

AROUND THE PARISH

August 1, 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



VIDEO SERVICE INFO

Sunday Eucharist is on Facebook, 10:30am

Sunday Zoom Coffee is on Zoom at 12:00pm

Wednesday Evening Prayer on Facebook, 6:00pm

Bible Study Zoom on the Gospel of Mark led by Eric Hanson is taking the month of August off because of the outdoor worship services at the church.

Sunday, August 2 - Taizé is on Facebook, 7:00pm

Join Zoom Coffee Hour, Link through August

NOTE TIME CHANGE: ZOOM COFFEE HOUR STARTS AT 12:00pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85174822634?pwd=aW0vdTYrNGtZTGVBQmdzbEJQYm9BZz09>

Meeting ID: 851-7482-2634 Password: 657057

NOTES If you don't have a Facebook account, you can watch the Sunday service later as a video on the Facebook link.

All other events and activities have been cancelled or postponed until further notice.



Fr. Greg

What Worship Looks Like Now

If you came to church last Sunday, you've caught a glimpse of what it's going to be like for the foreseeable future.

Before I describe what the procedures of the service are like, let me say how grand it was to see all of you who attended. I've seen many of you in virtual meetings, but to behold you in the flesh and hear your voices – your sweet, mask-muffled, non-digitized, unamplified, beautiful voices! – oh, wonderful, wonderful, and again most wonderful!

And let me also say that no matter how wonderful it was or how safe we've tried to make it, if you are over 65, have an underlying health condition – especially a chronic respiratory condition – or are otherwise in poor health, I'm advising you not to attend in-person services or meetings. Outdoor services are by far the safest, but there is still a risk of transmitting the virus.

So if you were there, you got to see how things are going to be for quite a while. If you weren't there – and I am still not actually encouraging anyone to attend in person – here's what it will be like for the foreseeable future.

- **Before you leave home**, you should assess your health. If you have any flu-like symptoms, if you have a fever, if you have a cough, you should stay home. If you have been in close proximity to anyone who has Covid-19, you should stay home.
- You'll bring with you the service bulletin, which Jeannie is sending out, or a prayer book, because to minimize the potential for transmitting the virus we're not using preprinted materials, prayer books, hymnals, or bibles.
- Since we're meeting outdoors, you'll need a chair or blanket to sit on (or just sit on the



ZOOM COFFEE HOUR

Zoom Coffee will begin at 12:00pm.

There are two ways to join, click on Zoom link above. OR go to "zoom.us" on Internet, click on "Join A Meeting" in upper right hand side, at the prompt enter meeting code and then password (noted above). Next prompt is "Enter Meeting." Click on "Join with audio" so you can chime in. Hope to see you there!

CHURCH PLEDGES & DONATIONS

Please continue donations and pledges by:

Mail check to church

21405-82nd Pl W, Edmonds, WA 98026

Drop off through the slot in Greg's door.

Bank Bill Pay – ask bank to send check to St. Alban's

Online donation, go to

www.StAlbansEdmonds.org and click on "Donate Now."

grass). Alternatively, you can sit in your car as three households did last week.

- **Upon arrival, you'll don your mask** (we have disposable ones available, if you've forgotten one).
- **You'll wash or sanitize your hands** and fill out a health declaration, with your contact information, and a liability waiver. The contact information is to enable efficient contact tracing should anyone at the gathering later come down with the coronavirus. You'll be stating that you understand that in-person gatherings are dangerous, and you will not hold the church liable if you get sick.
- We didn't try it last week, but this week we'll begin taking people's temperatures using a no-touch thermometer.
- You'll do all this while remaining at least six feet away from everyone else.
- As you enter the worship space – and we are not even considering worshipping indoors until we get to Phase 4 – you'll be instructed to find a place to sit that requires the least possible contact with, or even passing by, your fellow parishioners. So the first people to arrive will sit furthest away from the parking lot. You'll sit at least six feet away from everyone else.
- To minimize the possibility of spreading particles, you'll be asked to speak and respond to prayers with soft, hushed voices.
- We are not singing, again, to minimize the possibility of spreading particles.
- We share the Peace at a safe distance, without any physical contact, and are learning how to pass the Peace using sign language to minimize speaking.
- We do not pass the offering plate, but individually drop our offering in the plate which is placed on a stand. Again, this minimizes the possibility of spreading the virus by touch.
- After the service, we leave in an orderly manner, starting with those closest to the parking lot, maintaining six feet separation between households, and avoiding passing by people. The first in are the last out.
- We cannot safely share communal food, so there is no Coffee Hour.
- You are asked to leave immediately after the service.

