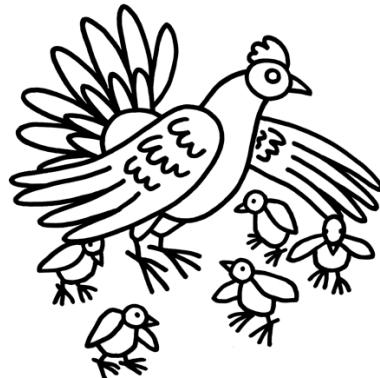


The Second Sunday in Lent

The Liturgy of the Word



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

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

March 13, 2022

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.
Come! Worship, Learn, Care, Connect with us!*

The Word of God

WE GATHER AS THE BODY OF CHRIST...

WELCOME AND DIGITAL WORSHIP INSTRUCTIONS

OPENING ACCLAMATION

The Presider says

People *Blessed be the God of our salvation:
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 mercyAmen. 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*

CONFESSON 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.

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

WE HEAR THE SACRED STORIES AND PRAY...

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

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 Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

People *Thanks be to God.*

PSALM: *Psalm 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 the letter of Paul to the church in Philippi.

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 Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.
People *Thanks be to God.*

GOSPEL *Luke 13:31-35*

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
People *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

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 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. – *Deuteronomy 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 the people of countries that are currently engaged in war especially the Ukraine and other places where people live in fear and danger especially refugees escaping the Ukraine, victims of gun violence, those suffering from COVID 19 and its variants, their care givers and medical providers. We pray for all those serving in the military especially, Jake, Aaron, Peter, Greg, Abbey, Sean, Tyler and those serving in places of danger especially Steven, Anne, Sam, Ben and Maria.

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.

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.

We pray for those who are ill, those in pain, those under stress, and those who are lonely including 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 and all others on the parish prayer list.

*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.

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

We pray for Bailey and all those who have died, 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 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

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

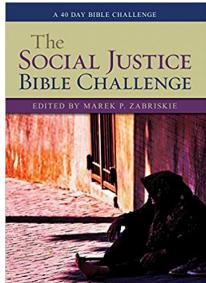
In person in the Klages Education Building (upstairs)

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.

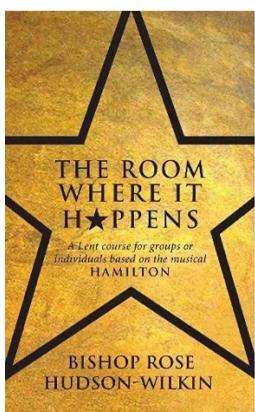
March 23: Carol Kaufman

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.*

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.

