

St. Alban's Episcopal Church
1308 Meadowbrook Drive
Syracuse, NY 13224-1718
Website: stalbandsyracuse.org
Church email: stalbands.syr@gmail.com

The Rev. Julie E. Calhoun-Bryant, Rector
Email: julieatalban@gmail.com
Cell: 315-416-7133



Emmanuel Episcopal Church
400 W. Yates Street
East Syracuse, NY 13057
Find the Sunday Service on Facebook
Website:
facebook.com/emmanueleastsyracuse

The Rev. Julie E. Calhoun-Bryant,
Priest-in-Charge

February 8, 2022

Dear Friends,

This week's topic is grace. Grace is the free and unmerited favor of God, manifested in the salvation of sinners through the death of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the bestowal of blessings through participation in the life of God. "And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a Father's only son, full of grace and truth. From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace." (John 1:14)

Since grace is free and unmerited, it cannot be earned. There is nothing we can do to deserve it, for all are sinners standing in dire need of God's grace. This might be where one is tempted to say, well some are in more need of God's grace than others. One even may go so far as to think that some criminals are beyond God's grace, pedophiles for instance. I once read a novel where there was a scene in which a man had just died and his three year old granddaughter was dancing and singing at his wake. Her abuser was dead and she was free. That mental image still haunts me. Surely, we think (hope?) someone like that will never experience salvation. Yet there is no sin that the cross does not cover if a person truly repents and asks God's forgiveness and mercy. There is nothing we can add to the cross of Jesus Christ. Grace is offered freely to all people, thanks be to God!

We don't like to think of ourselves as sinners in need of God's grace. We like to think we're pretty good people - and most are. The problem comes when we begin to think we are better than others because we don't commit sinful acts, or at least not extraordinary ones. This morning's Gospel in the Daily Office lectionary included the story of the woman caught in the act of adultery. Jesus was teaching in the Temple when the authorities brought her to him to see what he would do, noting that the penalty was death by stoning. Jesus said, "Let whoever among you is without sin cast the first stone." One by one they walked away, beginning with the eldest.

What if we tried to be as gracious as God; what would that look like? We would give each other the benefit of the doubt if someone was having an off day. We would remember that no one lives a pain free life. If you don't know what burdens someone is carrying it simply means that either you don't know the person well or that the person has chosen to suffer silently. Bullies and mean girls aside, most of us are doing the best we know how. Grace-filled living means building others up and leaving them the better for having spent time with you. It means looking for the divine spark within them while letting your own divine spark shine brightly. It means striving to view others through Jesus' eyes and respond accordingly. After all, that's how God chooses to see you.

Grace be with you,
Mother Julie+

In Person Schedule

Saturday	Emmanuel	Coffee Hour: 4:15 pm	Worship: 5:00 p.m.
Sunday	St. Alban's	Bible Study: 8:30 a.m.	Worship: 9:30 a.m.
		Coffee Hour: 10:30 a.m.	
Wednesday	Emmanuel	Bible Study: 2:00 p.m.	

Zoom Schedule & Codes

Sunday

8:30 a.m. Bible Study: **835 9000 0245 & 562087**

9:30 a.m. St. Alban's Holy Eucharist: **826 9515 6305 & 446765**

Use your telephone for Zoom Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

Dial 1-646-558-8656

When prompted Enter **826 9515 6305#**

When prompted Enter **#**

When prompted Enter **446765#**

That will put you in Zoom's waiting room.

Tuesday

10:00 a.m. Morning Prayer: **824 6993 1403 & 680299**

Wednesday

2:00 p.m. Bible Study: **840 0349 8213 & 586548**

5:45 p.m. Confirmation Class begins Feb. 16: **878 5399 0472 and 014354**

Thursday

6:00 p.m. Eat and Chat: **861 7759 3272 and 295096**

6:30 p.m. Mother Julie's Class

Mother Julie's Schedule for February 10-16

<u>Emmanuel</u>	<u>St. Alban's</u>	<u>Days Off</u>
Saturday: 4:00-6:30 p.m.	Sunday	Monday
Wednesday: 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.	Tuesday: 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	Friday
	Thursday: 12:00-8:00 p.m.	

**The Bishop is Coming to
Emmanuel on March 26 and St. Alban's on April 24**

Class begins Wednesday, February 16 at 5:45 p.m. on Zoom
Open to anyone who is interested in attending!
If you are unable to Zoom you can join Mother Julie at Emmanuel.

February 16: Sacraments

February 23: Book of Common Prayer

March 2: Ash Wednesday Service at St. Alban's in person and on Zoom

Ash Wednesday Service at Emmanuel: 3:00 p.m. (after Bible study)

March 9: English Reformation: Henry VIII and Edward VI

March 16: English Reformation: Mary and Elizabeth I

March 23: Beginning of The Episcopal Church in America

Zoom codes: 878 5399 0472 and 014354

Thursday Evenings on Zoom in February

6:00 p.m. Gather and share dinner from your home

6:30 p.m. Classes led by Mother Julie on Forgiveness (10th),
Redemption (17th) and Group's Choice (24th)

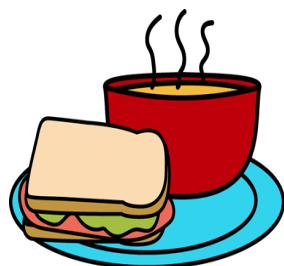
Thursday Evenings on Zoom in March - Lenten Book Study

6:00 p.m. Gather and share dinner from your home

6:30 p.m. Book Study: Jesus, by Marcus Borg

Mother Julie has ordered 8 copies at \$12 each. Let her know if you want one.
If you are unable to Zoom you can join Mother Julie at St. Alban's.

Zoom Codes for Thursdays - 861 7759 3272 and 295096



Martha's Kitchen is making quiche and 36 sandwiches on Tuesday, February 15 at 1:00 p.m. at St. Alban's. The food is taken to the Women's Opportunity Center in Liverpool, which trains women to enter or re-enter the workforce.



Coming to
St. Alban's
Boutique:

Care Bears by
Jan Bookhout

Coming in Lent to
St. Alban's
Boutique:
Crosses made by
Bert Bookhout

