



St. Alban's Episcopal Church
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April 13, 2021

Dear Friends,

Last week while on vacation Brian and I worshipped on Sunday morning using the YouTube service posted on our website, as many of you have been doing for over a year. (Thank you Kate, David, and Meg!) With the bulletin on my iPad and the video on my phone we rejoiced in the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. While it was a much different experience than being in church on Easter Sunday with organ and trumpet fanfare, it was a meaningful time of worship.

How I wish Zoom worked as well. Zoom services on Palm Sunday through St. Alban's and Maundy Thursday through St. David's, DeWitt had a number of glitches. By Easter, with the help of Brian. David Houston, a new router from Verizon, and an external microphone for my laptop things were better. We'll keep plugging away.

The larger question, of course, is when will it be safe for everyone to return to in-person worship? At the moment the Bishop allows us 50 % capacity, as long as everyone can safely be distanced and all are wearing masks. Both vaccinated and unvaccinated people are welcome. I receive my second Pfizer shot tomorrow and on May 12 all five people in my family will be two weeks past their second shot. We will celebrate that wonderful day. Who would have thought 14 months ago we'd be celebrating a vaccine?

Let me take a moment to compare the two celebrations I've mentioned: Easter and getting the vaccine. The latter is a fleeting joy. Booster shots will be needed as the effectiveness wears off and new variants arise. Limitations are still placed on us - mask wearing, social distancing, how many people are allowed to gather. All joy in this life eventually will fade away. But Easter joy, well that's a lasting joy we can carry in our hearts now and through all eternity. Christ is risen! The power of God is stronger than the power of death. The light of Christ could not be extinguished by the darkness of human sin that sought to destroy Jesus. The love of God in Jesus Christ is a love we are invited to hold in our hearts to carry us through times of joy and times of sorrow. It will never be limited or withheld; it does not depend on whether or not we are good enough, and cannot be taken away. St. Paul said it best, "For I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8:39)

During these Great 50 days of Easter nurture a heart filled with joy, for Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Mother Julie+

Use your telephone for Zoom on Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

Dial 1-646-558-8656

When prompted Enter **826 9515 6305#**

When prompted Enter **#**

When prompted Enter **446765#**

That will put you in Zoom's waiting room and you will be let in by a member of the Bishop's staff.

To mute or unmute yourself on the phone press *6

The Sunday service is both In-Person and on Zoom. For those coming to the church the procedure for In-Person worship is the same as last summer and fall:

- ◆ Enter by the ramp door, sign in and use the hand sanitizer provided.
- ◆ Wear a mask.
- ◆ Practice social distancing.
- ◆ We are only using every third pew, so sit in a pew that's not lined with books.
- ◆ We are only receiving the bread at the time of communion. I will bring it down to the area in front of the pews and people will come up one at a time to receive. Please don't consume the wafer until you're back in your pew.
- ◆ Still no coffee hour

Zoom Calendar

Sunday 8:30 a.m. Bible Study 835 9000 0245 & 562087
9:30 a.m. Worship 826 9515 6305 & 446765

Tuesday 10:00 a.m. Morning Prayer: 868 3084 1089 & 114552

The Zoom calendar is limited to give me time to plan again. I have spent the last year preparing bible study, book studies, and Thursday evening classes, many weeks providing all three. In pandemic life this was a good use of my time as your half-time Rector. Now I need to spend some time planning rather than preparing. I will offer another book study in May and bible study continues each Sunday morning before the service.

I also would like to spend time bringing communion to those who have been isolating for the past year and cannot, or aren't yet comfortable, worshipping in-person. I will be two weeks past my second vaccine on April 28. Finally, I will be in conversation with the Women's Opportunity Center about re-starting our food ministry to their clients.

Whether in-person, on Zoom, or on YouTube, I will see you/be seen by you on Sunday!

God be with you,
Mother Julie+

David Gregg's memorial service will be held on Saturday, May 1 at 2:00 p.m.