



Season of Creation

**All Are Welcome at St. Alban's Episcopal Church
8am & 10:30 am Sunday September 27, 2026
The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

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

Please observe holy silence during the prelude and postlude. These musical selections are an integral part of worship for many and offer a time for prayer, meditation, and reflection. Please save greetings and fellowship conversations for the Parish Hall. Many thanks!

Prelude

Opening Hymn:

Rock of Ages

Hymn 685

Priest: Welcome to St. Alban's Episcopal Church. We're here in Edmonds, WA, and wherever you are in the world, we're honored that you have welcomed us into your home this morning, as together we worship the God of all creation incarnate in Jesus of Nazareth. Whether you're with us for an hour or a lifetime, we hope and trust that you will find this a refuge that nourishes the Holy Spirit within you.

As we begin, we acknowledge that we are blessed to be situated on traditional and ancestral Snohomish, Coast Salish land. They cared for this land for millennia before it was taken from them. We honor them, and pray for the wisdom to care for it as well as they. We recognize that we are living among them still, so we are seeking ways of building relationships so that, working together, we can be better stewards of this place and all its people.

Opening Acclamation

Presider: This is the day the Creator has made.

People: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

Song of Praise

Hal - le - lu - jah! We sing your prais - es! All our
 Ha - le - lu - ya! Pe - lo tsa ro - na, di tha -

hearts are filled with glad - ness! Hal - le - lu - jah! We sing your
 bi - le ka - o - fe - la. Ha - le - lu - ya! Pe - lo tsa

prai - ses! All our hearts are filled with glad - ness!
 ro - na, di tha - bi - le ka - o - fe - la. **Fine**

Christ the Lord to us said: "I am wine, I am bread, I am
 Je - sus says to us still: "All who do the Lord's will, all who

wine, I am bread, give to all who thirst and hun - ger!"
 do the Lord's will are my sis - ters and my bro - thers." **D.C.**

Text: South African
 Music: South African

Salutation

Presider: May God, the Creator of all things, be with you.

People: And also with you.

Presider: Let us pray.

Collect of the Day

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The First Reading

Ezekiel challenges those who think they cannot change because of what their parents were and did, or who think they cannot reverse their own previous behavior. God insistently invites people to turn and live.

A Reading from Ezekiel chapter 18 beginning with the 1st verse

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

¹The word of the LORD came to me: ²What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, “The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge”?

³“As I live,” says the Lord GOD, “this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

²⁵Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is unfair.’ Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

²⁶When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. ²⁷Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹Yet the house of Israel says, ‘The way of the Lord is unfair.’ O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

³⁰Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways,” says the Lord GOD. “Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. ³¹Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³²For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone,” says the Lord GOD. “Turn, then, and live.”

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s People.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 25:1-8

BCP 614

¹To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul;
my God, I put my trust in you; *
let me not be humiliated,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.

²**Let none who look to you be put to shame; ***
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.

³Show me your ways, O LORD, *
and teach me your paths.

⁴**Lead me in your truth and teach me, ***

**for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all the day long.**

⁵Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, *
for they are from everlasting.

⁶**Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; *
remember me according to your love
and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.**

⁷Gracious and upright is the LORD; *
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.

⁸**He guides the humble in doing right *
and teaches his way to the lowly.**

The Second Reading

As part of a call for harmony rather than self-seeking, Paul uses a very early Christian hymn that extols the selflessness of Christ in his obedient death on the cross. Christ's selfless perspective is to be the essential perspective we share as the foundation for Christian accord.

A Reading from Philippians chapter 2 beginning with the 1st verse

Philippians 2:1-13

¹If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,

⁷but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
⁸he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

¹²Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only
in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own
salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³for it is God who is at work in you,
enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn: **O Day of God, Draw Nigh** **Hymn 601**

The Gospel

After driving the money-changers out of the temple (21:12), Jesus begins teaching there. His authority is questioned by the religious leaders, who are supposed to be in charge of the temple.

Priest: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Matthew 21:23-32

²³When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" ²⁴Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' ²⁶But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." ²⁷So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' ²⁹He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. ³¹Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³²For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him."

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.
People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

Fr. Greg Peters

The Creed

We believe in God, who creates all things, who embraces all things,
who celebrates all things, who is present in every part of the
fabric of creation.

We believe in God as the source of all life, who baptizes this
planet with living water.

We believe in Jesus Christ, the suffering one, the poor one, the
malnourished one, the climate refugee, who loves and cares for
this world
and who suffers with it.

