



# Welcome to St Alban's Church

## Epiphany 3

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*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 *Edward Joseph Burns (b. 1938)*

**1 We have a gospel to proclaim  
Good news for men in all the earth;  
The gospel of a Saviour's name:  
We sing His glory, tell His worth.**

**2 Tell of His birth at Bethlehem,  
Not in a royal house or hall  
But in a stable dark and dim:  
The Word made flesh, a light for all.**

**3 Tell of His death at Calvary,  
Hated by those He came to save;  
In lonely suffering on the cross  
For all He loved His life He gave.**

**4 Tell of that glorious Easter morn:  
Empty the tomb, for He was free.  
He broke the power of death and hell  
That we might share His victory.**

**5 Tell of His reign at God's right hand,  
By all creation glorified;  
He sends His Spirit on His Church  
To live for Him, the Lamb who died.**

**6 Now we rejoice to name Him King:  
Jesus is Lord of all the earth.  
This gospel message we proclaim:  
We sing His glory, tell His worth.**

*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.**

## INVITATION TO CONFESSION

By the mercies of God, let us confess our sins and present our bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to him, which is our spiritual worship.

Lord Jesus, illuminate the darkness in our hearts:  
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, open our eyes to your saving love:  
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, unstop our ears to hear your living word:  
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.**

GLORIA *Copyright 2012 David Thorne Music*

***Glory to God, glory to God, Glory to God in the highest.***

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.  
*Glory to God, glory to God, Glory to God in the highest.***

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.  
*Glory to God, glory to God, Glory to God in the highest.***

**For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.  
*Glory to God, glory to God, Glory to God in the highest.***

## THE COLLECT (The special prayer of the day)

Almighty God,  
whose Son revealed in signs and miracles  
the wonder of your saving presence:  
renew your people with your heavenly grace,  
and in all our weakness sustain us by your mighty power;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### OLD TESTAMENT READING Nehemiah 8.1–3,5–6,8–10

All the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. <sup>2</sup>Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. <sup>3</sup>He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law.

<sup>5</sup> And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. <sup>6</sup>Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, 'Amen, Amen', lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshipped the Lord with their faces to the ground. <sup>8</sup>So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

<sup>9</sup> And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, 'This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep.' For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. <sup>10</sup>Then he said to them,

‘Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.’

NEW TESTAMENT READING  
1 Corinthians 12.12–31a

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup>For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. <sup>14</sup> Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many.

<sup>15</sup>If the foot were to say, ‘Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body’, that would not make it any less a part of the body. <sup>16</sup>And if the ear were to say, ‘Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body’, that would not make it any less a part of the body. <sup>17</sup>If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be?

<sup>18</sup>But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. <sup>19</sup>If all were a single member, where would the body be? <sup>20</sup>As it is, there are many members, yet one body. <sup>21</sup>The eye cannot say to the hand, ‘I have no need of you’, nor again the head to the feet, ‘I have no need of you.’ <sup>22</sup>On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, <sup>23</sup>and those members of the body that we think less honourable we clothe with greater honour, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; <sup>24</sup>whereas our more respectable members do not need this.

But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honour to the inferior member, <sup>25</sup>that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. <sup>26</sup>If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together with it.

<sup>27</sup> Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. <sup>28</sup>And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. <sup>29</sup>Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? <sup>30</sup>Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? <sup>31</sup>But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

### THE GOSPEL Luke 4.14–21

We sing....**Alleluia, alleluia; alleluia, alleluia.**

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. <sup>15</sup>He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. <sup>16</sup>When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, <sup>17</sup>and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

<sup>18</sup> 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me  
to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives  
and recovery of sight to the blind,  
to let the oppressed go free,

<sup>19</sup> to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'

<sup>20</sup>And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. <sup>21</sup>Then he began to say to them, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## THE SERMON

THE NICENE CREED *Please stand if you are able*

**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

Lord, in your mercy...**hear our prayer.**

*At the end of the prayers we say together:* **Merciful Father, accept  
these prayers, for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.**

THE PEACE. *Please stand if you are able*

God has made us one in Christ. He has set his seal upon us and is a pledge of what is to come, has given us the Spirit to dwell in our hearts. The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

