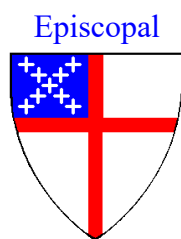


St. Alban's Episcopal Church
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Syracuse, NY 13224-1718
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Facebook: stalbanschurhsyr
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The Rev. Julie E. Calhoun-Bryant, Rector
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Church

Emmanuel Episcopal Church
400 W. Yates Street
East Syracuse, NY 13057
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Website: emmanueleastsyracuse.org

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

All Saints' Celebrations: Come to Any and All!

All Saints' Day, Wednesday, November 1

2:00 p.m. Bible Study at Emmanuel (also on Zoom)
3:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist at Emmanuel (also on Zoom - use Bible Study link)
5:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist at St. Alban's

Saturday of All Saints' Weekend at Emmanuel

4:15 Coffee Hour
5:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist (also on Zoom)
6:30 p.m. Dinner at the Olive Garden on Erie Blvd.

Sunday of All Saints' Weekend at St. Alban's

8:30 a.m. Bible Study (also on Zoom)
9:30 a.m. (also on Zoom, separate link)
10:30 a.m. Brunch in the Fellowship Room

Prayers for the Deceased

Prayers will be said for those who have been buried from the church at both sets of services. You may also submit names of those who have died since last All Saints' Day to be included in our prayers.

Please give names to Lisa.

Mother Julie's Sermon on October 21/22

Note: In the Gospel lesson Jesus is asked if it's lawful to pay taxes. He asks for a Roman coin with which the tax is paid. The coin has Caesar's head on the front. Jesus answers the Pharisees and Herodians who sought to trap him, "Give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and to God what belongs to God."

In the Prophet Isaiah we read: For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor your ways my ways, says the Lord.

Where is the nation that strives to adopt God's ways? Where is the nation that will endeavor to think God's thoughts? Today it's not the United States, nor Israel, nor Hamas.

Our national response to our own 9-11 was fear, revenge and war. The shock and horror of that day still live in the hearts and bodies of those who lived it. We were glued to the news; we watched the towers fall over and over again. Yes, we prayed for peace, but that was almost an afterthought, and not at the heart of our prayers. Many of our leaders and fellow citizens nurtured a rage that was violently expressed in our nation against people who appeared to be Muslim, in Afghanistan, and in Iraq. Our leaders, who are and were predominantly Christian, forgot that we follow a God of Love, a Prince of Peace. Over the next 20 years many people, including our own, were sacrificed in pain and anger.

Today, pain and anger are guiding the people of Israel and their leaders as they have suffered through their own 9-11. Hundreds of Israelis were killed and many more wounded in the surprise attack by Hamas. Just as Americans watched video of the Twin Towers falling for many days, Israelis watch images of those attending a music festival mercilessly gunned down. The images of burned and bullet-ridden babies' bodies shared with American leaders, the fear of what is happening to the nearly 200 hostages all grip the nation and the world.

Israel has the right to defend itself, but what does a proportional response look like? It doesn't look like starving and cutting off electricity to two million innocent civilians. It doesn't look like refusing humanitarian aid into the country. The 20 truckloads allowed in on Saturday are a drop in the bucket, a token response. And a proportional response doesn't look like what we euphemistically call "collateral damage," that is, the deaths of hundreds of men, women, and children.

Jesus told the religious leaders of his own day to give back to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, but to give back to God what belongs to God. What belongs to God? Everything. How do we begin to give back to God what is due God? We seek first God's Kingdom, for if we don't seek it FIRST, we won't seek it at all.

Negatively put, seeking God's Kingdom means innocent people aren't murdered / hostages aren't taken / civilians aren't used as human shields. Positively stated, it means that starving people are fed / the wounded and sick are given the medical care they need / and all people are cherished as God's children. Seeking God's Kingdom means we work for peace. But - and here's the hardest part - seeking God's Kingdom means we look inside ourselves to find the barriers we have put up against those who are "other", those who are not like us.

In a diocesan convention discussion group Saturday morning an older white woman talked about her visit to Israel last spring. She talked about interacting with both Jews and Palestinians. But then she offered an eye opening “aha” moment for herself: Jesus wasn’t white. Jesus was as dark skinned as those whom she was meeting. In her book, Waking Up White, Debby Irving talks about how, as a white woman in America, she never had to think about race. She didn’t recognize that her upbringing wasn’t what was normal for everyone. She never thought about how growing up white was so very different from growing up black or brown. The white experience isn’t normal; it’s the experience of those who have white skin. It seems so obvious! But, consciously and subconsciously we erect barriers in ourselves.

I didn’t have an inter-racial experience until I was 10 years old, not at school and not at church. One day we were in our classrooms at an elementary school in Hyde Park, NY and were told that black students had rioted at a high school in Poughkeepsie and were reported to be heading in our direction. There were rumors that a white teacher at the high school was shot and killed. We were locked in our classrooms. As happens when one is nervous, I had to pee. I finally convinced my teacher to unlock the door and let me run to the restroom at the end of the hall. I never peed so fast. A barrier was erected in my psyche that day. Until we really look at the barriers within ourselves we can’t begin the process of peace-making.

If you would, close your eyes for a minute. Now picture yourself walking down a city street in Syracuse. You’re meeting friends for lunch and lots of people are out and about. You see a small group of young, black men blocking the sidewalk. Their behavior is not threatening. What do you do: politely say “excuse me, please,” and go on your way OR do you cross to the other side of the street. What would you do if the group of young men was white? (open your eyes) I don’t ask this question to condemn anyone, but to point out the racist messages we have internalized simply by living in America. How can we begin to foster peace with one another if we’re afraid to walk near one another?

The divisiveness, the lack of peace in America, doesn’t exist between races alone. On Friday in the House of Representatives the latest candidate for Speaker of the House was defeated, in part, when some of the representatives in his party voted against him because of the tactics of intimidation and fear being used against not only fellow representatives, but their families. Most of these people call themselves Christians. Yet, no one could tell that these intimidators were Christians by their actions. How does the song go? And they’ll know we are Christians by our love, by our love, yes they’ll know we are Christians by our love.

Jesus warned us that not everyone who cries to him, “Lord, Lord!” will enter into the Kingdom of Heaven. A clear Christian witness to the God of Love and Prince of Peace needs to be sounded out in our own nation and around the world. It begins with each of us searching our own hearts and examining what we find there.

Let me conclude with the Prayer for the Holy Land that Bishop DeDe used at the end of convention, a prayer that applies in many nations and circumstances:

Cry out! Cry out! O God, What shall we cry? Cry out for justice. Cry out for love. Cry out for hope. Cry out for mercy. Cry out for compassion. Let everything that hath breath, cry out! What shall we cry? Cry out for peace! Amen.

Church Secretary News for Both Churches

**Lisa's New
Hours Began
Oct. 17**

St. Alban's, 9:00-2:00
Emmanuel, 10:00-4:00
St. Alban's, 9:00-2:00

You are welcome to call Lisa any time!
St. Alban's: 315-446-3490
Emmanuel: 315-463-4310

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
	Home	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

Wednesday

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

Thursday

6:00 p.m. Rule of Life (meeting starts at 6:30 p.m.): Use Thursday Evening Codes