

AROUND THE PARISH

October 4, 2024

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.

You will want to see the great photographs included with this issue taken around St. Alban's grounds by several of our parishioners in celebration of St. Francis.



Fr. Greg Peters

SUNDAY – October 6

8:00 & 10:30am, In-person, Indoor Services. Masking is no longer required, but is strongly recommended.

9:30am, Adult Bible study, Annex & Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86545992628?pwd=d08vTmZNBmk1SW1PUXFybmdpMXNYdz09>

Meeting ID: 865 4599 2628 Passcode: SeekFirst

2:00-5:00pm, Templo Emanuel, Parish Hall

NOTE: No Facebook account? Watch the Sunday service on YouTube or later as a video on Facebook

Blessings to you all on this Feast Day of St. Francis (October 4). May we, like Francis, hear the God's call to live a simple, honest, brave, forthright, compassionate, and loving faith.

We're in the last week of the Season of Creation. By now, we've heard these prayers long enough to let them sink in and reveal different dimensions of our God, of our relationship to the Earth and all our fellow creatures (human or not), and of our personal faith. I'm wondering what you've experienced, discovered, and learned.

Here are a few things I've noticed.

My concept of Creation is less compartmentalized. In the past, when praying or just thinking about things, I would have prayed separately for humans (parishioners, neighbors, friends, family, those in need, those oppressed, immigrants, refugees, enemies . . .) and for creation (the environment, healing the earth, counteracting climate change, building up living things . . .), but through praying this liturgy I am beginning to make connections between these.

I mean I will still pray and think about individuals and components and aspects of creation, but I'm coming to realize that neighbors include other species, other kingdoms (not just animal, but also vegetal and mineral). Loving the neighbor has deeper implications, "neighbor" is a more inclusive term, and praying for the release of captives includes lifeforms that are injured by how human life impacts them, not simply other human beings who are injured or in need.

This neighborly relationship is right there in the Confession we've been praying,

"God of compassion, have mercy upon us. **Heal our relationship with all creation.**

Forgive us for our mistreatment and neglect of the **creatures who share the earth with us.** "

And like all our relationships, we do things that are beneficial but sometimes harmful within them, so we are led to seek and work towards ways of making things right. And for this we need help.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- 10/5 9:00-4:00pm, Five Corners Forum, Voter Registration Program
- 10/6 8:00/10:30am, Blessing of the Animals
- 10/7 7:00pm, Boy Scouts, Parish Hall
- 10/8 2:00-3:30pm, Altar Guild Mtg, PH
- 10/9 6:00pm, Evening Prayer, You Tube
- 10/10 7:00-9:00pm, Templo Emanuel, Sanctuary
- 10/11 7:00-8:30pm, Templo Emanuel, Sanctuary
- 10/14 6:30pm, Vestry Meeting, Annex/Zoom
- 10/16 6:00pm, Evening Prayer, Stew Fest & Program
- 10/19 10:30am, Indigenous Circle, Parish Hall

Called to be God's Partners in Care of the Planet

Bountiful God, you call us to labor with you in tending the earth: Where we lack love, open our hearts to the world; where we waste, give us discipline to conserve; where we neglect, awaken our minds and wills to insight and care. May we with all your creatures honor and serve you in all things for you live and reign with Christ, Redeemer of all, and with your Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

“Fill us with your Spirit,
that we may care for one another and for all
creatures,
according to your will and in the fullness of your
love;”

We need the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Later, in
the Eucharist we pray for the indwelling Spirit to

“Fill us with the courage and love of Jesus, that we
may strive for justice and peace, respect the dignity of
every human being, and safeguard the integrity of
creation.”

And here we see that living in right relationship
with each other and with creation leads toward the
fulfillment of the Baptismal Covenant. I love that
connection.

Lastly, I want to point to something in the Peace.
We’ve been praying (here it’s a prayer of declaration),
“In Christ we are becoming a new creation.

We see God around us.

We see God with us.”

In seeing God all around and with us, we recognize
our Creator God as Emanuel, the Christ who is with us.
With us always – and in all ways! This “becoming a
new creation” points toward Pentecost, where we pray,
“Send out your Spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of
the earth.”

Nestled right there in the very center of our worship
is the Heaven we seek, the fulfillment of what we are
created for – God’s Kingdom of Shalom.

We recognize that we are not in right relationship
and so pray for healing, for making all our
relationships right. We are strengthened and nourished
by Christ’s body and blood and by grace incorporated
into that righteous body for righteous and redeeming
work (ministry). And in the end, what we are called to
– what we all are created for – is that renewed,
fulfilled, Pentecost Creation – God’s Peace permeating
and enveloping all things.

May this Peace so settle and settle into us that we
may know the will of God and be one of the means by
which all of creation is renewed.

“Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do
infinitely more than we can ask or imagine!”

