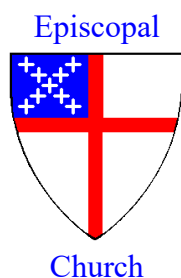


St. Alban's Episcopal Church
1308 Meadowbrook Drive
Syracuse, NY 13224-1718
Website: stalbansyracuse.org
Church email: stalbans.syr@gmail.com

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
facebook.com/emmanueleastsyracuse
Email: emmanuel13057@gmail.com

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

To Be Discussed during Bible Study on June 15 and 19

June 7, 2022

Dear Friends,

This summer the following resolution will go before General Convention, the governing body of The Episcopal Church. It promotes the concept of “Open Table”, meaning that unbaptized people may receive Holy Eucharist. (See description of General Convention below.)

Resolved, That the Diocese of Northern California requests that 80th General Convention repeal CANON I.17.7 of the Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church (2018 Revision, page 88), which states: “No unbaptized person shall be eligible to receive Holy Communion in this Church.” (The explanation for the resolution is on page 3 of this letter.)

In response to this resolution a group of theologians from a number of Episcopal seminaries has sent a statement to the chairs of the House of Bishops or House of Deputies Committees on Constitution and Canons or Prayer Book, Liturgy and Music, expressing the centrality of baptism for participation in the sacrament of holy communion. The statement in defense of the traditional understanding is in response to a proposed General Convention resolution to do away with the prayer book rubric. It reads:

Introduction

On behalf of the 22 scholars who endorse the attached consensus statement, I am writing to you in your respective capacities as the Chairs of the House of Bishops or House of Deputies Committees on Constitution and Canons or Prayer Book, Liturgy and Music, asking that you share this statement with your constitutive members for their consideration. Please note that this statement, which we are also making public, comes only from its signatories in their personal capacity as scholars serving The Episcopal Church in various ways, and not as representatives of our respective institutions.

Three Key Concerns

While the precipitating cause of the statement is the proposed resolution C028 for General Convention to eliminate Canon I.17.7, our concern is broader than that. The statement speaks for itself, but it arises from the more pervasive sense that something has gone amiss in our collective sacramental theology when (1) Baptism is regarded by many as a barrier to participation in the Church; (2) the essential relationship between Baptism and Eucharist is ignored or forgotten; and (3) the Eucharist is regarded exclusively as a “meal” on a “table” and not also a “sacrifice” on an “altar.” Regardless of the fate of Canon I.17.7 either this summer or later, The Episcopal Church must reaffirm its commitment to Baptism as the foundational sacrament through which we become members of the Body of Christ and share in the life of grace; to the

Eucharist as the repeatable element of the baptismal rite of initiation; and to an understanding of the Eucharist that holds together the equally necessary emphases of meal/table and sacrifice/altar. To let go of any of these three commitments is to relinquish our distinctively Anglican sacramental theology and baptismal ecclesiology as articulated in The Book of Common Prayer, many internal statements, and ecumenical dialogues.

A Statement on Baptism and Eucharist in The Episcopal Church

Holy Baptism is the sacramental foundation of our common life with God and one another. Freely offered to all humanity, Baptism is the fountain from which the other sacraments flow, that which joins us to Christ and enables us to share in the divine life of the Holy and Blessed Trinity. This condition is not a natural human birthright but a gift of supernatural grace. Holy Baptism is what makes the Church the Church and therefore what enables us to participate in all other Christian sacraments or sacramental rites, such as the Eucharist.

According to The Book of Common Prayer (1979), the Eucharist is not only a holy “meal” served from a “table,” it is also a sacramental “sacrifice” offered on an “altar.” These descriptions are not opposed but complementary, and both emphases must be maintained. More specifically, according to our “Commentary on Eucharistic Sharing,” approved by General Convention and found in The Episcopal Church’s Handbook for Ecumenism, “The Holy Communion is a sacramental event in the life of God’s people. It is a special offering of thanksgiving by those who are united by a common faith, responsive to the Word proclaimed in their midst and recalling in Eucharistic Liturgy the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, their common Lord. It is a sacrament of unity for God’s people, as it is the divine presence of the one and undivided Lord, and serves to bind into a common body those whose differences He has reconciled.”

