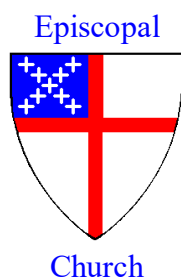


St. Alban's Episcopal Church
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Emmanuel Episcopal Church
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The Rev. Julie E. Calhoun-Bryant,
Priest-in-Charge

July 27, 2022

Dear Friends,

When my son Russell was in middle school as soon as school started in the fall he began pestering me about letting him decorate the front of the house for Halloween. My answer was always the same, "You can decorate the house on October 1." We had the same conversation nearly every day. The plastic pumpkins were one thing, but I didn't want the ghouls masks, black cloaks, and spiderwebs up too early!

Last Sunday's Gospel reading included the Lord's Prayer and a parable after it. Jesus said something like, "Suppose you have an unexpected visitor later at night and you have no food to offer him. So you go and knock on your neighbor's door and ask for food to give your visitor. The neighbor shouts back 'Go away! The lights are out, the door is locked for the night, and everyone is in bed.' However, you don't go away. You keep knocking on the neighbor's door until he gets out of bed to give you the food so that you'll go away and leave him alone. Your persistence has paid off and you have what you need." What's that all about?

The key is that Jesus said this parable after giving us the Lord's Prayer. His point is that we are to keep on knocking on God's door in prayer until we know God's answer. First Jesus tells his disciples how to pray and then he uses this parable to remind them never to stop praying. God is listening and God always answers our prayers with a Yes, No, Not Yet, or I've got a better idea! Some prayers are answered quickly. Some are answered in God's perfect time. Sometimes, as with my son Russell, we don't like the answer and keep hoping it will change. Aligning our will with God's will, however, can change both the nature and the content of our prayer. So, how do we pray?

Our Father

Not everyone had a loving father and addressing God as Father is a roadblock for some. God desires to be in relationship with us; that's the point. Jesus knew God the Father as loving, compassionate, and forgiving, as well as almighty and all-powerful. God desires good things for us - good as defined by God.

Hallowed be thy name

We should only use the name of God or Jesus if we are talking to God or talking about God.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done

We are to pray for the coming of God's kingdom, for the carrying out of God's will. There is no room for selfish desires. This is about aligning our will with God's will and desiring what God desires for us and all for all humankind.

Give us today our daily bread

This is better translated, give us today our bread for tomorrow. Many of the peasants in Jesus' day were day laborers. If they weren't paid at the end of the day because they could find no work their family didn't eat the next day. Jesus encourages us to ask God for what we need. He also expects that Christians everywhere will help supply others' critical needs. The poverty rate among children in Syracuse is among the worst in the nation. The food we are contributing to InterFaith Works' network of pantries is part of meeting others' critical needs in the name of Jesus Christ.



Pasta
Canned Fruits
Peanut Butter
Jelly
Dried or Canned Beans
Canned Vegetables
Canned Soup
Boxed Macaroni &
Cheese

Canned Tuna or Chicken
Vegetable Oil
Oatmeal
Cereal
Walnuts/Almonds
Juice
Flour
Rice
Shelf Stable Milk

Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us

If we are not forgiving we will not be forgiven. That's a scary thought. However, a hallmark of the Christian spirit is forgiveness. Forgiveness is hard work if you've been deeply wounded and it can take a long time. Are you doing the work? Forgiveness is not saying that the sin never happened. Forgiveness is not saying that the action didn't matter. It did and it does. Forgiveness also removes the blackness from your own soul so that it doesn't simmer and poison your heart.

Lead us not into temptation/Save us from the time of trial

Both these translations are found in ancient manuscripts. James 1:13-14 tells us, "Let no one say when he is tempted, 'I am tempted by God'; for God cannot be tempted with evil and he himself tempts no one; but each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire." This is the sense of "lead us not into temptation." Save us from the time of trial refers to the end times, when Christ will come again as Judge and defeat once and for all the powers of evil and death.

To sum up,

- ♦ Pray in confidence to our loving and compassionate God who desires to be in a relationship with us.
- ♦ Pray for God's kingdom to come and for God's will to be done.
- ♦ Ask God to supply what you and those you are praying for truly need.
- ♦ Nurture a spirit of forgiveness in yourself.
- ♦ Ask God to protect you from evil.

Finally, expect your prayers to be answered and then accept God's answer. Keep on knocking on God's door - never stop! God will never tell you to go away, for God loves you with an everlasting love.

Mother Julie+



Hot Dogs in the Kingdom is July 28!

Fourth Thursdays at Emmanuel from May-September

5:00-7:00 p.m. Free hot dogs, chips, and drinks

Games for kids & families Canine rest stop

In Person Schedule: Both Parishes & Friends are welcome!

Saturday	Emmanuel	Coffee Hour: 4:15 p.m. 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.	* Also on Zoom

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

Dial **1-646-558-8656**

When prompted Enter

When prompted Enter

When prompted Enter

That will put you in Zoom's waiting room.

Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

826 9515 6305#

#

446765#

Other Events

First number#

Second number#

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

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

Mother Julie's Schedule July 26-31

Emmanuel	St. Alban's	Days Off
Saturday	Sunday	Monday
Tuesday: 6:00-8:00 p.m.	Tuesday: 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	Friday
Wednesday: 10 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Thursday: 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	
Thursday: 4:45-7:00 p.m.		