



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.**

We sing:

**Light the Advent candle two.
Think of humble shepherds who
filled with wonder at the sight
of the child on Christmas night.**

***Candle, candle, burning bright
Shining in the cold winter night.
Candle, candle burning bright
Fill our hearts with Christmas light.***

OPENING HYMN *Bianco da Siena (d. 1434)*

**1 Come down, O love divine,
seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardour glowing;
O comforter, draw near,
within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.**

**2 O let it freely burn,
till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light
shine ever on my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.**

**3 Let holy charity
mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart,
which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.**

**4 And so the yearning strong,
with which the soul will long,
shall far outpass the power of human telling,
for none can guess its grace,
till he become the place
wherein the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.**

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.**

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 11.1-10; Romans 15.4-13

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

GRADUAL HYMN *Charles Wesley (1707-88)*

**1 Come, thou long expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.**

**2 Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.**

**3 Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.**

**4 By thine own eternal spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.**

THE GOSPEL

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

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

Matthew 3.1-12

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

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

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

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 *C E Oakley (1832-65)*

**1 Hills of the north, rejoice;
river and mountain-spring,
hark to the advent voice;
valley and lowland, sing;
though absent long, your Lord is nigh;
he judgement brings and victory.**

**2 Isles of the southern seas,
deep in your coral caves
pent be each warring breeze,
lulled be your restless waves;
he comes to reign with boundless sway,
and makes your wastes his great highway.**

**3 Lands of the east, awake,
soon shall your sons be free;
the sleep of ages break,
and rise to liberty.
On your far hills, long cold and grey,
has dawned the everlasting day.**

**4 Shores of the utmost west,
ye that have waited long,
unvisited, unblest,
break forth to swelling song;
high raise the note, that Jesus died,
yet lives and reigns, the Crucified.**

**5 Shout, while ye journey home;
songs be in every mouth;
lo, from the north we come,
from east and west and south.
City of God, the bonds are free,
we come to live and reign in thee!**

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

We sing **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.**

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:

We sing **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.**

We sing **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.**

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 ©1992 Stephen Dean, Published by OCP Publications

***Lord, your love has drawn us near,
perfect love which casts out fear,
love has sought us, homeward brought us,
joined us in communion here.***

**1 How can I repay the Lord,
who feeds us with his word,
with bread and wine?
Sing in homage all your days,
a sacrifice of praise
will be our sign.
*Lord, your love...***

**2 He who calls us to be here,
who calms us in our fear,
will guide our way;
He who gave his very life,
who conquered in the strife,
will light our day.
*Lord, your love...***

**3 Every creature that God feeds,
praise him who fills your needs,
lift up your voice;
every creature that has breath,
praise him who conquered death,
and still rejoice!
*Lord, your love...***

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 of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

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

CLOSING HYMN *L E Smith Jr ©1974, 1978 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 Zion:
our God reigns, our God reigns.**

Our God reigns...

**3 Waste places of Jerusalem, break forth with joy!
We are redeemed, redeemed.
The Lord has saved and comforted His people:
our God reigns, 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.**

Our God reigns...

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SUNDAY SERVICE:
Sung Eucharist 9:45am weekly

WEEKDAY SERVICE:
Thursday 9:30am Said Eucharist
followed by Heart of Welcome Café 10am-12pm

Saturday Prayers 9.30am next one Saturday 13th December

Tiny Toes Toddler Group every Monday in term time, 9.30 – 11am

Regular services
and events
at St Alban's



St Alban's contact details

Priest-in-charge

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Christmas at St Alban's

Carols at the Barn Church Sunday 7th December at 6pm

Candlelit Carol Service Sunday 14th December at 6pm

Crib Service Christmas Eve at 4pm

Midnight Mass

Christmas Eve at 9.30pm 'Bethlehem time'

Christmas Day Family Service at 9.45am

