

## AROUND THE PARISH

January 6, 2023

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.

### SUNDAY – January 8

10:30am, Sunday Eucharist on Facebook/YouTube

8:00 & 10:30am, In-person, Indoor Services for those fully vaccinated

9:15am, Adult Bible study, Annex & Zoom – Class resumes with the Gospel of John

<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



Fr. Greg Peters

Happy Epiphany Everyone.

This is the day we remember the Visitation of the Wise Men from the East. These adherents of another faith, likely Zoroastrians, sought out, recognized, honored, and worshiped Jesus as the Messiah.

These wise ones are such a good example for all of us. Grounded in their own faith, they nonetheless acknowledged the good in another. They had the depth of knowledge of Judaism to realize that something momentous was happening, that the Messiah had been born and was being revealed. They went to great lengths – literally and figuratively – to reverence the one who would lead this other faith in a whole new direction. They were lavish with gifts and effusive with heart felt praise.

And then, they did what was in their power to do to protect the child. Imagine what Herod, who had no qualms about killing all the innocent ones in and around Bethlehem, would have done to them if his forces had caught them “going home by another way” rather than returning to him with information about the child.

They didn't become Jews or Christians. Matthew doesn't even suggest that they should have.

This whole thing raises so many questions:

Can we worship God as revealed in and through other religions, other faith traditions?

Are we able to see the goodness in the “other”?  
Are we even willing to try?

Would we go to such expense to honor this other one?

Would we really risk the wrath of our Herods?  
Are we open to criticism, censure, and rejection from members of our own faith?

Are we grounded enough in our faith to not be threatened by another?

It all comes round to one of the very basic assumptions of our faith – that humans are created in

### UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- 1/7 9:00am –4:00pm, Boy Scout Tree Recycle
- 1/8 10:00am-3:00pm, Boy Scout Tree Recycle
- 1/9 7:00pm, Boy Scouts, Parish Hall
- 1/10 2:00pm, Altar Guild Meeting, Parish Hall  
4:00-6:00pm, Girl Scouts, Parish Hall  
6:30pm, Vestry Meeting, Zoom
- 1/11 3:00-4:30pm, Food Bank Distribution, Park Lot  
6:00pm, Evening Prayer, Facebook
- 1/12 7:00-9:00pm, Templo Emanuel, Sanctuary
- 1/13 7:00-8:30pm, Templo Emanuel, Sanctuary
- 1/18 Evening Prayer, Soup Supper and Program
- 2/5 9:30am Eucharist, Light Brunch and Annual Mtg .

### SPECIAL EVENTS COMING UP

**Sunday, January 8** – Join in celebrating and thanking Jim Gilman for his faithful service as our official Deacon. He is stepping down as Deacon, but will remain as a vital member of St. Alban's, continuing many of his volunteer activities. Coffee Hour after both services will be in Jim's honor.

**Sunday, February 5** – There will be one service at 9:30am with a light brunch following the service and the Annual Meeting in the Parish Hall. Three Vestry members and two Alternates to Diocese Convention will be elected.

Reports from all ministry and activity groups should be sent to Jeannie Wells by January 15, 2023.  
(jeannie.stalbansedmonds@gmail.com)

the image and likeness of God. All humans, of all faiths, of no faith; all bear something of the Divine. Seems like the logical extension this is that all faith traditions bear something of the image and likeness of the True Faith. And beyond this, that *The True Faith* may very well be beyond the limits of human comprehension; beyond what we *can* know, beyond what we can imagine.

I think I'm okay with all this wondering and speculation. It may lead to further questioning. It may lead to doubt. It may lead to testing and inquiry. It may lead to another way home.

It's not so much that there are many paths to God, but that God *is* the path.

So surely the Divine One will lead us all Home.

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### **PRAYER FOR EPIPHANY**

Father, you used the star to lead the Magi to the stable. May you use us as Your little lights today as we live in a world that is still covered by darkness. We live in a world that is searching for hope and many still need to make the pilgrimage to the manger, the cross, and to the empty tomb. May our lives reflect your light as we seek to serve where you have placed us to make a kingdom impact. We pray for our world to have a year of epiphanies and receive the gift of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. In the name of Jesus. Amen

Kenneth Haney

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### **JIM GILMAN'S FAREWELL FETE**

And speaking of wise ones – this Sunday we will celebrate Jim Gilman's tenure as our Deacon. Jim has served "officially" since 2019. He has led us into many ministries, taught us, preached the good news in thoughtful and provocative ways, faithfully visited (and driven and supported) the homebound and the hospital-bound, and done myriad other things that simply needed to be done. All this with grace, passion, integrity, and above all good humor.

