



Welcome to St Alban's Church

Patronal Festival

OPENING HYMN © *Christopher William Herbert, 2006*

1. In a town below the hillside,
As the sun began to set,
Came a priest, beseeching shelter
From a man he'd never met.
Alban hid him from the soldiers;
Learnt from him of God's own Son,
Took his place before the Governor,
With his life in Christ begun.

2. With rough hands and ropes they bound
him,
Dragged him to the river's side.
There, he looked upon the water,
Saw the flow of Jordan's tide,
Walked barefoot across the streambed
And continued on his way.
Reached the trees upon the hilltop
In the early light of day.

3. 'You are charged with grave offences',
said the Judge upon the hill.
'Do you bow to Caesar's power,
his divine and perfect will?'

'I am Alban,' cried the martyr,
'And I worship and adore
neither Caesar nor his servants -
but the true and living Lord.'

4. With a sword-stroke, there they killed
him:
Felled his body to the ground,
Jeered and mocked the martyr's witness,
Laughed with cruel, spiteful sound.
But, just where his blood had fallen,
Like the rain upon the earth,
Flowers sprang at once to blossom -
Signs of Alban's grace and worth.

5. On a hill beside a river
Stands the shrine of Britain's saint;
Honoured, loved by those who know him,
Freed at last from all restraint.
For he stands with saints in glory,
With his prayers, our feet are shod.
May our courage never fail us
As we journey home to God.

† 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.**

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

The saints were faithful unto death and now dwell in the heavenly kingdom for ever. As we celebrate their joy, let us bring to the Lord our sins and weaknesses, and ask for his mercy.

We are often slow to follow the example of Christ.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

We often fail to be known as Christ's disciples.
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

We often fail to walk the way of the cross.

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 GLORIA *Mike Anderson © 1983 Kevin Mayhew Ltd*

Gloria, (clap) gloria, (clap) in excelsis Deo.

Gloria, (clap) gloria, (clap) in excelsis Deo.

1. **Lord God, heavenly King, peace you bring to us;
we worship you, we give you thanks we sing our song of praise.**
2. **Jesus, Saviour of all, Lord God, Lamb of God
you take away our sins, Oh Lord, have mercy on us all.**
3. **At the Father's right hand, Lord receive our prayer,
for you alone are the Holy One, and you alone are Lord.**
4. **Glory Father and Son, Glory Holy Spirit,
to you we raise our hands up high, we glorify your name.**

THE COLLECT (The special prayer of the day)

Eternal Father, when the gospel of Christ first came to our land you gloriously confirmed the faith of Alban by making him the first to win a martyr's crown: grant that, following his example, in the fellowship of the saints we may worship you, the living God, and give true witness to Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

FIRST READING: Isaiah 43.1-7

But now thus says the Lord,

he who created you, O Jacob,

he who formed you, O Israel:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;

I have called you by name, you are mine.

² When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;

and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;

when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,

and the flame shall not consume you.

³ For I am the Lord your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour.
I give Egypt as your ransom,
Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.
⁴ Because you are precious in my sight,
and honoured, and I love you,
I give people in return for you,
nations in exchange for your life.
⁵ Do not fear, for I am with you;
I will bring your offspring from the east,
and from the west I will gather you;
⁶ I will say to the north, 'Give them up',
and to the south, 'Do not withhold';
bring my sons from far away
and my daughters from the end of the earth—
⁷ everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made.'

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

THE GOSPEL – John 12. 24-26

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵ Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶ Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour.

*After the reading...*This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON

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;
he was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and 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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who 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.**

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

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, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God.
For following the example of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ,
your holy martyr Alban shed his blood for the glory of your name.
His death reveals your power made perfect
in our human frailty.
You choose the weak and make them strong
in bearing witness to you through Jesus Christ our Lord.
With joyful hearts we echo on earth
the song of the angels in heaven
as they praise your glory without end:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

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 the presence of God here among us, 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.
And 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.**

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

PRAYERS AFTER COMMUNION

God our redeemer, whose Church was strengthened by the blood of your martyr Alban:
so bind us, in life and death, to Christ's sacrifice
that our lives, broken and offered with his, may carry his death
and proclaim his resurrection in the world;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ.
Through Him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen**

THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

God give you grace to follow his saints in faith and love and steadfastness; and the blessing ...

Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen

CLOSING HYMN Sydney Bertram Carter © 1971 Stainer & Bell Ltd

**One more step along the world I go,
One more step along the world I go,
From the old things to the new
Keep me travelling along with you.
*And it's from the old I travel to the new,
Keep me travelling along with You.***

Round the corners of the world I turn,
More and more about the world I learn.
And the new things that I see
You'll be looking at along with me.
*And it's from the old I travel to the new,
Keep me travelling along with You.*

As I travel through the bad and good
Keep me travelling the way I should.
Where I see no way to go
You'll be telling me the way, I know.
*And it's from the old I travel to the new,
Keep me travelling along with You.*

Give me courage when the world is rough,
Keep me loving though the world is tough.
Leap and sing in all I do,
Keep me travelling along with you.
*And it's from the old I travel to the new,
Keep me travelling along with You.*

You are older than the world can be,
You are younger than the life in me.
Ever old and ever new,
Keep me travelling along with you.
*And it's from the old I travel to the new,
Keep me travelling along with You.*

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