Unlike Baptism, Holy Eucharist is therefore not intended for “all people” without exception, but is rather for “God’s people” understood above as a common body united by a common faith. To require such corporate faith as confessed in the Baptismal Covenant is not exclusive or inhospitable but simply what it means to receive Communion in this Church. Indeed, according to our “Commentary on Eucharistic Sharing,” in addition to being baptized, those who receive the Eucharist in The Episcopal Church must “examine their lives, repent of their sins, and be in love and charity with all people” and “shall approach the Holy Communion as an expression of the Real Presence of Jesus Christ whose sacrifice once upon the cross was sufficient for all humankind.” There are thus specific moral and theological commitments both expected in and expressed by the act of reception. Finally, in liturgical terms, the Eucharist is understood to be the repeatable culmination of the baptismal rite of initiation, in which those who receive the elements publicly reaffirm their baptism, as the post-communion prayers clearly indicate. These are the basic sacramental convictions of The Episcopal Church, and however the canons express them they need to be acknowledged as such.

The letter is signed by 22 Episcopal Seminary Professors. (I am in full agreement with them.)

What is General Convention?

General Convention is the governing body of The Episcopal Church and meets once every three years. It first met in 1785. General Convention is similar in structure to the United States Congress in that it has two houses which must agree on proposed legislation. The House of Bishops is made up of all active and retired bishops. The House of Deputies is made up of delegations from each diocese, clergy and lay. Each delegation is made up of 4 clergy and 4 lay delegates who are elected for three year terms at the diocesan annual convention. Father Gerry Beritela and Kate Bell were elected as delegates and are going to General Convention this summer.

Explanation provided for the proposed resolution

Repealing this Canon will remove the Episcopal Church's barrier that excludes unbaptized persons from being able to receive a Holy Meal. Please consider:

- The Episcopal Church is known for welcoming all to attend services.
- According to the Gospels, during the last supper Jesus made no mention of the requirement for recipients of bread and wine, taken in remembrance of Him, to be baptized.
- It is uncomfortable to visualize Jesus turning anybody away who desires to remember Him.
- The Holy Eucharist described in the Catechism section of the Book of Common Prayer (1979) makes no mention of baptism being a prerequisite for receiving communion (page 859).
- Baptism is a vital part of being a Christian, but not, according to the Gospels, a prerequisite for partaking in the Holy Meal.
- The Episcopal Church has removed many barriers that were not consistent with the teachings of Jesus.
- This removes the presumed requirement for the person delivering the Holy Meal to assure the recipient has been baptized.
- This could help grow congregations by reducing the number of visitors who do not return because they felt excluded during communion.

I hope you can join me for discussion on Wednesday, June 15 at 2:00 p.m. at Emmanuel or on Zoom or on Sunday, June 19 at 8:30 a.m. at St. Alban's or on Zoom.

Grace and Peace be with you,

Mother Julie+

June 14 at St. Alban's: Both Parishes are Invited!

6:00 p.m.

Dinner: Lasagna, Salad, Bread and Dessert (\$5 per person)

7:00 p.m.

Service of Healing and Holy Eucharist.

Zoom Codes for the Service:

890 4927 4452 & 247720

RSVP to Mother Julie by June 12!

Hot Dogs in the Kingdom is June 23!

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

InterFaith Works' 2nd Annual Summer Food Drive June - September



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

**St. Alban's: Please leave food at the back of the church.
Emmanuel: Please leave food on the shelf inside the front door.**

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.
Tuesday June 14	St. Alban's	Lasagna Dinner: 6:00 p.m. (\$5 per person) *Healing and Holy Eucharist: 7:00 p.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**
 7:00 p.m. Healing and Holy Eucharist: **890 4927 4452 & 247720**

Wednesday

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

Mother Julie's Schedule

Emmanuel	St. Alban's (June 12-16)	Days Off
Saturday	Sunday	Monday
Wednesday: 10 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday: 9:30 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.	Friday
	Thursday: 12:00-5:00 p.m.	