

## AROUND THE PARISH

March 27, 2020

St. Alban's seeks to be a welcoming, Christ-centered community,  
committed to sharing Christ's love, empowering people to grow spiritually,  
deepening our relationship with Christ and living out our faith in the community and the world.

**PLEASE NOTE: All events and activities have  
been cancelled or postponed until further notice.**

**Fr. Greg Peters**

### CHURCH PLEDGES & DONATIONS

If you would like to continue to contribute your pledge or other donations even though you are not at church, you can donate as follows:

- ✓ **Mail check** to church  
21405 – 82<sup>nd</sup> Place W.  
Edmonds, WA 98026
- ✓ **Drop off** donation through the slot  
in Greg's door.
- ✓ **Online** donation, go to  
[www.StAlbansEdmonds.org](http://www.StAlbansEdmonds.org) and click on  
"Giving" and then "Donate Now."

### FACEBOOK SERVICE OPTIONS

St. Alban's Eucharist is live streamed on Sundays at 10:30am on Facebook. Find the Facebook button on the right side of our webpage to take you to our Facebook page. (Go to the Video tab if you don't see the service.) The service bulletin will be available with a link on the webpage.

You need a Facebook account to watch the service live. However, later Sunday afternoon, a link will be on our webpage that will allow you to watch the service without needing a Facebook account.

There is a link to our audio sermons on our website's homepage ([www.StAlbansEdmonds.org](http://www.StAlbansEdmonds.org)) to listen to anytime that is convenient. (Under Worship/Audio Sermons)

Our God, Your Word says You answer and deliver people when they call on Your name.

So we ask that You would heal and protect those who are sick or who are carrying the COVID-19 virus without knowing it.

Provide a cure for the Coronavirus, heal our economy, and bring a quick end to this darkness.

Whether healing comes today, next week or next month, we believe You will heal our world. And we will continue to praise You, even as we wait for answers.

In Jesus' Name, Amen

YouVersion

"But, my Lord, by now he stinketh." Oh, for heaven's sake, we all do.

Being human is a stinky business.

We sweat, we burp, we are flatulent, we secrete hormones and pheromones, we eat onions and garlic, and know they change our bodily odor. I, for example, am reminded that I have recently eaten tuna or asparagus the next time I eliminate urine. To live is to make a smell, many assorted smells.

I suppose we have all met people who are under the distinct impression that their excrement is without odor. The more pathetic of them hold the fallacy that it is sweet smelling – perhaps even floral. Would that this were all true, but they are sadly inaccurate in their self-assessment. The accompanying obnoxiousness of this delusion is a far worse stench – an attractant only to sycophants. Give me the stinkiness of the self-aware and honesty of the flawed any day.

And all this stinkiness is just about the living. Decomposition is even worse. I don't encounter the smell much here in the moderate temperatures of the Pacific Northwest, but in Midwestern Summer heat, let me tell you, dead animals on the side of the road stink. The roadside grass, when not mown, may be tall enough to conceal the bodies, but the stench gives evidence a long, long way off.

Life and death are both stinky business.

This is, of course, at the heart of the Incarnation. God, all safely tucked away in the heights of heaven, was untouched by the messiness and odiferousness of the creation, and, therefore, had at best, even in divine omniscience, an incomplete knowledge of it. Somethings are known only through experience – through experiential learning.

So God in Christ comes into the created order and, as all the Eucharistic Prayers say in one way or another, "became human in every way that we are." Stinkiness and smelling as well. The Divine gets the full force of it, right in the face; right in the gut.

Lazarus was dead; four days dead; in the Mediterranean heat, dead. Jesus' dear friend, dead. He didn't avoid it. He didn't shy away from it. He didn't say that Lazarus had "passed," "isn't suffer-

ing anymore,” “is in a better place,” or any other way obfuscate the truth. “Our friend Lazarus is dead.” He didn’t run away either. He wasn’t untouched. “Jesus wept.”

That hollow place deep in our souls; that place that is only formed around a precious and dear loved one and which only a precious and dear one can occupy; Jesus knew it too. In that hollowness of grief, God in Jesus, learned something about hallowedness – the holiness of love. Those deep places, formed in love, are holy. God learned it and knows it still.

