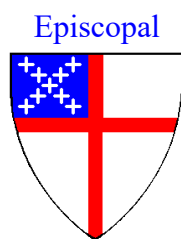


St. Alban's Episcopal Church
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Facebook: [stalbandschurhsyr](https://www.facebook.com/stalbanschurchsy)
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Church

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

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry's Statement on November 7

You may know me as the pastor who is always talking about love, and I am. But today I am mindful that the urgency of love - true, sacrificial love that respects all of humanity - is not just a good feeling, and it is not easy.

We are called to a love that demands much from us. We are called to a love that tells the truth.

Today I raise my voice for love because more than 10,000 people have died in Gaza, including more than 4,000 children.

The violence is horrific, and the geopolitics are complex, but my call to love is simple: Stop the killing. Stop all of it. Stop it today.

We will not be silent while an entire population is denied food, water, electricity, and fuel needed to run hospitals. We cannot stand by while thousands of civilians die. Our partners in the region tell us they live in terror - that they feel they have died even while alive. They feel that the international community is tacitly sanctioning the killing of civilians and the bombing of schools, hospitals, and refugee camps.

Staying quiet in this moment would be a stain upon our souls and would deepen our complicity.

U.S. leadership must tell Israel to stop bombing civilian areas and allow access for full humanitarian aid to flow freely into Gaza.

Every human child of God - Palestinian and Israeli - deserves safety and security. We need to stop the killing. Today.

Vengeance will not bring back the dead. Retaliation will not repair the harms and the hurt. We are called to love, even and especially when it seems impossible.

We must stop the next 10,000 from being killed. As Episcopalians, we must call upon our leaders - President Biden, members of Congress, and others - to be unequivocal that we need to stop the killing. Today. This is clearly what love demands of us.

(For news on The Episcopal Church go to episcopalnewsservice.org)

Ten Bridesmaids (Matthew 25:1-13) - Mother Julie's Sermon on Nov. 11/12

Every Sat/Sun you say with me: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. Today's Gospel is about that third mystery of faith: Christ will come again. For Christians, Christ coming again is not something to fear, but to celebrate! If we consider that the opposite of fear is joy, then celebrate is indeed the word we want. We just sang Alleluias in a hymn about this parable.

When I was a child growing up in The Episcopal Church there was a song about the Second Coming we sang at youth events. The chorus went like this: There's no time to change your mind. How could you have been so blind? The Father spoke. The demons dined. The Son has come. And you've been left behind.

The Western Church in its long history, and many of its denominations in the last centuries, have used fear as a motivating factor. Do this or else you will burn in hell. Worship and live as we say or face the fire and brimstone of God's wrath. On the other hand we have heard them say: Believe what we tell you to believe, worship in the state-sanctioned fashion and heaven will be yours. It was a stark choice, which ultimately many Christians rejected, only to impose their new ways of worship on others and punish cruelly those who dissented. We see such fear at work in our country today and in the brutal laws enacted against those not in power. The anti-LGBTQ legislation that's been passed in many states, the laws that prevent children from learning the truth about the treatment of Black people and other minorities in America throughout our history are about fear: fear of losing power and influence, fear of being made to share the wealth, fear of facing the existence and reality of White privilege. Fear keeps us focused on the wrong things. Fear tears apart communities rather than build them up.

What if we were to embrace joy as a motivation for sharing the news that Christ will come again? As Christians we believe that the Cross of Christ is the only thing that stands between our sins and God's righteous judgment. God the Son came himself to accomplish what humanity can never do, bring those who believe in the saving work of Jesus Christ into a right relationship with God. It's a gift freely given by God to us, salvation by grace alone. Nothing else will save us. We cannot add anything to the Cross of Christ.

Now some brands of Christianity are focused on the personal salvation of your soul. They ask us, "Have you been saved?" What often follows is the requirement of some sort of proof that you have indeed been saved. When I was a teenager the proof required was that you had spoken in tongues. We had many conversations among ourselves about this at diocesan youth events. My answer to "Have you been saved?" is "Yes, I believe that through the death and resurrection of my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ my sins are forgiven and I will share in Christ's resurrection in the Kingdom of Heaven." Period. When Christ comes again my faith will save me.

Let's look at Jesus' parable of the ten bridesmaids. Jesus clearly warns us in this parable that there will be a Day of Judgment, a final reckoning. Whether it's upon

our individual deaths or at the Second Coming, there will be a time when the door is closed. At that time it will be too late to share the extra oil for our lamps. There is no judgment implied for those who didn't share their oil at the sound that the Bridegroom was near. Jesus' focus is on those who came to the banquet unprepared. My question for those of us who have faith in the salvation of our souls through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ is this: What will you do with your extra oil this time between Christ is risen and Christ will come again? Are we content to know that our personal salvation is secured by our faith in Jesus Christ or do we work to bring about our Christian hope for all humanity?

