

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

The Rev. Julie E. Calhoun-Bryant, Rector

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February 23, 2021

Dear Friends,

This Sunday we will restart the hybrid In Person/Zoom service at 9:30 a.m. Though I'm feeling a bit nervous about the technical end of things, I am pleased to be able to offer in person worship again. My hope is that as people get vaccinated they will return to the church. For the time being Cynthia will continue to play the organ on Saturday mornings when we record the service for the website. The music recorded on Saturday will be shown on Sunday via Zoom. On Easter weekend Cynthia will play both Saturday and Sunday mornings!

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 filled 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

The bishop has cautioned us that if the number of people getting infected goes back up we may have to close our buildings again. Until Holy Week (March 28-April 3) everything else will be held on Zoom. We'll reevaluate at the end of March. If you don't have access to Zoom and want to participate in the Thursday evening Lenten program or Saturday morning book study let me know and you can use Valerie's computer and Zoom from her office.

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How is your Lent going? It's still early so there's time to get started. How will you grow in holiness? How will you grow more into the person God created you to be? The forty days of Lent is the time to ask yourself these questions. If you would like to be more familiar with the Bible I suggest you start with the Gospel of Luke. If you would like to incorporate prayer into your daily routine pick a time and stick with it. Morning is best for it undergirds your day. When my boys were small I prayed while Brian put them to bed because only then could I be assured of uninterrupted time with God. Now I pray with my first cup of coffee of the day and at least one dog in the recliner with me. This spiritual discipline has kept me going throughout the pandemic in ways both known and unknown. It's never too late to change your life!

Wishing you a blessed Lent, Mother Julie+

Lent Book Study: Saturdays February 27-March 27

The Saturday morning study is at 10:00 a.m. We'll be discussing Ibram X. Kendi's book, <u>How to be an Antiracist</u>. Nine people have signed up to date. If you need Mother Julie to order the book please let her know. It costs \$15. Please read to page 43 for this Saturday.

Thursday Evenings in Lent on Zoom: February 25 and March

6:00 p.m. Gather on Zoom to share your evening meal as we chat Rector's Class on Matters of Faith: Christian Ethics

7:15 p.m. Compline

Lenten Friends

The following people are praying for their Friend each day: Gelene, Carolyn, Kiki, Ham, Gina, Terri, David W., Donny, Fred, Brian, Julie+, Chris, Dottie, Bobbi, Rob, Sue G., Sue K., Kate, David H., Meg, Barbara L., Emera, and Herb and Wendy. If you didn't get a call or email from Mother Julie with the name of your Lenten Friend please contact her right away!

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

I will let you in.

To mute or unmute yourself on the phone press *6

Zoom Calendar

February 27 10:00 a.m. Book Study: 874 1536 7100 & 620058

Lent 2

February 28 8:30 a.m. Bible Study: 835 9000 0245 & 562087

9:30 a.m. Worship: 826 9515 6305 & 446765

March 2 10:00 a.m. Morning Prayer: 868 3084 1089 & 114552

March 4 6:30 p.m. Matters of Faith: 852 0786 8086 & 125985