

The Second Sunday in Lent
Holy Eucharist
Rite I



St. Alban's Episcopal Church
333 South Drexel Avenue
Bexley, OH 43209

Mother Abby Flemister, Presiding
Fr. J. Devin Rodgers, Preaching
The Rev. Craig Foster, Deacon
March 13, 2022
9:00 a.m.

*Our Vision for
St. Alban's is to be a spiritual home to share God's grace through
worship, service, faith, and love. We welcome all and strive to
promote justice, peace, and love in our communities by following
Jesus.*

So Come! Worship, Learn, Care, Connect with us!

PRELUDE *O Welt, ich muss dich lassen* Johann Gottfried Walther
(O World, I must leave you)

The Word of God

WE GATHER AS THE BODY OF CHRIST...

PROCESSIONAL HYMN *Lord Christ, when first thou cam'st to earth*
Hymnal 1982 #598



1 Lord Christ, when first thou cam'st to earth, up - on a cross they
2 O awe - ful Love, which found no room in life where sin de -
3 New ad - vent of the love of Christ, shall we a - gain re -
4 O wound-ed hands of Je - sus, build in us thy new cre -



bound thee, and mocked thy sav - ing king - ship then
nied thee, and, doomed to death, must bring to doom
fuse thee, till in the night of hate and war
a - tion; our pride is dust, our vaunt is stilled,



by thorns with which they crowned thee: and still our wrongs
the powers which cru - ci - fied thee, till not a stone
we per - ish as we lose thee? From old un - faith
we wait thy rev - e - la - tion: O love that tri -



may weave thee now new thorns to pierce that
was left on stone, and all those na - tions'
our souls re - lease to seek the king - dom
umphs o - ver loss, we bring our hearts be -



stead - y brow, and robe of sor - row round thee.
pride, o'er-thrown, went down to dust be - side thee!
of thy peace, by which a - lone we choose thee.
fore thy cross, to fi - nish thy sal - va - tion.

Words: Walter Russell Bowie (1882-1969), alt.

Music: *Mit Freuden art*, melody from "Une pastourelle gentille," 1529; adapt. *Psaumes cinquante de David*, 1547, and *Kirchengesang darinnen die Heukartickel des Christlichen Glaubens gefasset*, 1566

87. 87. 887

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Bless the Lord who forgiveth all our sins.
People *His mercy endureth forever.*

COLLECT FOR PURITY AND GREAT COMMANDMENTSTEN COMMANDMENTS

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

God spake these words, and said:

I am the Lord thy God who brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Thou shalt have none other gods but me.

Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Thou shalt not make to thyself any graven image, nor the likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or in the earth beneath, or in the water under the earth; thou shalt not bow down to them, nor worship them.

Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Thou shalt not take the Name of the Lord thy God in vain.

Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Remember that thou keep holy the Sabbath day.

Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Honor thy father and thy mother.

Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Thou shalt do no murder.

Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Thou shalt not commit adultery.

Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Thou shalt not steal.

Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Thou shalt not covet.

Lord have mercy upon us, and write all these thy laws in our hearts, we beseech thee.

KYRIE

Cantor: Together, let us pray to Christ our Lord, who intercedes for us at the right hand of the Father:

Response:



Cantor: 1. Lord Jesus Christ, you were sent to heal the contrite, have mercy on us.

Response: Kyrie...

Cantor: 2. Lord Jesus Christ, you came to call all sinners, have mercy on us.

Response: Kyrie...

Cantor: 3. Lord Jesus Christ, you intercede for us at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.

Response: Kyrie...

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider The Lord be with you.

People *And with thy spirit.*

Presider Let us pray.

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from thy ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of thy Word, Jesus Christ thy Son; who with thee and the Holy Spirit liveth and reigneth, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

WE HEAR THE SACRED STORIES AND PRAY...

FIRST READING: *Genesis 15:1-12,17-18*

The people sit.

A Reading from the book of Genesis.

The word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Then he said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." But he said, "O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates."

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People *Thanks be to God.*

PSALM: *Psalms 27*

1 The LORD is my light and my salvation;
whom then shall I fear? *
the LORD is the strength of my life;
of whom then shall I be afraid?