Ephesians 3:20

The first law of our being is that we are set in a
delicate network of interdependence with our fellow
human beings and with the rest of God’s creation.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu

VOTER REGISTRATION AT ST. ALBAN’S

Tell your friends, family, neighbors -- there will be a
voter registration event in St. Alban’s Parish Hall on
Saturday, October 5, from 10:00am – 2:00pm.

We hope to be a resource to those who have not yet
registered and encourage you to share this information
with family, friends and/or neighbors.

If you have any questions, please speak with Dan
Mullene, Jan Skidmore, or Liz Bee.



We honor and celebrate the Feast of St. Francis with a
blessing of our pets – four footed and otherwise – who
share our lives and our hearts. Francis preached praise
for the Creator and Redeemer of all things and saw his
fellow creatures as sisters and brothers.

On **Sunday, October 6, at both 8:00am and
10:30am**, Fr. Greg will bestow a blessing on your
critter. Bring your cats, dogs, birds, or other animals
with you for this special event. If you are unable to
bring your pet with you, or if your creature has passed,
please feel free to bring a photo for a blessing.



STEW FEST IS WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16

Join us for our annual **Stew Fest on Wednesday,
October 16**, beginning with Evening Prayer in the
Sanctuary at 6:00pm. We then move to the Parish Hall
for our wonderful dinner of home-made stews, salads,
bread and beverages (including wine and beer).

Our speaker for this evening is Rev. Sabeth
Fitzgibbons, who has joined us in the past as a speaker
and supply priest. This is a great fellowship event, as
well as a delicious dinner and presentation by Sabeth
Fitzgibbons.



SEASONS OF CREATION

COLLECT FOR CREATION & REDEMPTION

God of peace,
 let us your people know,
 that at the heart of turbulence
 there is an inner calm that comes
 from faith in you.
 Keep us from being content with things as
 they are,
 that from this central peace
 there may come a creative compassion,
 a thirst for justice,
 and a willingness to give of ourselves
 in the spirit of Christ.

Amen

COLLECT FOR JUSTICE OF GOD and DIGNITY OF ALL CREATURES

Holy God, your mercy is over all your works and in the web of life each creature has its role and place. We praise you for ocelot and owl, cactus and kelp, lichen and whale; we honor you for whirlwind and lava, tide and topsoil, cliff and marsh.

Give us hearts and minds eager to care for your planet, humility to recognize all creatures as your beloved ones, justice to share the resources of the earth with all its inhabitants, and love not limited by our ignorance.

This we pray in the name of Jesus, who unifies what is far off and what is near, and in whom, by the grace and the working of your Holy Spirit, all things hold together.

Amen



Accompaniment

I came to the US from Sri Lanka to study engineering. I didn't have any family or friends here, so it was a very lonely time for me. But I made friends with some Palestinian students, and they invited me to be their roommate. They treated me like family.

And they were very good cooks: they made delicious Middle Eastern food, and I did the dishes. That's one of many ways in which loving people have walked with me.

As an aerospace engineer in Silicon Valley, I had the opportunity to share that same kind of accompaniment. I worked on engineering standards with international colleagues, and we had to find ways to compromise. We spoke different languages and didn't always agree on issues, but we achieved compromise on technical issues. So, I learned to listen for the purposes of understanding. That's what life is all about: living together and learning to understand each other. Of course, this also means recognizing my own limitations, and those of others.

Sometimes it's hard to walk with vulnerable people. Part of my diaconal ministry happens in jail. At first, I didn't want to be there. I was frightened by the heavy doors closing behind me as I visited. But there was so much need! Some inmates are entirely abandoned by their family, so part of my walk with them is to love without judgment. It is a mutual walking in love – we listen to each other, and they learn from me and I from them.

As a Christian, I am motivated by the Great Commandment and the Baptismal Covenant, which tells me to respect the dignity of every human being. Everyone needs some help at some point in their lives, just as I did as a student and an immigrant. God walks in love with me in my struggles just as God does with the marginalized people with whom I minister. FECS.org

Questions for Reflection:

- What are your experiences of being supported that have led you to walk in love with others?

The Rev. Bertram Nagarajah serves as Deacon at Trinity Cathedral, San Jose, California and ministers widely to the Silicon Valley community.



ECW & “MEET ELEANOR ROOSEVELT”

On Saturday, September 28, approximately 35 guests were treated to an outstanding performance by Debbie Dimitrie. As you probably know, she is an amazing storyteller and dramatizes the lives of various well-known women in history.

Debbie gave us a view into the life of Eleanor Roosevelt, First Lady of the United States from 1933-1945, as well as one of the first delegates to the United Nations in 1945. In addition to the actual performance, Debbie spent some time answering a few questions from the guests – questions she answers off -the-cuff with the same detail and endless knowledge as with her scripted performance. It was a wonderful event.

Our thanks to Connie Forsberg for organizing ECW events for us, and thanks also to those who setup, clean up and bring the delicious refreshments.



Photos by Maryellen Young

Connie Forsberg welcoming guests to the ECW Coffee and Susan Hanson with our spiritual reading.



