

St. Alban's Episcopal Church  
1308 Meadowbrook Drive  
Syracuse, NY 13224-1718  
Website: stalbansyracuse.org

The Rev. Julie E. Calhoun-Bryant, Rector  
Email: [julieatalban@gmail.com](mailto:julieatalban@gmail.com)  
Cell: 315-416-7133

December 7, 2021

Dear Friends,

Over the four Tuesdays of Advent I will be writing about faith, hope, joy, and love. Today's theme is hope. Christian hope needs to be distinguished from other common uses of the word. It is not wishful thinking, as in "I hope I get the Christmas present I really want." Nor is hope wishing someone good luck, as in, "I hope you do well on the exam." Such hope is based in nothing real. Christian hope is sure and certain because it is both initiated by God and based on the power of God. We place our hope in God's promises to us. One of the strongest statements is found in Paul's letter to the Romans 8:35-39:

Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 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.

We never have to "hope" that God loves us, for we know that God loved us enough to send his only-begotten Son. We never have to "hope" that we are good enough to enter into paradise upon our death, for all are sinners who have fallen short of the glory of God. The night before he died for us Jesus took the cup of wine, blessed it, and gave it to his disciples saying, "Drink this all of you. This is my blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins." If you believe that through the cross of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, your sins are forgiven and you have been reconciled to God your hope is real because it is based on the promise of God in Jesus Christ. Your hope is sure and certain. Consider Ephesians 1:17-23:

I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

In God is our hope, and we shall never hope in vain.

Mother Julie+

#### Thursday Evening Advent Study

Dec. 2, 9, and 16 on Zoom - We will gather to eat dinner and chat at 6:00 p.m. At 6:30 p.m. I'll present a biblical studies on Faith, Hope & Joy, and Love. If you can't Zoom join me in my office.



## Children's Communion Instruction

The 1st and 3rd Sundays of December Shelby Calhoun is teaching the children about communion during Sunday School. Then during the prayer of consecration I have them up at the altar with me to explain what I am doing and as a refresher for the congregation.

Alex Wilson and Abby Corp already are receiving communion. Christine Corp will receive for the first time when we celebrate with the children and their families on Sunday, Dec. 26. There will be a festive coffee hour that day.



## Christmas Worship: In Person and on Zoom

Christmas Eve, December 24 at 8:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist

Cynthia Bromka-Skafidas on organ

Bert Bookhout on flugelhorn

Janelle Bookhout on oboe

Cornelia Brewster on flute

Christmas Day, December 25 at 11:30 a.m.

Holy Eucharist with Organ and Carols

1st Sunday after Christmas, December 26 at 9:30 a.m.

Holy Eucharist and Festive Coffee Hour to celebrate with the children

2nd Sunday after Christmas, January 2 - East Side Episcopalians service

Lessons & Carols with Holy Eucharist at St. David's, DeWitt at 10:00 a.m.

(A service of Holy Eucharist will be celebrated and recorded for the website on Thursday, December 30 at 5:30 p.m. All are welcome.)

### **In Person Weekend Worship**

Saturday at 11:30 a.m.  
Recorded for our website

Sunday at 9:30 a.m.  
with organ and hymns,  
also on Zoom

### **Use your telephone for Zoom Sunday at 9:30 am**

Dial 1-646-558-8656

When prompted Enter **826 9515 6305#**

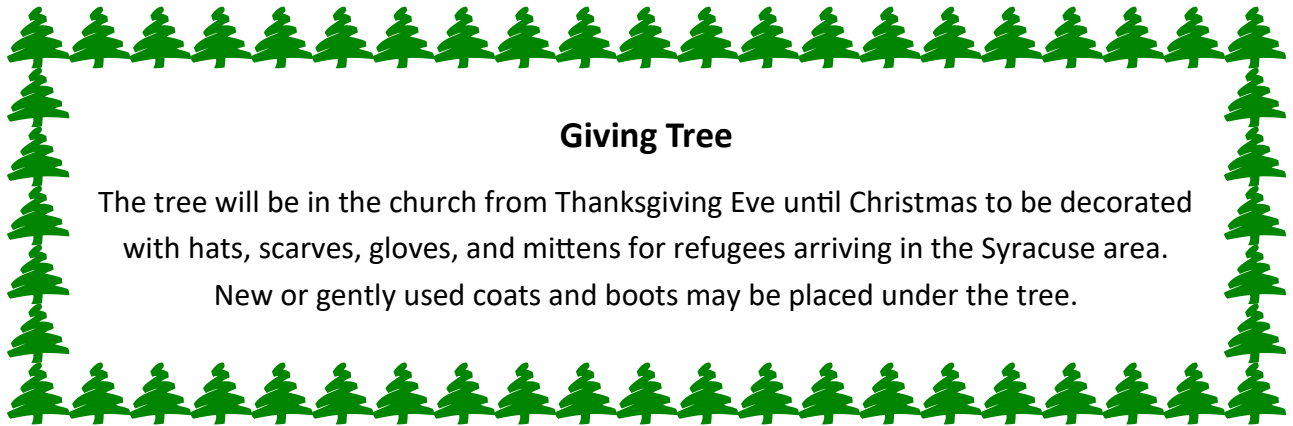
When prompted Enter **#**

When prompted Enter **446765#**

That will put you in Zoom's waiting room  
and you will be let in.

### December 9-14 Calendar, with Zoom Codes where Needed

Thursday	6:00 p.m.	Advent Thursday Study: 834 3382 8700 & 900643
Saturday	11:30 a.m.	Holy Eucharist in person and recorded for the website
Sunday	8:30 a.m.	Bible Study: 835 9000 0245 & 562087
	9:30 a.m.	Holy Eucharist: 826 9515 6305 & 446765
Tuesday	10:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer: 868 3084 1089 & 114552

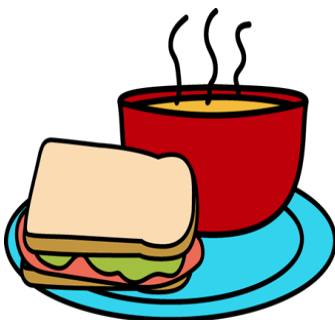


#### Giving Tree

The tree will be in the church from Thanksgiving Eve until Christmas to be decorated with hats, scarves, gloves, and mittens for refugees arriving in the Syracuse area. New or gently used coats and boots may be placed under the tree.

#### St. Alban's Boutique is Open

Jan Bookhout's sewing room is busy with activity and new items are being added. She also takes requests. Thanks to both Jan and Kathleen Eckermann for their contributions. There are no set prices. Take what you like and donate what you can. All proceeds benefit the Mission Fund. We use the fund to purchase food for Martha's Kitchen, for year end charitable donations, and for other projects as they arise.



#### Martha's Kitchen is Cooking On

Tuesday, December 14 at 1:00 p.m.

4 pans of crustless quiche & 36 sandwiches

Help prepare quality food for the hungry!