2 When evildoers came upon me to eat up my flesh, *
it was they, my foes and my adversaries, who
stumbled and fell.

- 3 Though an army should encamp against me, *
yet my heart shall not be afraid;
- 4 And though war should rise up against me, *
yet will I put my trust in him.
- 5 One thing have I asked of the LORD;
one thing I seek; *
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of
my life;
- 6 To behold the fair beauty of the LORD *
and to seek him in his temple.
- 7 For in the day of trouble he shall keep me safe
in his shelter; *
he shall hide me in the secrecy of his dwelling
and set me high upon a rock.
- 8 Even now he lifts up my head *
above my enemies round about me.
- 9 Therefore I will offer in his dwelling an oblation
with sounds of great gladness; *
I will sing and make music to the LORD.
- 10 Hearken to my voice, O LORD, when I call; *
have mercy on me and answer me.
- 11 You speak in my heart and say, "Seek my face." *
Your face, LORD, will I seek.

- 12 Hide not your face from me, *
nor turn away your servant in displeasure.
- 13 You have been my helper;
cast me not away; *
do not forsake me, O God of my salvation.
- 14 Though my father and my mother forsake me, *
the LORD will sustain me.
- 15 Show me your way, O LORD; *
lead me on a level path, because of my enemies.
- 16 Deliver me not into the hand of my adversaries, *
for false witnesses have risen up against me,
and also those who speak malice.
- 17 What if I had not believed
that I should see the goodness of the LORD *
in the land of the living!
- 18 O tarry and await the LORD's pleasure;
be strong, and he shall comfort your heart; *
wait patiently for the LORD.

SECOND READING: *Philippians 3:17-4:1*

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Phillippi.

Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People *Thanks be to God.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

All stand (as able) and sing together to make a joyful noise to the Lord.

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name.

5
Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life.

GOSPEL: *Luke 13:31-35*

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

People *Glory be to thee, O Lord.*

Some Pharisees came and said to Jesus, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

People *Praise be to thee, O Christ.*

THE SERMON

Fr. J. Devin Rodgers

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.*

¹ At the next words it is appropriate to bow as a show of reverence.

*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

Deacon: Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

Leader: Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers especially Justin, the Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Wayne, our Bishop; Craig, our Deacon and Devin, our Rector; that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments. Pray for the Church.

(Silence. Here the congregation may offer intercessions either silently or aloud.)

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

We pray for Partners in Ministry in Liberia, our Caring and Sharing partner this month. Pray for Christian witness, evangelism and ministry.

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.

(Silence. Here the congregation may offer intercessions either silently or aloud.)

We pray for all those serving in the military especially Jake, Aaron, Peter, Greg, Abbey, Sean, and Tyler. We pray for those serving in places of danger especially Steven, Anne, Sam, Ben and Maria. We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world. Pray for sound government, your creation and social justice.

(Silence. Here the congregation may offer intercessions either silently or aloud.)

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty. And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor Tad, Naomi, Jill, Luci, Karen, Robert, Chuck, Mary, Charlie, Linda, Penny, Evans Family, Brad & Irene, Kimm, Kyle, Daryl, Graham Family, Mike, Rollin, Kristi, Khadijah,

Garth, Carolyn, P. Alexander, Linda, Louis, Maria, Gary, Edward & Mary, Gretchen, Emily, Mort, Pete & Linda, Mary & Mike, Nancy Maturo, Perry & Nancy, Ben Dysart, all others on the parish prayer list. and all those who in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity, especially those whom we name aloud and in our hearts. (*Silence*) Pray for the sick, those in any grief or trouble, our friends and our enemies.

(Silence. Here the congregation may offer intercessions either silently or aloud.)

And we also bless thy holy Name for Bailey and all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear, beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service. Grant us grace so to follow the good examples of Alban and of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom. Pray for the dead and those who mourn.

(Silence. Here the congregation may offer intercessions either silently or aloud.)

Presider: Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. *Amen.*

CONFESSION OF SIN

The Deacon says

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

Silence may be kept.

*Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against thee
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved thee with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in thy will,
and walk in thy ways,
to the glory of thy Name. Amen.*

The Priest stands and says

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, **(+)** pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him.