The Divine One - who not only formed love, but *is* love – is with us in the midst of our most precious relationships, in everything that went into forming them, and is with us in all the griefs that come from losing them. Alongside us in all our little deaths. Accompanying us in our final deaths. Descending with us in order to summon us to eternal life; to welcome us into eternal love. To welcome us into the love that is eternal, that is divine, in which we will abide inseparably.



### **STUDENT FEEDING PROGRAM – SCHOOLS IN NEED OF DONATIONS**

With the school closures, many children, who rely on school meal programs for their daily nutritional and social needs are going without. At the same time, local area food banks are receiving less food donations. It’s a crisis within a crisis.

Sean Silver, Principle of Chase Lake Community School, provided the following information about donating to Edmonds School District’s Food Programs and programs that directly assist families with children. Online donation options abound. Please be generous.

#### **Listed below are several places to donate**

Donate to Foundation for Edmonds School District which actively collaborates with the school district to provide a variety of support. This funding includes pop-up pantries to select school communities, Nourishing Network week

end meals programs and other emergency funds that our advocates access in support of Edmonds School District families during this time. <https://foundationesd.org>

#### **Pantry items need:**

Canned chili, canned tuna, juice boxes, Mac n cheese, apple sauce cups, oatmeal in packets, Ramen noodles, healthy snacks, cereal boxes and individuals, peanut butter, canned corn, lentils, canned garbanzo beans and pasta

Donate to ESD Food and Nutrition Services to contribute to student meals; even with schools closed, we plan to continue to feed students <https://wa-edmonds-lite.intouchrecepting.com/>

Donate to Washington Kids in Transition a local nonprofit that offer support to advocates in meeting the needs of families experiencing homelessness

<https://washingtonkidsintransition.org/>

#### **Top donations requests:**

Collecting food gift cards. \$20.00 increments; beef sticks, mac and cheese, soups, spaghetti sauce and pasta, prepacked fruit cups

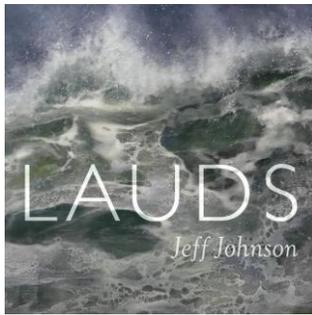


### **PRAYING TOGETHER**

Archbishop Welby, Presiding Bishop Curry, Bishop Rickel and many others in the Communion (and Ecumenically) joined in a live-streamed prayer service to celebrate the International Day of Prayer on March 25, 2020. They invited all viewers to say the Lord’s Prayer together at noon EST.

During this difficult time of the coronavirus pandemic, let each of us join in prayer at **9:00am every day of our time, at home, at work, out for a walk, in the car, etc.,** and recite the Lord’s Prayer. It may seem like a small gesture, but all prayers are heard by God. Let’s unite in this effort.





### TV STREAMING SERVICES OFFERING TRIAL EXTENSIONS

Dan Mullene

During these Stay-at-Home times, when you are not watching Fr. Greg stream live services on Sunday and Wednesday on Facebook (you ARE watching, right?) you may find that you are watching more television.

There is some good news, if you get your TV service through your internet provider. Some content providers have extended their trial periods during the coronavirus outbreak, giving you more time to try out their services. Here are a few you may wish to consider:

**Acorn TV:** British content streaming service: Acorn TV has extended its free trial period to 30-days in the wake of coronavirus-related social distancing. Acorn TV typically only offers a 7-day trial. To take advantage of this promotion, users can sign up using the code 'FREE30.'

**Shudder:** Scare aficionados will love **Shudder**, which is a horror-centric streaming service that is available in the US, UK, Canada and Ireland. It's extending its free-trial period to 30 days for users who use the code SHUTIN and then costs around \$5/month.

**Sling TV** is currently offering thousands of hours of programming for free due to the coronavirus, including access to ABC News Live as well as numerous shows and movies. Current subscribers can access the free content without changing their subscriptions.

**Sundance Now**, which is owned by AMC Networks, is also extending its usual 7-day trial period to 30 days if you sign up with the code SUNDANCENOW30. The service features dramas, miniseries and documentaries and costs \$7 per month or \$5 per month with a yearly subscription.

