



Welcome to St Alban's

Advent 2

***TOY SERVICE -Please bring up your offerings during the Offertory Hymn**

The second candle of the Advent Wreath is lit and we all pray...

Lord Jesus, light of the world, the prophets said you would bring peace and save your people in trouble. Give peace in our hearts at Christmas and show all the world God's love. Amen

Before the children leave for Children's Church we pray together:

Dear God, this church is a family.

**Help us to learn together, to worship together,
to share together and to pray together. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

OPENING HYMN: *Graham Kendrick © 1986 Kingsway's Thankyou Music*

**1. Make way, make way, for Christ the King in splendour arrives.
Fling wide the gates and welcome him into your lives.**

***Make way! (Make way!) Make way! (Make way!)
for the King of kings (for the King of kings.)
Make way! (Make way!) Make way! (Make way!)
and let His kingdom in.***

**2. He comes the broken hearts to heal, the prisoners to free.
The deaf shall hear, the lame shall dance, the blind shall see.**

**3. And those who mourn with heavy hearts, who weep and sigh;
with laughter, joy and royal crown he'll beautify.**

**4. We call you now to worship him as Lord of all.
To have no gods before him, their thrones must fall!**

We are gathered together as one body

† In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

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

CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

When the Lord comes, he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness, and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Therefore, in the light of Christ let us confess our sins...

Lord Jesus, you came to gather the nations into the peace of your kingdom:

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

You come in word and sacrament to strengthen us in holiness:

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

You will come in glory with salvation for your people:

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you † pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in life eternal. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

THE COLLECT (The special prayer of the day)

Almighty God, purify our hearts and minds,
that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again
as judge and saviour, we may be ready to receive him,
who is our Lord and our God.

Amen

After each reading... This is the word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God**

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 11.1-10

NEW TESTAMENT READING: Romans 15.4-13

GRADUAL HYMN: *Graham Kendrick © 1983 Kingsway's Thankyou Music*

**From heaven you came helpless babe,
entered our world, your glory veiled,
not to be served but to serve,
and give your life that we might live.**

*This is our God, the Servant King,
He calls us now to follow Him,
to bring our lives as a daily offering
of worship to the Servant King.*

**There in the garden of tears
my heavy load He chose to bear;
His heart with sorrow was torn,
'Yet not my will but yours,' He said.**

**Come see His hands and His feet,
the scars that speak of sacrifice,
hands that flung stars into space
to cruel nails surrendered.**

**So let us learn how to serve
and in our lives enthrone Him,
each other's needs to prefer,
for it is Christ we're serving.**

THE GOSPEL – Matthew 3.1-12

We sing...Alleluia, Alleluia; Alleluia, Alleluia

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew:
Glory to you, O God.

At the end of the reading: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON

THE APOSTLES CREED *Please stand if you are able*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Watchful at all times, let us pray for strength to stand with confidence before our Maker and Redeemer.

At the end of the prayers we say together:

**Merciful Father, accept these prayers,
for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen**

THE PEACE ...*Please stand*

In the tender mercy of our God, the dayspring from on high shall break upon us, to give light to those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace. The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

**During the offertory hymn please bring your offerings of toys and gifts and place them at the altar*

OFFERTORY HYMN: *Leonard E. Smith Junior ©1974 Kingsway's Thankyou Music*

1. How lovely on the mountains are the feet of Him

Who brings good news, good news;

Announcing peace, proclaiming news of happiness:

Our God reigns, our God reigns!

Our God reigns! Our God reigns!

Our God reigns! Our God reigns!

2. You watchmen, lift your voices joyfully as one,

Shout for your king, your king!

See eye to eye, the Lord restoring Sion:

Our God reigns, our God reigns!

3. Wastelaces of Jerusalem break forth with joy!

We are redeemed, redeemed.

The Lord has saved and comforted his people:

Our God reigns, our God reigns!

4. Ends of the earth, see the salvation of our God!

Jesus is Lord, is Lord!

Before the nations He has bared his holy arm:

Our God reigns, our God reigns!