Come unto me, all ye that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you. *Matthew 11:28*

THE PEACE

All stand.

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People *And with thy spirit.*

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

WE WELCOME, CELEBRATE & ANNOUNCE...

The Holy Communion

WE GATHER AND ARE FED AT CHRIST'S TABLE...

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

The Presider says

Walk in Love as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to god. *Ephesians 5*

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](#)

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Nearer, My God, to Thee

J. B. Dykes

St. Alban's Choral Scholars

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

In the Lord I'll be ever thankful

Taizé
Jacques Berthier

In the Lord I'll be ev - er thank - ful, in the Lord I will re -

4
joice! Look to God, do not be a - fraid. Lift up your voic - es, the Lord is

8
near; lift up your voic - es, the Lord is near.

The Great Thanksgiving *(Eucharistic Prayer 2)*

SURSUM CORDA

The People remain standing.

Presider The Lord be with you.

People *And with thy spirit.*

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People *We lift them up unto the Lord.*

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People *It is meet and right so to do.*

Facing the Holy Table, the Presider proceeds

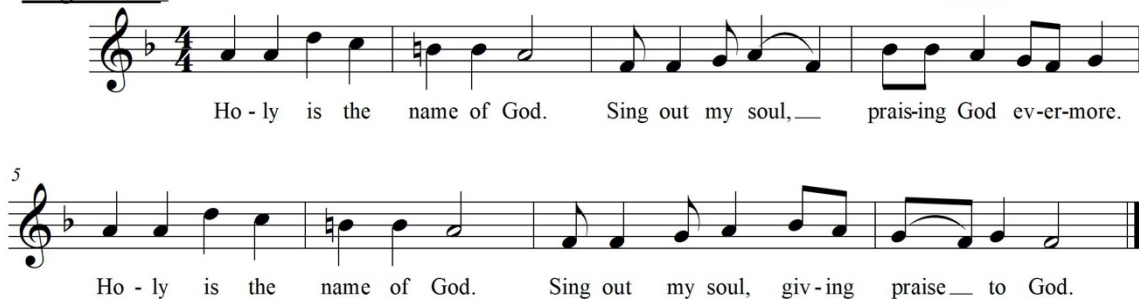
It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God. Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who was in every way tempted as we are, yet did not sin; by whose grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer unto ourselves, but unto him who died for us and rose again. Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and singing,

SANCTUS

Sanctus: Holy is the name of God

Jacques Berthier
Taizé

Sing 3 times:



Ho - ly is the name of God. Sing out my soul, — prais-ing God ev-er-more.

5
Ho - ly is the name of God. Sing out my soul, giv-ing praise — to God.

The People Stand or Kneel.

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption.

(The Presider Continues...)

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. *AMEN.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

*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,
forever and ever. Amen.*

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the hymn, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to him and nev-er be hun - gry.


5
Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in him and you will not thirst.

INVITATION

The Presider says

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 MUSIC *My Jesus, I love thee* LEVAS II ²#89



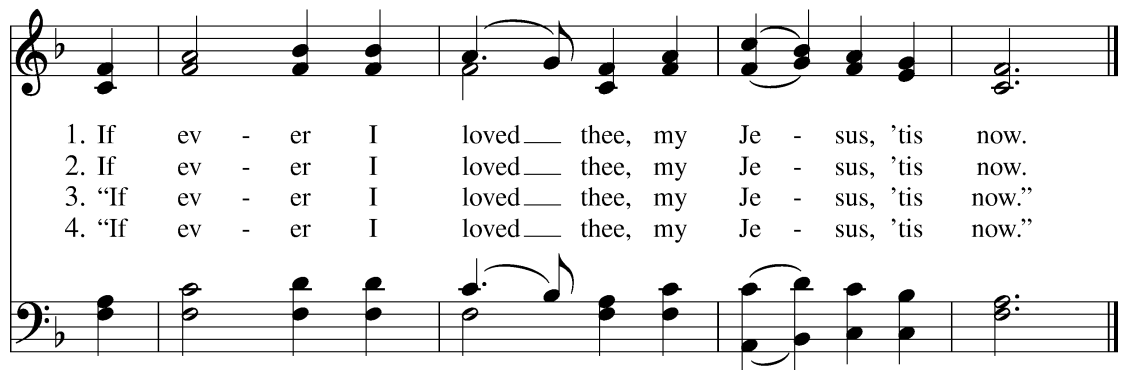
1. My Je - sus, I love — thee, I know thou art mine,
 2. I love thee be - cause — thou hast first lov - ed me,
 3. I'll love thee in life, — I will love thee in death,
 4. In man - sions of glo - ry and end - less de - light,