One of the reasons I am an Episcopalian is that our Church doesn't stop at personal salvation. The Episcopal Church that we are a part of invites to become Beloved Community. We do this by taking a hard look at the truth of American history, seeing the whole picture, repenting of the sins of the past, and working together to build a community that sees and respects all people as beloved children of God. White privilege is real. The very fact that us White people don't approach every encounter thinking about how our race will come into play is evidence of it. How often do you think about your race? Black and Brown sisters and brothers will tell you that they think about it every single day, often multiple times a day.

In her book, Waking Up White, Debby Irving tells this story. In a course she was taking the subject of the day was unintentional inattentiveness. The exercise took the form of a video they were asked to watch in silence. Before starting the video the professor asked his twelve students to count how many times the basketball was passed between players during the game. After the video was over Debby called out, "Fifteen times." After some conversation about that the group was asked to raise their hands if they saw the gorilla. Half the students thought it was a joke. They were certain that there was no gorilla in the video, until the professor replayed it for them. Debby began to wonder what else she was missing, what else she hadn't seen. Had she seen the store clerk following the person of color? Had she ever noticed a White customer served ahead of a Black customer who was there first?

Becoming Beloved Community includes learning to notice things we hadn't before. If members of the community aren't treated as beloved why is that? Communities are built on relationships. The deeper the relationship the more you know about one another. One of the things I learned as a young priest is that you don't really know a person until you know what pain and grief they are carrying. That goes for relationships between communities as well.

Right now we have oil in our flasks and the gate is still open. Christ has not yet come again. Jesus calls us to reach out in love to all God's people, to embrace them as brothers and sisters, and to strive for justice and peace. I believe that we will be held into account for how well we shared God's love with those whom we weren't already in relationship. Amen.

CRAFT AND VENDOR SALE
BAKE SALE
MEATBALL SUB SALE

EMMANUEL
November 18 from 10:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.



Thanksgiving Eve Services
Wednesday, November 22

3:00 p.m. at Emmanuel
5:30 p.m. at St. Alban's

Mission of Miracles

After many years the diocesan Mission of Miracles to El Salvador will make its final trip this winter. Through this mission volunteer medical professionals and Spanish speakers from the diocese have brought medical and dental treatment to hundreds of people. They're requesting the following items, to be collected on December 2 at Grace, Utica.

Acetaminophen (Tylenol)
Individually wrapped single, soft toothbrushes
Toothpaste (larger tubes preferred, please)
Dental floss
Muscle rub (like Bengay)
Anti-fungal cream
Reader glasses, 2.00 or stronger
Gently used braces for wrists, ankles, knees, elbows
Canes

Emmanuel
Collected until
Wednesday, Nov. 29

St. Alban's
Collected until
Thursday, Nov. 30

First Friday Dinner and Silent Auction at St. David's December 1

Time: Appetizers at 6:00 p.m. and Dinner at 7:00 p.m.

Bring: \$15, your own place setting, beverage (coffee and tea provided)

Menu: Beef Tenderloin. Baked Potato, Oven Seasoned Roasted Vegetables,
Green Salad & Holiday Dessert Table

RSVP required by Monday, November 27 to stdavids4@verizon.net or 446-2112

Christmas Cards Needed for Loretto Residents

This is the time of year when charitable organizations send us Christmas cards in the mail as part of asking for a donation. Don't throw them away! Residents at Loretto can use them to send greetings to their family and friends.



The fronts of used Christmas cards also are accepted and used as decorations. Bring in your cards and Chaplain Kate Bell will bring them to Loretto.

In Person Schedule: Both Parishes & Friends are Welcome!

Saturday	Emmanuel	* 4:15 p.m.: Coffee Hour 5:00 p.m.: Holy Eucharist, Church School on Nov. 4 and 18
Sunday	St. Alban's	* 8:30 a.m.: Bible Study * 9:30 a.m.: Holy Eucharist 10:30 a.m.: Coffee Hour

* also on Zoom

Zoom Schedule & Codes

Saturday

5:00 p.m. Emmanuel: 812 9701 3112 & 381729

Sunday

8:30 a.m. Bible Study: 825 2837 9378 & 695433

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

Tuesday

10:00 a.m. Morning Prayer: 849 7442 6644 & 031228

6:30 p.m. St. Alban's Vestry: Codes emailed that afternoon

Wednesday

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

Thursday

7:00 p.m. Sacred Ground