Does this all sound daunting and sterile? It is. Does it sound lifeless? It most definitely is not; subdued and hushed, but not lifeless.

In fact, last Sunday's was bursting with restrained joy. Coming to the service should not be done lightly or carelessly. To stay absolutely safe, you should stay home. But it was indeed wonderful to be together, ever so briefly, ever so carefully.

Please know that we are still live-streaming the services and intend to be doing so even after the pandemic has passed. We strive to stay connected; we strive to be as safe as possible. Wherever and however we worship, God is still praised, hallowed, and adored.



Outdoor Worship Service

The plan is to continue with the outdoor worship service on Sundays at 10:30am as long as the weather holds out. Maybe into September?? We will, of course, also suspend holding these services if pandemic and health conditions worsen. We are monitoring the County and State agencies closely. The service will be Live Streamed for those who are unable or choose not to attend in person.

We will all wear masks and observe safe distancing, and be situated so you can either sit in your lawn chair, sit in your car or on a blanket on the grass. Please bring your own chairs as it is currently not safe for us to share any church items. Thanks to Phil McClelland, we will have canopies for shade.

Printed bulletins will not be available, but Jeannie Wells is sending them out via email. You

can print your own copy or use your cell phone or tablet. You will want to have a copy since this is a less familiar service for us.

Please understand that gathering can be hazardous even though we are outdoors, distanced, wearing masks and taking every possible precaution. If you are over 65 and/or in compromised health or suffer from respiratory disease, you probably should not attend this service. Much as we want to see you, it is perfectly understandable if you choose to stay at home and watch on Facebook.



TAIZÉ SERVICE ON AUGUST 2

Catch the next Sunday evening Taizé service presentation at **7:00pm on August 2**. Our talented Music Director John Lehrack plans and prepares these peaceful, calming programs to enhance our at-home worship. In addition to new presentations, all previous programs remain on Facebook for your viewing at any time. Taizé can be accessed from a link on the front page of St. Alban's website www.stalbansedmonds.org.

Taizé is a contemporary form of worship with chants, scripture, repetition, silence and time for reflection and contemplation. It originated in a monastic community in the small village of Taizé, France, in the 1940's.

EVIE ARNESON CONDOLENCES

For those who wish to send a card or note of condolence to Evie Arneson's son, his address is noted below. It is difficult enough to lose your mother, but not knowing or having contact with her many friends and church family must be doubly difficult for Glen. We are sure he would appreciate our thoughts of Evie at this time.

Glen Arneson
1167 Pond View Dr
Troy, Ohio 45373



DRIVE UP FOOD DRIVE – AUGUST 8

Our local food banks are in dire need of supplies for their food pantries. Each day more families and individuals are depending upon them for basic food. The current pandemic has resulted in many layoffs or reduction in work hours (pay).

All packaged, canned and/or jar items are greatly needed and appreciated. As previously noted, Lee Forsberg reports peanut butter is a favorite – what “kid” doesn't love peanut butter?

Drop off your contributions on **Saturday, August 8, from 10:00am-2:00pm.**

Maureen and Steve Forsythe will be helping with the food drive. Stop by and thank them for their many contributions and their presence with us.

Make us worthy, Lord, to serve our fellow men throughout the world who live and die in poverty and hunger. Give them through our hands this day their daily bread and by our understanding love, give peace and joy. Mother Teresa



TO HAVE AN IMPACT ON OUR COMMUNITY – GIVE BLOOD!

“The COVID pandemic has not affected the incidence of end-stage liver disease in children. Children are still requiring liver transplantation and the life-saving blood transfusions that sustain them through such a large surgery. We rely on donors and Bloodworks Northwest to ensure that these children can receive critically needed blood products.” Evelyn Hsu, MD, Acting Division Chief of the Division of Gastroenterology & Hepatology at Seattle Children's; Medical Director of our Liver Transplant Program.

