

AROUND THE PARISH

August 7, 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.

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

Join Zoom Coffee Hour, Link through August
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85174822634?pwd=aW0vdFYrNGtZTGVBQmdzbEJQYm9BZz09>

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

Today is the Feast of the Transfiguration, when Jesus took Peter, James, and John up the mountain to pray and there encountered Moses and Elijah; they saw Jesus in all his radiant glory. They also heard the voice of God, "This is my beloved. Listen to him." After they descended that holy mountain, Jesus performed an act of healing, then, as Luke tells us, set his face toward Jerusalem.

It's that setting his face toward Jerusalem – and the cross – that I am thinking about today.

You may have noticed that I often sign my letters, "In the Peace of Christ." That's a thin reference to a hymn that I particularly like, the last line of which goes, "The Peace of God, it is no peace, but strife closed in the sod. But let us pray for just one thing; the marvelous peace of God." The Peace that is grounded in Christ leads us to face our fears and live in the deep knowledge that death is not the end – it passes all understanding.

John Lewis, whose death last week brought so many moving remembrances and eulogies, was often quoted as saying, "Once you lose your fear, you're free." It was the kind of freedom that led him straight into the path of billy-club-wielding Alabama State troopers on the Edward Pettus Bridge leading into Selma and empowered him to come away without hatred for those troopers. It was the kind of freedom that made it possible to both assertively state his cases and positions against his political opponents while still valuing them – loving them – as fellows in the on-going struggle to make this nation more closely adhere to our ideals. It was, to a great degree, this ability to disagree – vehemently – without sinking to the depths of dehumanizing malice that made him "the Conscience of the Congress."



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."

With the recent primary, we are now firmly in the election season. So much of what is likely to be presented as debate will actually be little more than thinly veiled personal attack. Less about the opponents' political philosophy, decision-making processes, or moral characters, it will devolve into base name calling, one-upmanship and gotcha moments. Attacking the person rather than their ideas, policies, and track records. Beware of this, it is based on fear: the fear of being wrong, of having to be right, the false pride of winning at all cost, confusing humility with humiliation.

My friend, Kate related how she had heard a politician say something that so infuriated her that she went banging around the house, cursing that politician. And as a good Irish woman, she can curse! After some time of this, she said she suddenly and clearly heard Martin Luther King, Jr. say, "Kate, you are what you hate." Apparently, he said that pretty often when he was alive.

You are what you hate. The Peace of Christ leads to the death of self-righteousness and brings to life humility. It lays to rest "us vs. them" and births the Beloved Community of all of us striving together. It roots out the dehumanizing weeds in power's ravaged fields and tends the garden of the children of God. It reveals the necessity of friction to move forward and tension to hold things together in their proper orbit or balance.

The Peace of Christ which again and still passes all human understanding, exposes false scarcity and reveals abundance, putting aside fear-based hoarding for the freedom of sharing.

This is, of course, an ongoing process and I pray to be reminded of these things as much for myself as for anybody else. As Jesus' true self was revealed to the Apostles, first on the Mount, then at the Cross, and above all in the empty Tomb, may the Holy Spirit continue her work in our lives and in our souls bringing us into Christ's own liberating Peace.

In the Peace of Christ,
Greg



NOTE: Fr. Greg will be on vacation from August 17 to August 28.



Outdoor worship at St. Alban's will continue as long as the weather holds and the pandemic guidelines permit. We are blessed to have such a stunning spot for worship -- on grass, with a beautiful fir tree, gentle breeze and singing birds!

We will continue to wear masks, sit well apart in chairs, on a blanket or in your car. Please bring your own chair as church chairs would need to be scrubbed, etc. As an extra safety precaution, temperatures are being checked as parishioners join the group.

We are using Morning Prayer from the Book of Common Prayer, which is a less familiar service to us. Jeannie Wells is sending out a service bulletin by email which can be printed out or used on your phone, tablets, etc.

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.

We ask that you sign a COVID-19 Symptom Attestation form each week upon your arrival on Sunday. Copies are available or print and sign form at home and turn it in on Sunday.

