



Welcome to St Alban's Church

1st Sunday of Christmas

OPENING HYMN *John Mason Neale (1818-1886)*

**1 Good Christians all, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice!
Give ye heed to what we say:
Jesus Christ is born today;
Ox and ass before him bow,
and he is in the manger now:
Christ is born today,
Christ is born today!**

**2 Good Christians all, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice!
Now ye hear of endless bliss:
Jesus Christ was born for this.
He hath opened heaven's door,
and we are blessed for ever more:
Christ was born for this,
Christ was born for this.**

**3 Good Christians all, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice!
Now ye need not fear the grave:
Jesus Christ was born to save;
Calls you one, and calls you all,
to gain his everlasting hall:
Christ was born to save,
Christ was born to save.**

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

As we come to the Lord at the start of this New Year,
let us seek his grace, that we may apply our hearts to wisdom
as we confess our sins in penitence and faith.

Lord Jesus,
you are mighty God and Prince of Peace:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus,
you are Son of God and Son of Mary:
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus,
you are Word made flesh and splendour of the Father:
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.

**Glory be to God in heaven,
peace to those who love him well;
on the earth let all his people
speak his grace, his wonders tell:
Lord, we praise you for your glory,
mighty Father, heaven's king;
hear our joyful adoration
and accept the thanks we bring.**

**Only Son of God the Father,
Lamb who takes our sin away,
now with God in triumph seated
for your mercy, Lord, we pray:
Jesus Christ, most high and holy,
Saviour, you are God alone
in the glory of the Father
with the Spirit, Three-in-One!**

THE COLLECT (The special prayer of the day)

Almighty God,
who wonderfully created us in your own image
and yet more wonderfully restored us
through your Son Jesus Christ:
grant that, as he came to share in our humanity,
so we may share the life of his divinity;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

Old Testament: Isaiah 61.10 – 62.3

New Testament: Galatians 4.4–7

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

GRADUAL HYMN *Christina G. Rossetti (1830-1894)*

**1 In the bleak midwinter,
frosty wind made moan;
earth stood hard as iron,
water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow,
snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter long ago.**

**2 Our God, heaven cannot hold him,
nor earth sustain,
Heaven and earth shall flee away
when he comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter
a stable-place sufficed
the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.**

**3 What can I give him,
poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd,
I would bring a lamb.
If I were a wise man,
I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him –
give my heart.**

THE GOSPEL

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

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Luke 2.15–21

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

THE SERMON

WE AFFIRM OUR FAITH *Please stand if you are able*

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world?

We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith.

We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

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. Amen.**

THE PEACE *Please stand if you are able*

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given,
and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

OFFERTORY HYMN *traditional Old English*

**1 The first Nowell the Angel did say
Was to certain poor Shepherds in fields as they lay.
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
In a cold winter's night that was so deep.
*Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,
Born is the King of Israel.***

**2 They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the East, beyond them far,
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued, both day and night.
*Nowell, nowell...***

**3 And by the light of that same star
Three wise men came from country far,
To seek for a King was their intent,
And to follow the star wherever it went.
*Nowell, nowell...***

**4 This star drew nigh to the North West;
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest.
And there it did both stop and stay,
Right over the place where Jesus lay.
*Nowell, nowell...***

**5 Then entered in those wise men three,
Full reverently upon their knee,
And offered there, in his presence,
Their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.
*Nowell, nowell...***

**6 Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord;
That hath made heaven and earth of nought,
And with his blood mankind hath bought.
*Nowell, nowell...***

THE PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

Blessed be God, by whose grace creation is renewed,
by whose love heaven is opened,
by whose mercy we offer our sacrifice of praise.

Blessed be God for ever.

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 glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,
mighty creator, ever-living God. We give you thanks and praise
for your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, who for love of our fallen race
humbled himself, and was born of the Virgin Mary by the power
of your Spirit, and lived as one of us.

In this mystery of the Word made flesh you have caused his light to
shine in our hearts, to give knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus
Christ. In him we see our God made visible and so are caught up in the
love of the God we cannot see.

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 in the highest.

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

Hosanna in the highest.

Gregory Murray OSB @1975, 1987 McCrimmon Publishing Co Ltd

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

Gregory Murray OSB @1975, 1987 McCrimmon Publishing Co Ltd

Invitation to communion

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ
which he gave for you, and his blood which he shed for you.
Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

*All baptised Christians who receive communion in their own churches are welcome to
receive communion. Any member of the congregation may come to receive a blessing.*

COMMUNION HYMN *John Wesley Work (1871-1925)*

***Go, tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain,
That Jesus Christ is born.***

**1. While shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light. *Go, tell it...***

**2. The shepherds feared and trembled,
When lo! above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed the Saviour's birth. *Go, tell it...***

**3. Down in a lowly manger
The humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation
That blessed Christmas morn. *Go, tell it...***

Prayer after Communion

Heavenly Father,
whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth the life of an earthly home:
help your Church to live as one family,
united in love and obedience,
and bring us all at last to our home in heaven;
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

Jesus, Lord of time: **hold us in your eternity.**

Jesus, image of God: **travel with us the life of faith.**

Jesus, friend of sinners: **heal the brokenness of our world.**

Jesus, Lord of tomorrow: **draw us into your future. Amen.**

The Lord bless you and watch over you,
the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you,
the Lord look kindly on you and give you peace;

and the blessing ...

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

CLOSING HYMN *CL Bancroft, Vikki Cook ©1997 Sovereign Grace Worship*

**1. Before the throne of God above
I have a strong and perfect plea;
a great High Priest whose name is love
who ever lives and pleads for me.
My name is graven on His hands,
my name is written on His heart;
I know that while in heav'n He stands
no tongue can bid me thence depart .
No tongue can bid me thence depart.**

**2. When Satan tempts me to despair
and tells me of the guilt within,
upward I look and see Him there
who made an end of all my sin.
Because the sinless Saviour died
my sinful soul is counted free;
for God the Just is satisfied
to look on Him and pardon me.
To look on Him and pardon me.**

**3. Behold Him there, the risen Lamb,
My perfect, spotless righteousness.
The great unchangeable I AM,
the King of glory and of grace.
One with himself I cannot die,
my soul is purchased by his blood;
my life is hid with Christ on high,
with Christ, my saviour and my God.
With Christ, my saviour and my God.**



*Celebrating God's love in the
heart of the community*

REGULAR SERVICES AT ST ALBAN'S - *everyone is very welcome*

SUNDAY SERVICES:

Sung Eucharist 9:45am weekly

WEEKDAY SERVICES:

Thursday 9:30am Said Eucharist

followed by Heart of Welcome Café 10am-12pm

Morning Prayer 9am Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday

Saturday Prayers 9.30am on the 2nd Saturday of each month

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