Bloodworks Northwest is bracing for a severe summer blood shortage that could limit local trauma centers' access to blood.

Bloodworks has implemented increased safety and physical distancing measures in compliance with all local and state recommendations to ensure the donation experience is safe and pleasant as possible. All donors are required to wear masks or face coverings at their donation appointment. Visit bloodworksnw.org/coronavirus for more information.

Starting **August 17 – Appointment required!**
[CLICK HERE](#) to schedule your appointment.

Center for the Arts Edmonds
 410 4th Ave. N. Edmonds, WA 98020

Donate with Bloodworks in August and automatically be entered to win an Apple iPad Pro with the Apple Pencil and Magic Keyboard. Full details at bloodworksNW.org/win.



WEDNESDAY EVENING PRAYER on Facebook Live and RACE DISCUSSION on Zoom

Join us for Evening Prayer on Facebook Live each Wednesday at 6:00pm, followed by Discussions on Race on Zoom at 6:30pm every other Wednesday. The next Zoom discussion on race will be on August 5. Even if you have not previously participated in our discussions, we invite you to join in.

NOTE: below is the meeting link, ID and Passcode
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85996400391?pwd=dENwN2VuOWFFeGVXcEJsMmVIZWZzQT09>

Meeting ID: 859 9640 0391
 Passcode: Alban



GENEROSITY IN THESE TIMES!

Maryellen Young, Treasurer

A question was raised at the last Vestry meeting about what our donations for outreach are during these times when we are not meeting in person and

passing the baskets each week.

I was asked to do a comparison between the first six months of 2020 to the first six months of 2019. I'm pleased to report that we have seen an increase of \$7,240 this year over 2019 or a 153% increase through June. Below is the information by category of Outreach. We are indeed a generous congregation in these challenging times.

Outreach Donations--Year to Year Comparison		
Category	1/1/20 to 6/30/20	1/1/19 to 6/30/19
Outreach	\$1,151	\$1,387
Food Bank	\$6,506	\$2,093
Chase Lake	\$2,370	\$472
Global Mission	\$177	\$95
Discretionary	\$1,773	\$690
Total Outreach	\$11,977	\$4,737
Increase 2020 over 2019	\$7,240	
Percent Increase	153%	

We make a living by what we get but we make a life by what we give.

Winston Churchill



LIVE STREAMING HELPERS NEEDED

Your Communications Team, Live-streaming Team needs you. With the onslaught of the Coronavirus, your Communications Team has been doing way more than they signed up for.

Thanks to Theresa Chase, we were able to immediately switch to live-streaming our services. This is on top of Phil McClelland's years of faithfully making audio recordings. What began as a response to the pandemic will be continuing from now on. Phil has researched and procured

some very good equipment. He started installing it this week, and it should be all set and ready to go by September.

Now we need more people to join the production team. Please contact Phil, Dan Mullene, or Theresa to find out more information.

FEAR BY Kahil Gibran

Thanks to John Lehrack for sharing the following poem from his August 2 Taizé Presentation.

It is said that before entering the sea
a river trembles with fear.

She looks back at the path she has traveled,
from the peaks of the mountains,
the long winding road crossing forests and
villages.

And in front of her,
she sees an ocean so vast,
that to enter
there seems nothing more than to disappear
forever.

But there is no other way.
The river can not go back.

Nobody can go back.
To go back is impossible in existence.

The river needs to take the risk
of entering the ocean
because only then will fear disappear,
because that's where the river will know
it's not about disappearing into the ocean,
but of becoming the ocean.



The following Forward Day by Day meditation is from past years, and the author is unknown. The meditations are written by priests, church administrators and other authors.

*Psalm 10: Why do you stand so far off, O Lord,
And hide yourself in time of trouble?*

I know better than to claim to have known real trouble, persecution, betrayal, starvation, chronic illness or disability – my troubles have been of a lesser sort. The grimmest was a job some years ago which paid well, but in which I felt cheapened and used. I became angry and withdrawn and nearly lost my faith. My friends questioned my mental stability. Inside, I felt parched and shriveled. Looking up at what I suspected was an empty heaven, I asked the question with which this psalm begins.