Lord Jesus, during your earthly ministry you stayed the course and always remained focused on doing the right thing, give us sustained focus to keep Covid-19 from spreading. Send your holy angels to comfort the sick and dying; send your holy protection to all who are returning to work; and send your holy wisdom upon all who are venturing out. Impress upon us the seriousness of our roles in keeping ourselves and others safe. Help us to wear masks, wash hands, and take appropriate precautions knowing that our vigilance honors not just us, but you. Amen.

Prayer from ChurchNext

OUR BROTHER AL WALKER

Our brother Al Walker died early Sunday morning, August 1. He had been in declining health for several years, residing in assisted living with his wife Claudia. Several days before his death, Al was enjoying a visit with family. Complications developed and he entered the hospital on Saturday. Al's family was able to see him in his hospital room that evening.

Al was a long-time member of St. Alban's and was at most functions supporting the church and his church family. Al loved all people, including his high school students during his many years of teaching. He loved Coffee Hour and donuts, and we will miss his conversation and presence in our lives.

Please keep Al's wife Claudia, daughter Suzanne and son Doug and their families in your prayers. Due to the pandemic, no service is planned at this time. Cards can be sent to:

Claudia Walker
19301 86th Ave W
Edmonds, WA 98026



SATURDAY IS DRIVE-UP FOOD DRIVE DAY

Our third Drive-Up Food Drive is **Saturday, August 8, from 10:00am to 2:00pm**. We want to break our previous record of items and dollars donated.

This is a mission and ministry in which everyone can participate. Just add a few non-perishable or boxed foods to your grocery cart (each week) and drive by church to drop them off. Money donations are always welcome at any time. If donating by check, please indicate Food Bank on your check.

Steve and Maureen Forsythe will be at this food drive. Stop by to thank them for all they have been and done at St. Alban's. We wish them God Speed and many blessings in their new home in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

As part of good citizenship, we will also be offering information about how to register to vote and how to complete the 2020 census.



POP-UP GRANTS FROM THE DIOCESE

To better assist congregations become "healthier, more faithful, and more effective communities of faith," the Diocese is now offering smaller grants (\$5,000 or less) to be given right away in the year of application.

As we mentioned in the July 17 ATP, we will be purchasing some new video equipment to enhance our live-streaming capacity and quality. After doing a good deal of research, Phil McClelland has found the right equipment for our space, long-term needs, and budget. We plan to continue live-streaming our worship services even after the pandemic passes and we can meet together again.

We have submitted a grant application to request Diocesan support for the purchase of this equipment. Requesting this grant is part of being good financial stewards and would allow our funds to be available to other needs or ministries of our congregation. Although we do not know if our grant application will be successful because we are sure, during these times there are lots of needs across the Diocese, we wanted you to know we did submit an application as we feel the enhancement of our live-streaming capacity fits within the scope of this grant opportunity.



Caller: Is this Gordon's Pizza?

Google: No, sir, it's Google Pizza.

Caller: I must have dialed a wrong number. Sorry.

Google: No, Sir, Google bought Gordon's Pizza last month.

Caller: OK. I would like to order a pizza.

Google: Do you want your usual, sir?

Caller: My usual? You know me?

Google: According to our caller ID data sheet, the last 12 times you called you ordered an extra-large pizza with three cheeses, sausage,

pepperoni, mushrooms and meatballs on a thick crust.

Caller: Ok! That's what I want.

Google: May I suggest that this time you order a pizza with ricotta, arugula, sun-dried tomatoes and olives on a whole wheat gluten-free thin crust?

Caller: What? I detest vegetables!

Google: Your cholesterol is not good, sir.

Caller: How the hell do you know!

Google: Well, we cross-referenced your home phone number with your medical records. We have the result of your blood tests for the last 7 years.

Caller: Okay, but I do not want your rotten vegetable pizza! I already take medication for my cholesterol.

Google: Excuse me, sir, but you have not taken your medication regularly. According to our database, you purchased only a box of 30 cholesterol tablets once, at Drug RX Network, 4 months ago.

Caller: I bought more from another drugstore.

Google: That doesn't show on your credit card statement.

Caller: I paid in cash.

Google: But you did not withdraw enough cash according to your bank statement.

Caller: I have other resources of cash.

Google: That doesn't show on your last tax return unless you bought them using an undeclared income source which is against the law.

Caller: What the hell!!

Google: I'm sorry, sir, we use such information only with the sole intention of helping you.

