



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
Cell: 315-416-7133

January 19, 2021

Dear Friends,

Since I was out of the office on January 11-16 this is the first opportunity I've had to address in my weekly letter what happened in Washington D.C. on January 6. I was wrapping up Christmas ornaments when I got a text from Kate Bell saying "History is happening." I quickly turned on the television and watched the insurrection unfold.

January 6 is the Feast of the Epiphany, the night the wise men came. They made their pilgrimage to Bethlehem to worship Jesus and to offer their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. The wise men's visit symbolizes Jesus Christ being made known to the world. What took place in our capitol is in stark contrast to this holy event. Many of the rioters claimed to make their pilgrimage to Washington DC in the name of Jesus. Christian symbols abounded, but the violent images we all witnessed and have seen repeatedly in these last days neither represent nor would be condoned by our Lord. In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus tells us "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God;" (Mt. 5:7) "You have heard that it was said 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven." (Mt. 5:43-45)

The Rev. Dr. George Sterling, Dean of Yale Divinity School, writes, "Watching the events unfold, I was deeply ashamed as an American and horrified as a Christian that these perpetrators were associating Christianity with their misguided efforts. I wonder how these self-declared patriots and Christians -- rioters, in reality -- could square their racism-fueled attempt of a forceful takeover of our government, a cause emboldened by evil lies (and longstanding support of the Christian right's leadership), with the Bibles many of them carried."

Like the wise men, we are called to bring our best gifts, our best selves to Jesus, who blesses us with his love and forgives us for our sins. More and more I find Presiding Bishop Michael Curry's words to ring true: If it's not about love, it's not about God. Last night the Vestry approved an insert for our sandwich board sign out front that reads: If it's not about Love it's not about God. The Episcopal Church. For those receiving this letter on paper it's on a red background with white lettering. On January 9 the book study group asked the Vestry to consider doing this. It's a small step, but one that publicly proclaims St. Alban's to be on the side of Christ-like love.

Mother Julie+

If it's not
about Love
it's not
about God.

The Episcopal
Church

St. Alban's Annual Meeting: January 31 at 9:30 a.m. on Zoom

Use the usual Sunday service codes

Our bylaws state that the meeting be held within the first 45 days of the year, so it can't be postponed until we can meet in person.

Nominations

Warden, Margo Kowalczyk

Vestry, 3 year term Gina Odell

Vestry, 3 year term Mary (Kiki) White

Any additional nominations must be submitted to a Warden in writing no later than 7 days before the Annual Meeting.

Schedule

At 9:30 a.m. we will start the meeting, nominate our candidates, and open the polls, which must be open for at least one hour. The worship service will then begin. After a short break the meeting will continue. Zoom codes will be sent out closer to the date.

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

Calendar

January 24 8:30 a.m. Bible Study on Zoom: 835 9000 0245 & 562087
9:30 a.m. Worship on Zoom: 826 9515 6305 & 446765

January 26 10:00 a.m. Morning Prayer on Zoom: 868 3084 1089 & 114552

January 28 6:30 p.m. Matters of Faith on Zoom: 852 0786 8086 & 125985

January 31 8:30 a.m. Bible Study on Zoom: 835 9000 0245 & 562087
9:30 a.m. Annual Meeting and Worship on Zoom:
826 9515 6305 & 446765