

St. Alban's Episcopal Church
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March 16, 2021

Dear Friends,

Every Sunday I give a blessing which begins "Live without fear." We can live without the fear of being abandoned by God. We can live without fear of being unloved or living a life without meaning. Life as a Christian has great meaning. Created in God's image, redeemed by God's only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, and adopted by God as children of light our lives are given profound meaning. Living in grace, abiding in love, being in relationship with God and one another - these make life more than worthwhile, they make life abundant. So, live without fear!

Well... that's not always so easy to do. We're in the middle of the 40 days in Lent, but we've almost reached 400 days in pandemic life. The virus, rightfully regarded as a threat to our lives, has sent us all into hiding for all or for large parts of the past 400 days. For the first four months I only left the house once a week to tape the service at St. Alban's with David Houston. How do you let go of a fear that entrenched? I am hearing from more people than I expected that they will not venture back out into the world even after they've received the second vaccination and waited the two week period.

We cannot be afraid to live. As long as the vaccines prove effective against the coronavirus variants and COVID is not rampant once again in the community we need to stop living in fear. It's time to hope again. Be deliberate in your decisions. Stay informed as you make them. Take small steps at the beginning. If you've been sheltering at home what will be the first thing you'll do when you're fully vaccinated? Plan for it and wait in hope.

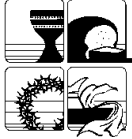
Life cannot go back to the way it was before. Things change permanently over the course of 400 days. A month after the neck brace came off I joyously threw it in the garbage can while my husband stood by laughing. I won't be throwing away the face masks. I've longed to embrace my St. Alban's friends, especially those who are living alone or in crisis, but I won't be embracing everyone all at once when it's safe to hug again. Many of you have gone for a year without receiving communion. I hope that's near the top of your list when it's time for you to re-engage.

We have been given the opportunity to chart a new course for our lives and for our beloved St. Alban's Church. As we emerge from pandemic life let us do so deliberately and faithfully. Let us be driven not by fear, but by hope and by joy. Live without fear: your Creator has made you holy, has always protected you, and loves you like a mother. Go in peace to follow the good road and may God's blessing be with you always. (Saint Clare) And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with you now and evermore. Amen.

Mother Julie+

Holy Tuesday Morning Prayer on Zoom


THURSDAY
SERVICES
MAUNDY



Maundy Thursday
April 1 at 7:00 p.m.

East Side Episcopalians In-Person at St. David's, DeWitt and on Zoom and Facebook
Mother Julie will celebrate.
Father Dan Handschy will preach.


In-Person registration is required by St. David's.
The link will be emailed after Palm Sunday.



Good Friday
April 2

12:00 p.m.
St. Alban's: In-Person & Zoom
The service will be recorded and posted on our website later that afternoon.

7:00 p.m.
Church of the Savior, Syracuse, In-Person only
The Rev. Dr. Gerry Beritela
or
St. David's, DeWitt
In-Person with registration, Zoom & Facebook



9:30 a.m. In-Person and on Zoom
Festive Holy Eucharist
with Organ & Trumpet



Easter Flowers

This year we'll have flower memorials and thanksgivings on Pentecost instead of Easter.
By May 23 most of us will be vaccinated and attending worship in person again.

Sunday School meets
1st, 3rd, and 5th
Sundays at 9:30 a.m.,
including Easter Day.



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

 **Organ Music** 

For the time being we'll continue to have our organist, Cynthia Bromka-Skafidas, play on Saturday morning for the recorded service and use that music for Sunday morning worship. Cynthia will be in-person on both Good Friday and Easter Day.

Zoom Calendar

March 20 10:00 a.m. Book Study: 874 1536 7100 & 620058

March 21 9:00 a.m. Bible Study: 835 9000 0245 & 562087
9:30 a.m. Worship: 826 9515 6305 & 446765

March 23 10:00 a.m. Morning Prayer: 868 3084 1089 & 114552

March 25 6:00 p.m. Dinner and/or
6:30 p.m. Matters of Faith Class on Ethics
852 0786 8086 & 125985