



Welcome to St Alban's

Advent 3 'Gaudete' Sunday

The third candle of the Advent Wreath is lit and we all pray...

**Lord Jesus, light of the world,
John told the people to prepare, for you were very near.
As Christmas grows closer day by day,
help us to be ready to welcome you now. Amen.**

We sing:

**Light the Advent candle three.
Think of heavenly harmony:
Angels singing 'Peace on earth'
at the blessed saviour's birth.**

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

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: C Coffin (1676-1749), tr. J Chandler (1808-1876)

**1 Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ the head and cornerstone,
Chosen of the Lord, and precious,
Binding all the Church in one;
Holy Zion's help for ever,
And her confidence alone.**

2 All that dedicated city,
dearly loved of God on high,
in exultant jubilation
pours perpetual melody,
God the One in Three adoring
in glad hymns eternally.

3 To this temple, where we call you,
Come, O Lord of Hosts, today;
With your wonted loving-kindness
Hear your servants as they pray,
And your fullest benediction
Shed within its walls alway.

4 Here vouchsafe to all your servants
What they ask of you to gain;
What they gain from you, forever
With the blessed to retain,
And hereafter in your glory
Evermore with thee to reign.

5 Praise and honour to the Father,
Praise and honour to the Son,
Praise and honour to the Spirit,
Ever Three, and ever One,
Consubstantial, co-eternal,
While unending ages run.

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.**

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)

God for whom we watch and wait,
you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son:
give us courage to speak the truth,
to hunger for justice,
and to suffer for the cause of right,
with Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 35.1-10; James 5.7-10

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

GRADUAL HYMN *Edward Caswall (1814-1878)*

**1 Hark! A herald voice is sounding;
'Christ is nigh,' it seems to say;
'Cast away the dreams of darkness,
O ye children of the day!'**

**2 Startled at the solemn warning,
let the earth-bound soul arise;
Christ, her sun, all sloth dispelling,
shines upon the morning skies.**

**3 Lo! The Lamb, so long expected,
comes with pardon down from heaven;
let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
one and all to be forgiven.**

**4 So when next he comes with glory,
wrapping all the earth in fear,
may he then as our defender
on the clouds of heaven appear.**

**5 Honour, glory, virtue, merit,
to the Father and the Son,
with the co-eternal Spirit,
while unending ages run.**

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 11.2-11

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*

May the God of peace make you completely holy,
ready for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.
We share a sign of peace with those nearest us.

OFFERTORY HYMN *C Coffin (1676-1749), tr. J Chandler (1808-1876)*

**1 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Come then and hearken, for he brings
Glad tidings from the King of kings.**

**2 Then cleansed be every breast from sin;
Make straight the way for God within;
Prepare we in our hearts a home,
Where such a mighty Guest may come.**

**3 For thou art our salvation, Lord,
Our refuge, and our great reward;
Without thy grace we waste away,
Like flowers that wither and decay.**

**4 Stretch forth thine hand, to heal our sore,
And make us rise to fall no more;
Once more upon thy people shine,
And fill the world with love divine.**

**5 All praise, eternal Son, to thee
Whose advent sets thy people free,
Whom with the Father we adore,
And Holy Ghost, for evermore.**

THE EUCHARIST

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation.
Through your goodness we have this bread to offer,
which earth has given and human hands have made.
It will become for us the bread of life. **Blessed be God forever.**

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation.
Through your goodness we have this wine to offer,
fruit of the vine and work of human hands.
It will become for us the cup of salvation. **Blessed be God forever.**

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.
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.**

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 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 *Ateliers et Presses de Taizé*

**Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.
Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!**

Post communion prayer

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts;
kindle in us the fire of your Spirit
that when your Christ comes again
we may shine as lights before his face;
who is alive and reigns 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 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 *Charles Wesley (1707 - 1788)*

**1 Rejoice, the Lord is King
Your Lord and King adore;
Mortals, give thanks, and sing,
And triumph ever more:**

***Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;
rejoice, again I say, rejoice!***

**2 Jesus the Saviour reigns,
The God of truth and love;
When He had purged our stains,
He took His seat above:
*Lift up your heart...***

**3 His kingdom cannot fail,
He rules o'er earth and heaven;
The keys of death and hell
Are to our Jesus given:
*Lift up your heart...***

**4 He sits at God's right hand
Till all His foes submit,
And bow to His command,
And fall beneath His feet:
*Lift up your heart...***

Christmas at St Alban's

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

Everyone is very warmly invited!



Regular services and events
at St Alban's

SUNDAY SERVICE:

Sung Eucharist 9:45am weekly

WEEKDAY SERVICE:

Thursday 9:30am Said Eucharist

followed by Heart of Welcome Café 10am-12pm

Saturday Prayer Breakfast 9.30am next one Saturday 10th January

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



*Celebrating God's Love
in the Heart of our
Community*

St Alban's contact details

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