Caller: Enough already! I'm sick to death of Google, Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp and all the others. I'm going to an island without internet, cable TV, where there is no cell phone service and no one to watch me or spy on me.

Google: I understand, sir, but you need to renew your passport first. It expired 6 weeks ago...



DAY BY DAY MEDITATIONS

This meditation is from years past, and the author is unknown.

1 Thessalonians 2:9-13, 17-20: "For what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before the Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not you? Yes, you are our glory and joy."

Paul is so often cranky that it is easy to forget how much he loves the people he served. The Thessalonians were particularly dear to his heart, and he told them so. When he presented the fruits of his labor to the Lord Jesus, Paul said, it would not be a list of the miles he had traveled or the jail terms he had served. It would be people like the Thessalonians, who were Paul's glory and joy, the crown of his boasting.

These grace-filled verses remind us that we do not always grieve the heart of God. Yes, we have fresh sins to confess each week and yes, we fall short in our imitation of Christ. But we also manage to participate in moments of generosity, forgiveness and genuine love that surprise even us. This raises the possibility that we too might bring some hope and joy to God's heart, as we grow in our understanding of what it means to be faithful.

If you have never tried it, then spend one minute today – just sixty seconds – letting God love you. While you sit there quietly, listen to your mind tell you all the reasons why you are not worthy. Then tell it to hush. You are God's glory and joy. You are God's beloved child.

For the Beauty of the Earth

For the beauty of the earth,
For the beauty of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies;
Christ our God, to thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.

For the beauty of each hour
Of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower,
Sun and moon, and stars of light'
Christ our God, to thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.

The 1982 Hymal, #416

The light of God surrounds me;
The love of God enfolds me;
The power of God protects me;
The presence of God watches over me.
Wherever I am, God is.

James Dillet Freeman, Prayer Protection
Little Book of Prayer



“FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH”

This is the title of a 2018 publication from Forward Movement. The book of devotionals is dedicated to rediscovering the wonder of creation in God’s garden and in our own hearts. The authors are parents, priests, scientists, musicians, teachers, farmers and bishops.

Author: James Derkits lives in Port Aransas, Texas, with his wife and young son where he serves as the rector of Trinity by the Sea Episcopal Church. He surfs, runs, writes, paints and enjoys the wonderful community of his island.

My wife, son and I were hiking in Colorado one summer when we heard a moose was spotted along the trail. We tried to remember how to keep ourselves out of trouble with these gigantic creatures. We reviewed the instructions our camp host had given us about coexisting with the moose, bears, mountain lions and other creatures we might accidentally encounter.

With a mixture of fear and eager anticipation, we hiked onward. It wasn’t long until we saw the moose – at a safe distance away – trotting along in a meadow. It was gigantic! We were instantly aware that the moose was wild and that we were most definitely not in a zoo, and not necessarily safe. This understanding heightened our senses, helping us pay close attention not only to the moose but also to the meadow, lakes and mountains all around us. The giant moose went on its way, and we went on ours. I thanked God for the sighting, and I silently thanked the moose for crossing our path – at a comfortable distance.

Being among the wild animals is a lasting reminder that we are not as in control as we sometimes pretend to be. Hiking in a moose’s neighborhood instead of sitting in a climate-controlled environment makes us aware of how precious life is – not just our own lives, but all life. This miracle of understanding leaves us offering thanksgiving to God and to the beautiful creatures with whom we share this life.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS

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.”*

AUGUST 16 – 11th SUNDAY aft PENTECOST

In the Gospel which speaks of the pleas of the Canaanite woman (the Canaanites and Israelites did not enjoy amicable relationships), Jesus reminded the Disciples that he had been sent to seek the “lost”. How reassuring to know that he still to this day seeks the “lost” among us, and that if we continue to have faith as the woman did, God has promised to guide and support our lives!

LESSON READINGS

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

AUGUST 16 – 11TH SUNDAY aft PENTECOST

Genesis 45:1-15
Psalm 133
Roman 11:1-2a, 29-32
Matthew 15:[10-20], 21-28



ST. ALBAN'S CURRENT OFFICE HOURS

Monday 10:30 - 12:30pm
Tuesday 10:00 - 12:00pm
Wednesday 2:00 - 4:00pm
Friday 10:30 - 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