THE EUCHARIST

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

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise, almighty God and everlasting Father, through Jesus Christ your Son. For when he humbled himself to come among us in human flesh, he fulfilled the plan you formed before the foundation of the world to open for us the way of salvation. Confident that your promise will be fulfilled, we now watch for the day when Christ our Lord will come again in glory. And so, we join our voices with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven to proclaim your glory for ever praising you and singing

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

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We praise and bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit, that broken bread and wine outpoured may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends and, taking bread, he praised you. He broke the bread, gave it to them and said: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; Do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine. Again, he praised you, 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. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did, in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross. Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation, we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory. Great is the mystery of faith:

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

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth. Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms and bring us with the Blessed Virgin Mary, St Alban and all the saints to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Rejoicing in God's new creation, as our Saviour taught us so we pray:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name;

Your kingdom come, your will be done; on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power and the glory,

are yours, now and for ever.

Amen.

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ

Though we are many, we are one body,

because we all share in one bread.

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace**

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God's holy gifts for God's holy people.
**Jesus Christ is holy,
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

All those baptised into the Christian faith are welcome to come forward for communion. Alternatively, you are welcome to come forward for a blessing.

COMMUNION HYMN © Paul Inwood 1986

***We shall draw water joyfully, singing joyfully, singing joyfully;
We shall draw water joyfully from the well springs of salvation.***

**1. Truly God is our salvation,
we trust, we shall not fear.
For the Lord is our strength, our song;
He became our Saviour.**

**2. Give thanks, O give thanks to the Lord;
Give praise to his holy name!
Make his mighty deeds known to all of the nations;
Proclaim his greatness.**

**3. Sing a psalm, sing a psalm to the Lord,
for he has done glorious deeds.
Make known his works to all of the earth;
People of Zion, sing for joy; for great in your midst,
great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.**

Post communion prayers...

Father in heaven, who sent your Son to redeem the world
and will send him again to be our judge:
give us grace so to imitate him in the humility
and purity of his first coming that, when he comes again,
we may be ready to greet him
with joyful love and firm faith;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

**Father of all,
we give you thanks and praise,
that when we were still far off
you met us in your Son and brought us home.
Dying and living, he declared your love,
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;
we who drink his cup bring life to others;
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,
so we and all your children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise your name;
through Christ our Lord.**

Amen

THE BLESSING

May God himself, the God of peace, make you perfect and holy,
and keep you safe and blameless, in spirit, soul and body,
for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ;
and the blessing ...

Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ,

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN © 1961 Timothy Dudley-Smith

**Tell out my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;
tender to me the promise of his word;
in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.**

**Tell out my soul, the greatness of his name!
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
his mercy sure, from age to age the same;
his holy name—the Lord, the Mighty One.**

**Tell out my soul, the greatness of his might!
Powers and dominions lay their glory by.
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.**

**Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!
Firm is his promise and his mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
to children's children and for evermore!**

*Please stay for refreshments after the service. Everyone is welcome here
and if you are new or just visiting please feel welcomed as one of the family.*

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SERVICES AT ST ALBAN'S

Everyone is very welcome

SUNDAY SERVICES:

Sung Eucharist 9.30am weekly

'Out of the Box' family worship on 2nd Sunday of each month 11.15 to 12 noon

WEEKDAY SERVICES:

Thursday 9.30am Said Eucharist followed by Community Morning 10am-12pm

Morning Prayer 9am Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday

Saturday Prayers 9am on the 2nd Saturday of every month

Vicar: Rev'd Ann Alexander 01293 277078
vicar@stalbangossopsgreen.co.uk

Curate: Rev'd Lizzi Green 01293 421155
curate@stalbangossopsgreen.co.uk

Parish Office: Jo Browse 01293 344860
office@stalbangossopsgreen.co.uk

Website: www.stalbangossopsgreen.co.uk

Facebook: St Alban's Gossops Green & Bewbush

Our Prayer for Vision and Leadership

Lord, we come before you with grateful hearts
for the tremendous talent within our church.

We are a body filled with gifts yet
we sometimes lose sight of why
we were so richly blessed in the first place.

Forgive us when we fail to heed Your calling in our lives,
or as a community.

Despite our forgetful nature, we know you love us dearly
and want us to partner with you:
not as servants, but as your children.

Bring us a renewed vision of ourselves from your perspective.
Help us to embrace your love
so that we may share it with others.

Guide us as we look to the future
of this Parish of Gossops Green and Bewbush.

Grant us a renewed vision as we seek you in your word.

Give us dreams that make us come alive because
we are doing what you created us to do.

Let our joy overflow from the vision of the future you give us.
Let us honour you with our work,
with our families and with our lives.

Amen