OFFERTORY HYMN *Alan Dale©1967 OUP*

**1 God's Spirit is in my heart,  
He has called me and set me apart.  
This is what I have to do, what I have to do.**

*He sent me to give the Good News to the poor,  
Tell prisoners that they are prisoners no more,  
Tell blind people that they can see,  
And set the downtrodden free.  
And go tell everyone  
the news that the Kingdom of God has come,  
And go tell everyone  
the news that God's Kingdom has come.*

**2 Just as the Father sent me,  
So I'm sending you out to be  
My witnesses throughout the world, the whole of the world.  
*He sent me...***

**3 Don't carry a load in your pack,  
You don't need two shirts on your back  
A workman can earn his own keep, can earn his own keep.  
*He sent me...***

**4 Don't worry what you have to say,  
Don't worry because on that day  
God's Spirit will speak in your heart, will speak in your heart.  
*He sent me...***

## THE PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

God of power and love, by your Holy Spirit,  
draw the scattered flock of Christ into a visible unity  
and make your Church a sign of hope to our divided world;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## 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.**

All honour and praise be yours always and everywhere,  
mighty creator, ever-living God, through Jesus Christ your only Son our  
Lord: for at this time we celebrate your glory made present in our  
midst. In the coming of the magi the King of all the world  
was revealed to the nations.

In the waters of baptism Jesus was revealed as the Christ,  
the Saviour sent to redeem us.

In the water made wine the new creation was revealed  
at the wedding feast.

Poverty was turned to riches, sorrow into joy.

Therefore, with all the angels of heaven we lift our voices  
to proclaim the glory of your name  
and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

**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 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.**

*Thorne, Mass of St Thomas ©2012 David Thorne Music*

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

**COMMUNION HYMN** *Gerald Markland©1978 Kevin Mayhew Ltd.*

***Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you.  
I have called you by your name;  
you are mine.***

**1 When you walk through the waters, I'll be with you;  
you will never sink beneath the waves. *Do not be afraid...***

**2 When the fire is burning all around you,  
you will never be consumed by the flames. *Do not be afraid...***

**3 When the fear of loneliness is looming,  
then remember I am at your side. *Do not be afraid...***

**4 When you dwell in the exile of a stranger,  
remember you are precious in my eyes. *Do not be afraid..***

**5 You are mine, O my child, I am your Father,  
and I love you with a perfect love. *Do not be afraid...***

*Prayers after Communion*

Almighty Father,  
whose Son our Saviour Jesus Christ is the light of the world:  
may your people, illumined by your word and sacraments,  
shine with the radiance of his glory,  
that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed  
to the ends of the earth;  
for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.  
one God, now and for ever. **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.**

May God, who in Christ gives us a spring of water welling up to eternal life, perfect in you the image of his glory; and the blessing ...

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

CLOSING HYMN *Arthur C. Ainger (1841-1919)*

**1 God is working his purpose out,  
as year succeeds to year;  
God is working His purpose out,  
and the time is drawing near;  
Nearer and nearer draws the time,  
the time that shall surely be,  
when the earth shall be filled  
with the glory of God,  
as the waters cover the sea.**

**2 From utmost East to utmost West,  
where'er man's foot hath trod,  
by the mouth of many messengers  
goes forth the voice of God;  
give ear to me, ye continents,  
ye isles, give ear to me,  
that the earth may be filled  
with the glory of God,  
as the waters cover the sea.**

**3 March we forth in the strength of God  
with the banner of Christ unfurled,  
that the light of the glorious gospel of truth  
may shine throughout the world:  
Fight we the fight with sorrow and sin,  
to set their captives free,  
that the earth may be filled  
with the glory of God,  
as the waters cover the sea.**

**4 All we can do is nothing worth,  
unless God blesses the deed;  
vainly we hope for the harvest-tide  
till God gives life to the seed;  
yet nearer and nearer draws the time,  
the time that shall surely be,  
when the earth shall be filled  
with the glory of God,  
as the waters cover the sea.**

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

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

**Website:** [www.stalbangossopsgreen.co.uk](http://www.stalbangossopsgreen.co.uk)  
**Facebook:** St Alban's Gossops Green & Bewbush