And we believe in Jesus Christ, the seed of life, who came to
reconcile and renew this world and everything in it.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the breath of God, who moves
with God and who moves among and with us today.

We believe in everlasting life in God.

And we believe in the hope that one day

God will put an end to death and all destructive forces.

Profession of Faith (South Indian)
Guruksel Lutheran Theological College and Research Institute, 2009

The Prayers of the People

Creation tide Form

Priest: We praise your abiding guidance, O God,
for you sent us Jesus, our Teacher and Messiah,
to model for us the way of love for the whole universe.

We offer these prayers of love
on behalf of ourselves and our neighbors,
on behalf of your creation and our fellow creatures.

Intercessor: Eternal God:

We thank you for the beauty of the World:

for the teeming life of the seas, the flight of birds, and the diversity of animal life. Grant us grace to treat Creation with respect and care; to protect endangered species, to preserve the variety of habitats, and to honor the delicate balance of nature.

God of life: **hear our prayer.**

We thank you for the wealth of blessings from land and sea; for the power of wind, and the warmth of sun. We pray for the nations of the earth, give us the will to cherish this planet and to use its resources sustainably for the welfare of all.

God of justice: **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the faithful witness of the Church, called to reconcile and heal:

For the Anglican Communion, led by Archbishop of Canterbury Sarah Mullally;

For the Anglican Church of Bangladesh;

For the Episcopal Church, led by Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe;

For this diocese led by Phil LaBelle, and St. John/San Juan, and

St. Christopher's, both in Olympia and St. David of Wales in Shelton;

For this parish, especially Jeannie, Gregory, Elise and Sam, for our Evangelism Ministries, for the Legacy Society Member Margaret Ainsley, and for Greg and all who serve God through this church.

God of grace: **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the human family. We exult in our diversity and giftedness, we repent of our sins, divisions and violence. By the power of your Spirit, restore your image within us. As every human being is known and loved by you, may we care for one another with love and respect. We pray for those you have commended to our care: Kären, Bertha, Marilee, Marge, Susan D., Jenny, Suzanne, Aida, and those we name silently or aloud.

God of compassion: **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who have died whom we entrust to your eternal love; may we support and comfort those who mourn.

God of peace: **hear our prayer.**

Nina Ranadive Pooley

Presider: 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.**

Book of Occasional Services, 2018, 339

Confession of Sin

Deacon or Presider: Let us confess our sins against God and God's creation.

**Merciful and sustaining God,
we have sinned against you.**

We confess our lack of gratitude for the beauty and bounty of your creation: teach us to see that your earth sustains us and all that lives.

We confess that we have misused your earth:

grant us amendment of life.

We confess that we have been intemperate in our appetites:

strengthen us in self-control.

We confess that we have taken the abundance of your world for granted: make us urgent now for its protection.

Forgive and renew us now through our Savior Jesus Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit, with whom you live and reign, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

“Liturgical Materials for Honoring God in Creation,”
Reports To The 78th General Convention: Supplemental Materials
(Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music: SCLM, 2015), 246 - 247

Absolution

Through the cross of Christ,
God have mercy on you,
pardon you
and set you free.

Know that you are forgiven
and be at peace.
God strengthen you in all goodness
and keep you in life eternal.

Amen.

The New Zealand Book of Common Prayer, page 408

The Peace

Presider: The God of heaven has made a home on earth.

All: Christ dwells among us and is one with us.

Presider: The peace of Christ be always with you.

All: And also with you.

“A Service of Welcome,”

The Iona Community, *Iona Abbey Worship Book*
(Glasgow, UK: Wildgoose Publications, 2001), 246 - 247

Birthdays, Anniversaries, Thanksgivings

Announcements

Offertory Sentence

God said, “I did not intend my creatures to make themselves servants and slaves to the world’s pleasures. They owe their first love to me. Everything else they should love and possess, as I told you, not as if they owned it, but as something lent them.”

Catherine of Siena (1347-1380), *The Dialogue*

Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.

Offertory Hymn: Shepherd of Souls Hymn 343

Doxology Hymn 380, vs 3

Eucharistic Prayer with Creation III

Presider: God is with us.

People: God is present here.

Presider: Rejoice! Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift our hearts to the Most High.

Presider: Let us give thanks to the Holy One.

People: It is right to offer thanks and praise.