Jim will still be around as a member of the congregation, and participating in the ministries that most feed his soul, but will be free from the several obligations that accompany deacons formally assigned by bishops.

Please join in the celebration. There will be three Kings (cup)Cake(s)!

### **ADULT BIBLE STUDY CLASSES**

The class meets on Sunday mornings at 9:15am in the Annex and on Zoom between our two services. After taking the holidays off, the group resumes class on Sunday, January 8, and will return to the Gospel of John. Eric Hanson leads the discussions.

You are invited to come in person or join in with Zoom.



### **SOUP SUPPER RESUMES JANUARY 18**

Wednesday, January 18, is our next Soup Supper. Beginning with Evening Prayer at 6:00pm, continuing with soups, salads, and such at 6:30pm, the evening will be rounded out by our next installment of *Episcopalianism 101*. This month we will be considering Episcopal spirituality in the midst of a frenetic world and the interconnections for the worldwide Anglican Communion.

We're working from *The Episcopal Way: Church's Teaching for a Changing World*, Chapters 4 and 5. If you need a copy, please contact Greg Peters.

It is a splendid coincidence that January 18 is the Feast Day for the Confession of Saint Peter the Apostle and the beginning of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. (It runs until January 25 and the Feast Day for the Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle.) So please, join us as we examine what unites us as people of faith in all of our diversity.

Please bring soup, salad, bread or dessert as you are able. There is a sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall.



### **THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST Christ Made Known to the World – January 6**

In the course of time the Lordship of Christ was revealed in various people. The "Wise Men from the East" observed his star and were guided to his cradle where they worshiped him as a newborn king. When John baptized him in the Jordan, the Holy Spirit

descended “as a dove” and a voice from heaven proclaimed, “This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.” At a wedding feast at Cana, his embarrassed host was amazed when Jesus turned water into wine. He revealed himself to his disciples and through their witness, the knowledge of him spread.

As the church grew, its witness to him was formalized in the sacraments and the canonical scriptures. In the Epiphany season, we remember these events and the expanding revelation and manifestation of Christ to the world. We pray for the continuing growth of his kingdom until “The earth shall be filled with the glory of God as the waters cover the sea.”

In the ancient Eastern Church, January 6 was observed as the feast of the Nativity, “Christmas.” The Eve of Epiphany is still observed in some places as the “Twelfth Night” of Christmas and the conclusion of the nativity season.

*O God, lead all peoples of the earth to know your only Son now by faith, and in the world to come to see him in the splendor of his glory.*

(Calendar of Saints, Forward Movement)



## GREETINGS FROM LATVIA

Last year, Maryellen Young sent a post card with a picture of St. Alban’s to this church in Latvia in response to their request for post cards with pictures of Anglican churches from around the world for their Night of Churches celebration. They send us this Christmas Greeting:

*Christmas greetings from St. Saviour's Anglican Congregation in Rīga!  
Sveicieni Ziemassvētkos no Rīgas Svētā Pestītāja draudzes!*



Photo by Jim Gilman

## CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

A personal reflection by Judy Kistner

The church was beautifully decorated as we celebrated the birth of Jesus on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. The poinsettias were especially lovely and full this year. Our decorations are possible thanks to the generosity of our parishioners who made flower donations in memory and in thanksgiving of loved ones, family and friends. And we enjoyed the wonderful cookies donated for our after-service coffees.

Christmas Eve highlights were the carol singing and the candle -lit singing of Silent Night. We welcomed many visitors of family and friends. Christmas Day and Blue Christmas included special music by Martin Olson, with lovely flute accompaniment from his wife Phyllis.

Blue Christmas is a lovely, peaceful service, attended by few parishioners. The description of this service as offering “special recognition of the struggles that many of us face during this season,” may not seem inviting to everyone; however there is beauty for all to appreciate in this peaceful service. Granted it does recognize that Christmas can be a time when, in addition to joy and celebration, many feel sorrow, grief and longing. The Blue Christmas service acknowledges these feelings, inviting us to bring them and leave them with God as we pray and sing together.

In addition, the service emphasizes it as a time of love, trust, peace, faith, light, and encourages us to set aside those things that are heavy on our hearts. It is a reminder that God is with us at all times and that nothing can separate us from the love of God.

Blue Christmas was taped and is available for you to view on Facebook and YouTube along with all of our Christmas services. Take a few minutes to watch the Blue Christmas service sometime during this Christmas Tide. Those who attended this lovely service on December 28 left with feelings of peace, hope and love.

