and provided for a Christmas celebration for the children that will continue.

Caring and Sharing Sunday is March 13 when Mother Abeoseh (Abby) Flemister will share information About PIMIL with us. Contributions to Partners-in-Ministry-in-Liberia (PIMIL) our Caring and Sharing recipient for March may be made any time during the month of March. A check can be sent to the church payable to St. Alban's with Caring and Sharing, PIMIL in the memo line.

Reconciliation

"All may, some should, none must!"

On April 1 & April 8 --all are Friday dates from **9am-11am**, (or by appointment) Fr. Devin will be available for individuals desiring "*The Rite of Reconciliation*." This sacramental rite, often overlooked, misunderstood, and misnamed "confession" is beneficial to us and our relationship with God and one another as it helps us "let go" of burdens.

If you would like to schedule a time with Fr. Devin or have questions about this practice, please email him at [**rector@stalbans-bexley.org**](mailto:rector@stalbans-bexley.org).

You can learn more about Reconciliation on page 446 in the Book of Common Prayer.



**Volunteers Need to deliver
Easter Flowers
Please contact Ernestine Ujah**

Donations for Easter Flowers are welcomed through April 6

Upcoming Meetings

Choir: Every Thursday at 7:30 pm

Building & Grounds: regular meeting is 1st Tuesday of each month

Next meeting: April 5 -7:00 pm

We will meet in person in the Living Room.

Book Club: regular meeting is 2nd Monday of each month

Next meeting: April 11 7:00 pm

This meeting will be in person in the library!

Vestry: regular meeting is 3rd Tuesday of month

Next meeting: April 19 7:00 pm

We will meet in person in the Living Room.

All members of the congregation are welcome to attend.

Creation Care: regular meeting in 3rd Wednesday each month

Next meeting: April 20-7:00 pm

We will meet in person in the Living Room

Social Concerns: regular meeting is 2nd Thursday of each month

Next meeting: May 12 7:00 pm

The meeting will be in person in the Living Room.

*The April meeting falls on Maundy Thursday;
we will not be meeting then.*

Holy Week Services

April 10 Palm Sunday

8:00 am Rite I Liturgy of the Palms
9:30 am Family Service
10:30 am Rite II Liturgy of the Palms

April 14, Maundy Thursday

7:30 pm Holy Eucharist w/Foot Washing
& Stripping of Altar

April 15, Good Friday

Noon Good Friday service
7:30 pm Good Friday service

April 17, Easter Day

8:00 Rite I Holy Eucharist
9:30 am Family Service
10:30 am. Rite II Holy Eucharist