



# Welcome to St Alban's

## on Christmas Day

OPENING HYMN *John Mason Neale (1818-66)*

**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 blest for evermore.  
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*

† 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.**

*The Christmas Candle on the Advent wreath is lit and we pray together:*

**Lord Jesus, light of light,  
you have come among us.  
Help us, who live by your light,  
to shine as lights in your world.  
Glory to God in the highest. Amen.**



The sun of righteousness has dawned with healing in his wings.  
Let us come to the light of Christ,  
confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

Your Son our Saviour was born in poverty in a manger.  
Forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.  
Lord have mercy. **Lord have mercy.**

The shepherds left their flocks to go to Bethlehem.  
Forgive our self interest and lack of vision.  
Christ have mercy. **Christ have mercy.**

The wise men followed the star to find Jesus the King.  
Forgive our reluctance to seek you.  
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 ©1983 Mike Anderson

*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. *Gloria...*
- 2 Jesus, Saviour of all, Lord God, Lamb of God  
you take away our sins, O Lord,  
have mercy on us all. *Gloria...*
- 3 At the Father's right hand, Lord receive our prayer,  
for you alone are the Holy One,  
and you alone are Lord. *Gloria...*
- 4 Glory Father and Son, Glory Holy Spirit,  
to you we raise our hands up high,  
we glorify your name. *Gloria...*

THE COLLECT (The special prayer of the day)

Lord Jesus Christ,  
your birth at Bethlehem  
draws us to kneel in wonder  
at heaven touching earth:  
accept our heartfelt praise as we worship you,  
our Saviour and our eternal God. **Amen.**

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE  
Old Testament: Isaiah 9.2-7  
New Testament: Titus 2.11–14

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

GRADUAL HYMN *Verses 1&2 unknown (C19), v3 J. T. McFarland*

**1 Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head,  
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

**2 The cattle are lowing the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.  
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,  
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.**

**3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay  
close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,  
and fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.**

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 2.1-14

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

*The response to 'Lord, in your mercy' is...***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

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 *Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895)*

**1 Once in Royal David's City  
stood a lowly cattle shed,  
where a mother laid her baby  
in a manger for his bed;  
Mary was that mother mild,  
Jesus Christ her little child.**

**2 He came down to earth from heaven,  
who is God and Lord of all;  
and his shelter was a stable,  
and his cradle was a stall;  
with the poor, and mean, and lowly,  
lived on earth our Saviour holy.**

**3 And our eyes at last shall see him  
through his own redeeming love,  
for that child so dear and gentle  
is our Lord in heaven above,  
and he leads his children on  
to the place where he is gone.**

**4 Not in that poor lowly stable,  
with the oxen standing by,  
we shall see him; but in heaven,  
set at God's right hand on high;  
when like stars his children crowned  
all in white shall wait around.**

HOLY COMMUNION

Word made flesh, life of the world, in your incarnation you embraced our poverty: by your Spirit may we share in your riches. **Amen.**  
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, holy  
Lord of power, Lord of might.  
Heav'n and earth are filled with glory.  
Sing hosanna evermore.**

**Blest and holy, blest and holy,  
He who comes from God on high  
Raise your voices, sing his glory,  
Praise his name for evermore.**

*Israeli Mass, Anthony Hamson*

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:

#### CARIBBEAN LORD'S PRAYER

**1 Our Father, who art in heaven,  
*hallowed be thy name.***

**Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
*hallowed be thy name.*  
*hallowed be thy name.***

**2 On earth as it is in heaven. *Hallowed be ...*  
Give us this day our daily bread. *Hallowed be ... etc***

**3 Forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**4 And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from all that is evil.**

**5 For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,  
for ever, and for ever and ever.**

**6 Amen, amen, it shall be so.  
Amen, amen, it shall be so.**



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.**

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.

**Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin, the sin of all the world.  
Give us mercy, give us mercy, give us mercy Lamb of God. (repeat)  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin, the sin of all the world.  
Grant us peace Lord, grant us peace Lord,  
grant us peace, O Lamb of God.**

*Israeli Mass, Anthony Hamson*

*All baptised Christians who receive communion in their own churches are welcome to receive communion here. Anyone may come up to receive a blessing.*

#### COMMUNION HYMN *P Brooks (1835-1893)*

**1 O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by.  
Yet in the dark streets shineth  
the everlasting light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in thee tonight.**

**2 O morning stars together  
proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the King,  
and peace to men on earth;  
for Christ is born of Mary;  
and gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep  
their watch of wondering love.**

**3 How silently, how silently,  
the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
the blessings of his heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming;  
but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him,  
still the dear Christ enters in.**

**4. O holy child of Bethlehem,  
descend to us we pray,  
cast out our sin and enter in,  
be born in us today,  
we hear the Christmas angels  
the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
our Lord Emmanuel.**

*Prayer after Communion*

God our Father,  
whose Word has come among us  
in the Holy Child of Bethlehem;  
may the light of faith illumine our hearts  
and shine in our words and deeds;  
through Him who is Christ the 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

May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the obedience of Joseph and Mary, and the peace of the Christ child be yours this Christmas; and the blessing.....

Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN *George Ratcliffe Woodward (1848 - 1934)*

**1 Ding dong! Merrily on high  
in heaven the bells are ringing.  
Ding dong! Verily the sky  
is riven with angels singing.  
*Gloria, hosanna in excelsis!*  
*Gloria, hosanna in excelsis!***

**2 E'en so here below, below, below  
let steeple bells be swungen,  
and io, io, io,  
by priest and people sungen.  
*Gloria...***

**3 Pray you dutifully prime  
your matin chime you ringers;  
may you beautifully rime  
your evetime song , ye singers.  
*Gloria...***

**4 Ding dong! Merrily on high  
in heaven the bells are ringing.  
Ding dong! Verily the sky  
is riven with angels' singing.  
*Gloria...***



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

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

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**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 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month

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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

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