## MANIFESTING THE LIGHT



### AN EPIPHANY REFLECTION

Epiphany is my favorite season of the Church Year. Coming off the emotional height of Christmas, we spend a few weeks basking in the glimmer of light as we hear the stories of the things made possible by the Incarnation. Sunday after Sunday in the seven weeks of Epiphany, we will hear most of the Sermon on the Mount, as Matthew narrates Jesus' largest body of teaching. These are the lessons on which we build our faith; they form the root of our belief.

It is no coincidence that just after experiencing the glory of the birth of Jesus, we are led into his most prominent teaching. While we are still excited about the miracle of the Son of Man, we are called to remember just why He is the prophet who will lead us through what we will face. Build your city on the hill, let your light shine, don't lose your saltiness, blessed are the peacemakers. These core principles guide us in our ministry, give the Church its purpose, create God's reign anew on Earth.

As we explore the manifestation of Jesus to the world, shining our light on a dark world, we root ourselves in these essential teachings. We are called to share the love and the witness of God's salvation, so abundantly offered, with our neighbors and our world as we walk our own path in the ancient teachings of our prophet and prince.

How will you let your light shine this year, showing the world that you are rooted in the abundance of a loving God?

*Cn. J. Davey Gerhard is the Executive Director of TENS. He lives in San Francisco, California where he works on diocesan staff for DioCal and worships at Holy Innocents in Noe Valley.*

### OFFERING ENVELOPES AVAILABLE

Offering envelopes are available in a box on the small white table as you come into the Parish Hall. If you requested them when filling out your pledge card, a box of offering envelopes has been assigned to you. If you did not sign up for them, but now wish to have donation envelopes, please take one of the unassigned boxes, sign your name and the envelope number.



From Dave Wilson

The weary evangelist knocked on another door, fully expecting to have it slammed in his face. Sure enough, the older woman who answered angrily demanded that he leave once she figured out why he was there and slammed the door.

The door, however, bounced back open, and the woman shouted, "Get your foot out of my door!"

"But ma'am..." the evangelist began, when the woman again slammed the door in his face. Once again it bounced back open.

"I said, get your foot out of my door!" the woman yelled again. One more time she slammed the door. One more time it bounced open again.

"But ma'am..." the evangelist said again, only to be cut off.

"Don't talk back to me!" the woman screamed in a rage. "I want you off my property!" She slammed the door a fourth time, only to see it bounce open a fourth time.

"Ma'am," the evangelist yelled as he beat a hasty retreat down the sidewalk. "You'll be able to close your door if you move your cat out of the way!"

### FROM THE READER BOARD

Lee Forsberg



### **STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS**

#### JANUARY 8 – BAPTISM OF CHRIST

Our Baptismal Covenant will be renewed in most churches today. Look at the verbs in the statements: Continue in the prayers and teaching; persevere in resisting evil and repent; proclaim the Good News;

seek and serve others; strive for justice and peace. Are our time, talents and resources being used to further these “marching orders”?

### **JANUARY 15 – EPIPHANY 2**

*“Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and Sacraments, may shine...that He may be known, worshipped and obeyed to the ends of the earth...”*

Quite a tall order! But even if we just start where we are and share with those around us the wondrous blessings and gifts we have been given, the intentions of this prayer will be fulfilled.

### **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

### **JANUARY 8 – BAPTISM OF CHRIST**

Isaiah 42:1-9

Psalms 29

Acts 10:34-43

Matthew 3:13-17

### **JANUARY 15**

Isaiah 49:1-7

Psalms 40:1-12

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

John 1:29-42

### **CHURCH PLEDGES & DONATIONS**

Please continue donations and pledges by:

\*Mail check – 21405 82<sup>nd</sup> 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](http://www.StAlbansEdmonds.org) and click on “Donate Now.”

### **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](mailto: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, Tuesday, Thursday 8:30am – 2:30 pm, Home

Wednesday Church Office – 10:00am – 2:00 pm

(Available by appointment)

Via email: [gwpeters.stalbansedmonds@gmail.com](mailto:gwpeters.stalbansedmonds@gmail.com)

Cell: 206-778-1506

SUNDAYS--after church coffee hour until 2:00pm

(Available by appointment)

### **WEEKLY SUNDAY BASKET OFFERINGS**

1st week—Food Bank

2nd week—Discretionary Fund

3rd week—Outreach

4th week—Ukraine Refugee Offering

5<sup>th</sup> Week—One Thousand Days of Light (ERD)

### **PRAYER MINISTRIES**

Contact Sheilah Reidburn at [sheilahreidburn@comcast.net](mailto:sheilahreidburn@comcast.net) or 425-745-1390

#### **Prayers of the People:**

Prayers of the People that are used during the 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.