**UMC, or Urban Movie Channel**, is dedicated to black TV and film and is also currently available with an extended 30-day free trial. New subscribers can use the code UMCFREE30 to access the platform, which is normally \$4.99/month.

Streaming services that normally offer free 30-

### LINK TO JEFF JOHNSON NEW ALBUM

Jeff Johnson has released a new vocal album that is available to download for free at <https://jeffjohnsonarkmusic.bandcamp.com/album/lauds> from now until April 12<sup>th</sup>. This link will take you a website where you can hear 4+ minutes of beautiful music with scenic visuals.

Jeff Johnson is the leader of the group that was going to present our Darkness to Light concert that had to be cancelled and our previous Celtic Christmas Concerts. This is an example of the type of music that we would have heard at our concert. Because we were part of his concert tour, he is sharing this link with us.

Good news – the Celtic Concert has been tentatively rescheduled for Monday, October 19. Not only are we at St. Alban's excited about the coming concert date, but we have had contact from three separate people asking to be notified about the change in concert.

Stay tuned; we will keep you up to date on the Celtic Concert.



### STATIONS OF THE CROSS IN LABYRINTH

The Stations of the Cross will be available on Good Friday, April 10, from Noon to 7:00pm in the Labyrinth. There will be prayers available that can be taken home or tossed after use for everyone's protection. Because of social distancing needs, people will be asked to use the labyrinth one at a time. Hopefully the weather will cooperate.

day trials include Amazon Prime Video and Netflix, and major streamers CBS All Access, Disney+, Hulu and HBO GO all offer seven-day free trials. Enjoy!

**PANDEMIC**

What if you thought of it as the Jews consider the Sabbath—the most sacred of times?

Cease from travel.  
Cease from buying and selling.  
Give up, just for now,  
on trying to make the world  
different than it is.

Sing. Pray. Touch only those  
to whom you commit your life.

Center down.

And when your body has become still,  
reach out with your heart.

Know that we are connected  
in ways that are terrifying and beautiful.  
(You could hardly deny it now.)

Know that our lives  
are in one another’s hands.  
(Surely, that has come clear.)  
Do not reach out your hands.

Reach out your heart.  
Reach out your words.  
Reach out all the tendrils  
of compassion that move, invisibly,  
where we cannot touch.

Promise this world your love—  
for better or for worse,  
in sickness and in health,  
so long as we all shall live.

-Lynn Ungar 3/11/20

**EDMONDS AREA GROCERY STORES  
OFFERING SENIOR SHOPPING HOURS**

Dan Mullene

In the interest of minimizing exposure to the coronavirus Covid-19 outbreak, many Edmonds-area grocery stores are offering special hours of operation exclusively for shopping by senior citizens and other at-risk patrons.

Reporting such special hours currently are:

**QFC and Fred Meyer Stores** (Lynnwood, Shoreline): Monday through Thursday early access for seniors from 7:00 to 8:00am.

**PCC Community Market** at 9803 Edmonds Way: Reserved for seniors 60+, pregnant women

and others who are at risk daily from 7:00 to 8:00am.

**Safeway** at 23632 Highway 99: Tuesday and Thursday early access for seniors from 7:00 to 9:00am.

**Trader Joe’s** at 196<sup>th</sup> & Highway 99 and 175<sup>th</sup> in Shoreline: Reserving the first hour of daily shopping to senior customers from 9:00-10:00am.

**WinCo Foods** on 220<sup>th</sup> and Highway 99: Tuesday and Thursday early access for seniors, vulnerable population: 6:00 to 7:30am.

**Whole Foods Market** at 2800 196th St SW Ste 100, Lynnwood: Guests 60+ can start to shop at 8:00am, one hour before normal opening at 9:00am.

This information comes from the stores’ websites, so to be sure of the times, you may wish to contact them by phone or visit their websites. Other stores may also be offering special shopping hours and can be contacted for information.



**STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS**

**March 29 – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent**

Sunday’s Collect provides one of my favorite reassurances – that if we love what God commands, and desire what He promises, then among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may be fixed where true joys are to be found, and we need not look only to the world around us for love, affirmation, serenity and peace. What a relief!

**LESSON READINGS**

**March 29 – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent**

**Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130**

**Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45**

**April 5 – Palm Sunday**

**Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16**

**Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 26:14-27:66**