FRANCIS OF ASSISI
Friar, Brother of the Poor

One of the boldest and most spirited figures in history, it is a shame that Francis is sometimes dismissed as simply a quiet “bird watcher.” Actually he was an outspoken and controversial “social activist.” He was one of the greatest preachers of all time.

His concern with poverty and ecology gave him a strikingly modern quality. Although he was a wealthy

cloth merchant’s son, he gave all he had to help the poor and was content with only the barest necessities for himself. He vigorously opposed the abuse of political power particularly when it was wielded by the Bishop of Rome.

Francis was effective in initiating sweeping social and economic reforms. He was a popular singer, often called “God’s Troubadour.” His most famous hymn, Cantic to Brother Sun (406 in The Hymnal 1982), has stood the test of time. Francis founded one of the strongest and most dynamic religious orders in Christendom. Today we find Franciscan Friars in both the Roman and Anglican communions.

Most high, almighty, and good Lord: Grant your people grace to renounce gladly the vanities of this world, that, after the examples of blessed Francis, we may for love of you delight in all your creatures, with perfectness of joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.



Prayer of
Saint Francis of Assisi

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

MISSION TO SEAFARERS PROJECT

St. Alban’s will be participating in the Annual Mission to Seafarers during the month of October through November 17. We will be shopping and sewing/knitting to help fill the important “ditty bags” that are given to seamen visiting the Port of Seattle during December.

There are flyers in the Parish Hall listing suggested items to purchase, as well as information for knitting or sewing the actual ditty bags.

If you have questions, please contact one of our co-chairs: Averil Nicewarner – averil.personal@gmail.com, (301-310-3165) or Janet Niece – liliasyetta@hotmail.com, (206-949-7335).

POINTS TO PONDER

If a bottle of poison reaches its expiration date, is it more poisonous or is it no longer poisonous?

As I watch this generation try and rewrite our history, I'm sure of one thing: It will be misspelled and have no punctuation.

As I've gotten older, people think I've become lazy. The truth is I'm just being more energy-efficient.

I haven't gotten anything done today. I've been in the Produce Department trying to open this stupid plastic bag!

I'm on two simultaneous diets. I wasn't getting enough food on one.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS

OCTOBER 6 – PENTECOST 20

Jesus says, “*Let the little children come to me ... for it is to such of these that the kingdom of heaven is given.*” Can we trust as children do? Can we lay our lives in His hands, trusting His plan for us ... and respond with gratitude and thanksgiving for all? Will we let Him lay his hands on us and bless us?

OCTOBER 13 – PENTECOST 21

In Mark:10, we read “*How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God.*” All of us have much wealth, you know, especially by the standard of many in the rest of the world. We are so blessed. As stewards and disciples, are we willing to live our lives and use all our gifts to honor God and follow His teachings?

SCRIPTURE READINGS

OCTOBER 6 – PENTECOST 20

Job 1:1; 2:1-10

Psalms 26

Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12

Mark 10:2-1A6

Collect for Pentecost 20

Almighty and Everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve: Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Savior; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

OCTOBER 13 – PENTECOST 21

Job 23:1-9, 16-17

Psalms 22:1-15

Hebrews 4:12-16

Mark 10:17-31

WEEKLY SUNDAY BASKET OFFERINGS

1st week—Food Bank

2nd week—Discretionary Fund

3rd week—Outreach

4th week—International Relief

5th Week—Indigenous Women Support

ST. ALBAN'S CURRENT OFFICE HOURS

Monday 10:30 - 12:30pm; 2:00 - 4:00 pm

Wednesday 2:00 - 4:00pm

Friday 10:30 - 12:30pm; 2:00 - 4:00 pm

Please contact the Office, (425) 778-0371 or stalbansedmonds@gmail.com to make an appointment.

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

GREG'S OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Thursday 8:30am – 2:30 pm, Home
Wednesday Church Office – 10:00am – 2:00 pm
(Available by appointment)

Via email: gwpeters.stalbansedmonds@gmail.com

Cell: 206-778-1506

SUNDAYS--after church coffee hour until 2:00pm
(Available by appointment)

PRAYER MINISTRIES

Contact Sheilah Reidburn at sheilahreidburn@comcast.net
or 206-427-1920.

Prayers of the People:

Prayers of the People are used during Sunday worship.

Prayer Chain:

About a dozen people pray regularly for members of the congregation or other friends and relatives as requested.

Prayer Shawls:

Prayer shawls are available for those in need of comfort during challenging times.

CHURCH PLEDGES & DONATIONS

Please continue donations and pledges by:

- *Mail check – 21405 82nd Pl W, Edmonds, WA 98926
- *Drop off through slot in Fr. Greg's door.
- *Bank Bill Pay – have bank send check to St. Alban's
- *Online, go to www.StAlbansEdmonds.org
and click on "Donate Now-
or use pictured QR code

