

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

May 10, 2022

Dear Friends,

Since I did not preach a traditional Good Shepherd sermon last weekend I'd to make a few comments in this space. Here's the Gospel lesson from John 10:22-30:

At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one."

First comment: Jesus knows us. In fact, Jesus knows everything about us. Don't let that thought scare you, though. The fact that we cannot hide anything from Jesus saves a lot of time and pretense. No one else knows us completely. Jesus does, and he loves you now, just as you are. Christians are to grow in holiness, into the person we were created to be, by imitating Christ. That doesn't mean that you have to reach a certain level of holiness before you're acceptable or lovable to God. Jesus died on the cross for us as we are, warts and all. That's a powerful love.

Second, sheep know the voice of their shepherd and will follow only him/her. How I wish I could always know when I am following God's will and when I am not! So much is happening in the world that it can be overwhelming. Two years of pandemic life has left its mark on all of us, and another surge probably is coming late summer or fall. There's also: Do I support anti-abortion or pro-choice legislation? How do I respond to what's happening in Ukraine? Should I wear a mask? What happens out west if the reservoirs keep drying up and there's not enough water for both crops and to produce electricity? Even if the world changes and seems unrecognizable, God does not change. God is constant, all-powerful, and already knows the future of humanity and the planet.

More than ever Christians need to come together for support and encouragement. Here's what I am proposing. Both are open to both congregations!

Saturday, June 4: Since Sunday, June 5 is an East Side Episcopalians service there is no service at Emmanuel. Let's gather at Emmanuel for a spaghetti dinner and game night, 4:15 p.m. for cards and board games, with dinner around 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, June 14: Dinner at 6:00 p.m. and the Service of Healing and Holy Eucharist at 7:00 p.m. at St. Alban's. We used to do this monthly before the pandemic hit and we miss it.

And third, Jesus promises us that no one can snatch us out of God's hands. That's enormously comforting. With God no one falls through the cracks or receives preferential treatment. Once you have made the decision to follow Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior you belong to him forever. Follow Jesus, the Good Shepherd, who knows us each by name, asks us to follow him, and claims us as his own.

In Jesus' Name,
Mother Julie+

In Person Schedule: All 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

Please Note: As long as Onondaga is "high"
on the CDC county map masks are required at both churches.

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

826 9515 6305#

First number#

When prompted Enter

#

When prompted Enter

446765#

Second number#

That will put you in Zoom's waiting room.

Sunday at 9:30 a.m. Other Events

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

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

Thursday

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

6:30 p.m. Book Study: Chapter 9 on May 12 and Chapter 10 on May 19

VESTRY

St. Alban's: May 17 at 6:00 p.m.

Emmanuel: May 24 at 6:00 p.m.