1. For thee all the fol - lies of sin I re - sign;
 2. And pur - chased my par - don on Cal - va - ry's tree,
 3. And praise thee as long — as thou lend - est me breath;
 4. I'll ev - er a - dore — thee in heav - en so bright;



1. My gra - cious Re - deem - er, my Sav - ior are thou: —
 2. I love thee for wear - ing the thorns — on thy brow: —
 3. And say when the death - dew lies cold — on my brow, —
 4. I'll sing with the glit - ter - ing crown — on my brow, —



1. If ev - er I loved — thee, my Je - sus, 'tis now.
 2. If ev - er I loved — thee, my Je - sus, 'tis now.
 3. "If ev - er I loved — thee, my Je - sus, 'tis now."
 4. "If ev - er I loved — thee, my Je - sus, 'tis now."

² Lift Every Voice and Sing II

DISTRIBUTION

This is the Lord's Table, and we are his guests. In communion we are fed with his body and blood and believe that Christ is truly present. If you desire to receive the sacrament, come to the communion rail. Standing or kneeling, extend your hands and you will receive the host (wafer). If you desire a gluten-free wafer, please indicate this to the priest. If you desire to receive a blessing, cross your hands over your heart and the priest will provide a blessing.

Per the most recent guidelines from the diocese, Congregations may offer the common cup at communion. Each person should decide whether to receive in one kind (the bread only) or also to drink from the cup. Intinction, once so common in the Episcopal Church, contributes to the spread of any communicable disease. The Task Force strongly discourages this practice.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER *The People stand or kneel.*

Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

WE ARE SENT OUT INTO THE WORLD.

BLESSING

The priest blesses the people, saying

May God the Father, who does not despise the broken spirit, give to you a contrite heart. *Amen.*

May Christ, who bore our sins in his body on the tree, heal you by his wounds. *Amen.*

May the Holy Spirit, who leads us into all truth, speak to you words of pardon and peace. *Amen.*

And the blessing of God Father, Son, and Holy Spirit Be with you now and remain with you always. **(+)***Amen.*

RECESSIONAL HYMN *And now, O Father, mindful of the love*

1982Hymnal#337

1 And now, O Fa - ther, mind - ful of the love that
 2 Look Fa - ther, look on his a - noint - ed face, and
 *3 And then for those, our dear - est and our best, by
 *4 And so we come; O draw us to thy feet, most

bought us, once for all, on Cal - vary's tree, and hav - ing with us
 on - ly look on us as found in him; look not on our mis -
 this pre - vail - ing pres - ence we ap - peal; O fold them clos - er
 pa - tient Sa - vior, who canst love us still! And by this food, so

him that pleads a - bove, we here pre - sent, we here spread
 us - ings of thy grace, our prayer so lan - guid, and our
 to thy mer - cy's breast! O do thine ut - most for their
 awe - some and so sweet, de - liv - er us from ev - ery

forth to thee, that on - ly of - fering per - fect in thine
 faith so dim: for lo! be - tween our sins and their re -
 soul's true weal! From taint - ing mis - chief keep them pure and
 touch of ill: in thine own ser - vice make us glad and

eyes, the one true, pure, im - mor - tal sac - ri - fice.
 ward, we set the pas - sion of thy Son our Lord.
 clear, and crown thy gifts with strength to per - se - vere.
 free, and grant us nev - er - more to part from thee.