Only now, years later, have I gained a sense of why God stood so far off in my time of trouble. He didn't – God only seemed to stand far off because my fear and anger kept me from hearing his voice and seeing his face. Though I felt abandoned, in truth God was with me all along. Could God have done something to take away my pain? Probably, but I might have chalked it up to good fortune and never known it was God who had come to me. I might not have acknowledged my helplessness before God and my need for his grace. God used my "trouble" to bring me to my senses. I now count that as a good time, because it drove me into the arms of God. But I'd still like to ask God, "Can't you find an easier way to teach me my lessons?"



THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

August 6 is the day the Episcopal Church celebrates the "marvelous revelation to three companions of Jesus."

Jesus had been seen by thousands, had taught and ministered to many and was known intimately by a few. He was a very perplexing young man, especially to those who knew him best. He spoke as one with authority and he healed many. Who was he? Was he the Messiah? Was he even more?

Prior to his terrible humiliation and suffering he called three of his closest friends, Peter, James and John, aside and it was revealed to them who he was. Moses and Elijah were seen speaking with him as one whom they knew, and the voice of the Father was heard to proclaim, "This is my beloved Son in

whom I am well pleased.” Jesus’ relationship to the Old Testament prophets and his divine sonship were thus indicated to these three disciples. His face shone with a glorious light and they were astonished, falling on their faces and glorifying God.

Most of the world was by no means ready for this revelation. Indeed, the first reaction of the three disciples indicated that they had very little comprehension of what Jesus was about. The days ahead would clarify much. Yet, even today we stand before his glory astonished, puzzled, and bungling in our response to him.

Calendar of Saints, Forward Movement

our foreheads, and we are “*marked as Christ’s own forever.*” Stewardship is about how we respond to that freely given gift of grace, and how we offer thanks with grateful hearts and lives to the God who gives us all.

AUGUST 9 – 10TH SUNDAY aft PENTECOST

Impetuous Peter...so quick to want to show his faith and trust in Jesus...and so equally quick to fall back in fear when the wind intruded. How often do we, attempting to live as God’s stewards, let the winds of the world make us falter in our trust for the ever-present heavenly mercy? Thankfully, over and over Jesus says, “*Take heart, it is I ; do not be afraid.*”

We live in a world in which we need to share responsibility. It’s easy to say, “It’s not my child, not my community, not my world, not my problem.” Then there are those who see the need and respond. I consider those people my heroes.
Fred Rogers

LESSON READINGS

AUGUST 2 – 9TH SUNDAY aft PENTECOST

Genesis 32:22-31
Psalm 17:1-7, 16
Romans 9:1-5
Matthew 14:13-21

AUGUST 9 – 10TH SUNDAY aft PENTECOST

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28
Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b
Romans 10:5-15
Matthew 14:22-33



STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS

AUGUST 2 – 9TH SUNDAY aft PENTECOST

There is an old table Grace which says, “*Christ in the wilderness five thousand fed, with two small fishes and five loaves of bread. May the God above, who made that division, descend upon us and our provision. Amen.*” Perhaps you can use it this week as you thank God for the great variety of gifts He gives us.

AUGUST 6 – THE TRANSFIGURATION

“*This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to Him!*” Jesus’ teachings provide us with all the lessons we need to live faithful, honest, and productive lives—also as God’s “chosen”. At Baptism the cross is sealed on

ST. ALBAN’S CURRENT OFFICE HOURS

Monday	10:30 - 12:30pm
Tuesday	10:00 - 12:00pm
Wednesday	2:00 - 4:00pm
Friday	1 0:30 -12:30pm; 2:00 – 4:00pm

The office isn’t open on Sundays, but there are people around from 9:00am - 1:00pm. Before and after services, people are available for quick business activities.

In order to maintain social distancing and minimize any possible exposures to the Coronavirus, please observe the following protocol:

- Please contact the Office, (425) 778-0371 or stalbansedmonds@gmail.com to make appointment.
- Call the Office to inform them that you have arrived.
- Wait car, outside in the garden or under the eaves.
- Wait for further instructions – to be let in, to meet your party, to pick up or make a delivery.
- Wear a mask.

In case of something urgent or an emergency, please call Greg Peters on his cellphone at (206) 778-1506.

