



Welcome to St Alban's Church Holy Innocents

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 *James Montgomery (1771-1854)*

**1 Angels from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye who sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:
*Come and worship Christ, the new-born King.
Come and worship, worship Christ,
the new-born King.***

**2 Shepherds, in the field abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing,
yonder shines the infant-light: *Come and worship...***

**3 Sages, leave your contemplations,
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great desire of nations,
ye have seen his natal star: *Come and worship...***

**4 Saints, before the altar bending,
watching long in hope and fear,
suddenly the Lord descending
in his temple shall appear: *Come and worship...***

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.

GLORIA

All sing

***Glory, glory to God, glory to God in the highest heav'ns;
peace, peace, peace on the earth;
peace to God's people, all people on earth. (Repeat)***

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.
Glory, glory...

Lord Jesus Christ, Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy, mercy on us. Have mercy, mercy on us.

You are seated at the right hand, at the right hand of the Father,
receive, Lord, receive our prayer. Receive, Lord, receive our prayer.
Glory, glory...

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, glory of God, the glory of God the Father.
Glory, glory...

Amen, amen.

THE COLLECT (The special prayer of the day)

Heavenly Father,
whose children suffered at the hands of Herod,
though they had done no wrong:
by the suffering of your Son and by the innocence of our lives
frustrate all evil designs and establish your reign of justice and peace;
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 for ever.
Amen.

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

Jeremiah 31.15-17; 1 Corinthians 1.26-29

*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, alleluia, alleluia.

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

Matthew 2.13-18

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

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:

We sing **Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and God of might:
Heaven and earth, heaven and earth
are full of your glory, your power and might.**

***Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest heavens.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest heavens.***

**Blessed, blessed is he who comes,
Blessed, blessed is he who comes,
blessed is he, blessed is he
who comes in the name of the Lord. *Hosanna...***

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 **Dying you destroyed our death,
Rising you restored our life.
Lord Jesus come, Lord Jesus come;
Lord Jesus come in glory
*Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest heav'ns!
Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest heav'ns!***

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.**

We sing **Jesus, Lamb of God, Bread of Life for us;
Jesus, Lamb of God, Wine of Joy for us;
Jesus, Lamb of God bearing all our sin;
Have mercy on us, give us your 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 receive a blessing.

COMMUNION HYMN *W. Chatterton Dix*

**1 What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping?
*This, this is Christ, the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
the Babe, the Son of Mary!***

**2 Why lies he in such mean estate,
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading. *This, this is Christ, the King...***

**3 So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,
come, peasant, king to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone Him. *This, this is Christ, the King...***

Prayer after Communion

Lord Jesus Christ,
in your humility you have stooped to share our human life
with the most defenceless of your children:
may we who have received these gifts of your passion
rejoice in celebrating the witness of the Holy Innocents
to the purity of your sacrifice
made once for all upon the cross;
for you are alive and reign, 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.**

THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

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

***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 on the mountain...***

**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 on the mountain...***

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

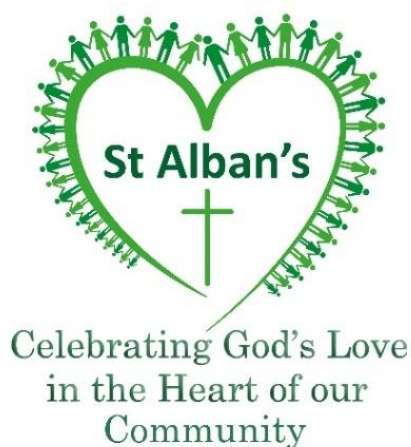
Regular services and events
at St Alban's

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



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