DISMISSAL

Deacon Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People *Thanks be to God.*

POSTLUDE

O Lamm Gottes unschuldig Johann Pachelbel
(O Lamb of God, innocent)

Servers in Worship

Presiding	Fr. J. Devin Rodgers
Deacon	The Rev. Craig Foster
Organist/Choir Director	Dr. Karen Eckenroth
Eucharistic Minister	Susan McKinley
Lector/Intercessor	Ed Yen
Ushers	
Altar Guild	Lain Howarth & Mary Roth

*The branches on the altar are reflective
of the solemn season of Lent.*

*As each week passes,
we are reminded of the emergence of new life
and hope to us all as spring and Easter arrive.*

Happening at St. Alban's

Updated COVID guidelines from the Diocese:

The Diocesan COVID Medical Task Force met Thursday, March 3, to consider the most recent CDC recommendations and how they might apply to the parishes and communities in the Diocese of Southern Ohio. The Task Force reached a consensus on the following updated guidelines:

- Social gatherings, including coffee hours, shared meals, and receptions, are now allowed. Precautions should include good hand sanitation, cross-ventilation for airflow, and social distancing for indoor events.
- With these precautions in place, congregations may resume food ministries, and outside groups may return to our buildings.
- Wearing masks is optional but often prudent—and always permitted—both at social gatherings and in worship. Everyone may sing, either with a mask or without.
- Congregations may offer the common cup at communion. Each person should decide whether to receive in one kind (the bread only) or also to drink from the cup. Intinction, once so common in the Episcopal Church, contributes to the spread of any communicable disease. The Task Force strongly discourages this practice.
- At-risk groups deserve special attention, and these include the oldest and youngest among us. Young children have not yet had access to vaccines, and planners should consider this fact when planning Sunday School. Masking, hand washing, using larger rooms, and providing cross-ventilation make a safer space for those ages zero to four.
- The past year's data has shown that vaccinations do more than anything else to prevent disease spread and serious illness.

- The Task Force, as it has all along, strongly recommends the vaccine and booster.
- Many of our congregations have grown accustomed to using dual platforms, both in-person and digital media, for much of what we do—worship, education, and meetings. The Task Force encourages the use of both platforms. The capacity of clergy, staff, and unpaid volunteers should be a consideration, however, as the increased demands of providing two platforms has stretched the limits for many of our people and leaders.
- Leaders, lay and ordained, should continue to monitor COVID spread locally, both to assess the larger community and the needs of parish. A trend signaling increased spread of the virus, or the arrival of a troubling new variant, will require a return to stricter guidelines.

The downward trend of infections and hospitalizations may signal a turning point in the pandemic. The way forward is likely not a straight line, but there is reason for hope. Pray God that cause for hope will continue.

George Wayne Smith, Bishop Provisional
Episcopal Diocese of Southern Ohio

Sunday Worship In March

We will offer 2 worship services.

9:00 am

Rite I In-Person in the church

10:30 am

Worship via Zoom

Sunday Worship beginning 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

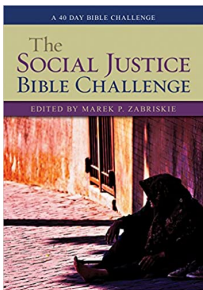
In person in the Klages Education Building (upstairs)

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



Will begin again on March 24th -7:30 p.m.

***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:

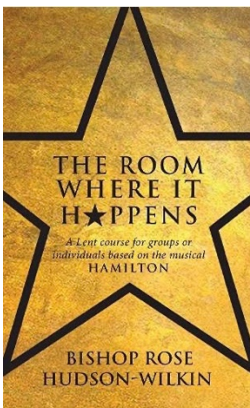
March 16: Deacon Craig

Please read Day 8 through Day 14 and think about what reading strikes you most and the common themes you see in these readings and reflections.

March 23: Carol Kaufman

March 30: Kristen Fout

April 6: Fr. Devin



**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.*

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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**.

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**

Upcoming Meetings

Vestry: regular meeting is 3rd Tuesday of month

Next meeting: March 15 7:00 pm

We will meet in person in the Living Room.

All members of the congregation are welcome to attend.

Choir: practice resumes! March 24th 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 1st Monday of each month

Next meeting: April 11 7:00 pm

This meeting will be in person in the library!

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

Next meeting: May 12 7:00 pm

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

The meeting will be in person in the Living Room.