We do praise you, our intimate God, the one who is with us, and with all of creation, the source of this magical, mystical, sensual, beautiful, earth. From microbes to whales you have created all of us. We are privileged to be a strand in all of your creation, including this strange and wonderful home, our earth, the open sky above, the dazzling array of stars and planets, and the unfathomable galaxies beyond us. You have blessed us with a world of infinite variety and beauty, a land of mountains and meadows, canyons and valleys, deserts and jungles. Over and through this land you have provided oceans teeming with life, streams and rivers, crystal clear lakes, and cascading waterfalls. We share this land with all of your creatures, from mosquito to mountain lion, from seal to scorpion. You have formed all of this, this land of such intense wildness and beauty. Therefore, we praise you, O Sacred One, joining our voices with the cry of your animals, the rocks, the stars, the Moon, the Sun, and all the universe as we sing with joy:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might, hea-ven and
earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

We bless you and thank you Gracious God for all of these gifts, and for weaving us, the web of humanity, into this world. But instead of caring deeply for this most perfect of creations, the universe beyond our comprehension and this earth in which we live, we have rebelled against it, against ourselves, against You. We disregarded the interconnected web of life in which we live. Instead of loving it as a mother loves her child, we put ourselves above it, as if it was something we could own. It became something to control rather than a part of us and a part of you. Each time you have called us back, called us to understand that we are not masters of the earth, but instead a part of the earth. You continually remind us that caring for you means caring for your earth and for each other.

The People and Presider say together

Then, All-Holy God, you sent Jesus Christ to be among us. Through His incarnation, You taught us that You are always with us and all of the world. He showed us the way to grace and freedom, and how to show compassion to each other and the world. He gathered a people as your own and filled us with longing for justice and peace for all of creation. Keep us ever vigilant to follow his example so that we may bring about Your reign that He opened for us, through his life, his death, and his resurrection. It is a reign where all your creation will be one.

The Presider continues

On the night before he died, Jesus came to table with those he loved. Recalling his own actions of feeding the poor and eating with the outcast, he took bread, gave thanks to You, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: “Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you.

Do this in memory of me.” When supper was ended, he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to You, and passed the cup among his friends and said: “Take this all of you and drink from it, this is the cup of my blood, the blood of the new and everlasting covenant, do this in memory of me.”

Therefore, let us pray:

All join in prayer

Gracious God among us, help us to feel your presence, and give us the strength to serve your creation and your people this day and every day.

The Presider continues

Now gathered at your table, God of Creation, and remembering what Jesus Christ taught us, we offer to you this bread and this wine, a gift of your creation and work of human hands. Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts, O Sacred One. May they become for us the Body and Blood of Christ, just as we, your people, are that same Body. Breathe your Spirit upon us also and upon the entire earth. Make us one with your earth, so that all of Creation may become one with your Body.

The People and Presider say together

Bring all of us, from every clan, tribe, and nation together, to feast upon your abundant banquet, prepared from the fruits of your earth and made possible by the redemption of your Christ.

The Presider continues

Through Jesus Christ, in the unity of the entire Universe, all glory and honor to God and Creator, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

from Grace St. Paul Episcopal Church, Tucson, AZ

The Lord's Prayer

As the Wisdom before Creation teaches us, we pray.

Leader: Our Father [and/or: Mother] in heaven

People: You are also at home in the air, soil, forests and oceans

Leader: Hallowed be your name

People: By the care we take of your Creation

Leader: Your kingdom come

People: All that you see is good

Leader: Your will be done on earth, as it is in Heaven

People: Your will to till and care

Leader: Give us this day our daily bread

People: That all may have enough to live life in fullness

Leader: Forgive us our trespasses

People: Our greed, our exploitation, our lack of concern for other species and for future generations

Leader: As we forgive those who trespass against us

People: By reconciliation with justice and peace.

Leader: Lead us not into temptation

People: **The temptation to equate dominion with exploitation**

Leader: And deliver us from evil

People: **The evil of destroying your gift of creation**

Leader: For yours is the kingdom

People: **Yours, Lord, not ours**

Leader: The power and the glory

People: **In the cross and resurrection**

Leader: For ever and ever

People: **You are the beginning and you are the end. Amen. (So be it)¹⁵**

Creation Care Prayers, The Church of England Environmental Programme

Fraction Anthem

Presider This is Living Bread, given for all Creation.

People All who eat this bread share in Christ's Body.

John 6:51

The Prayer of Spiritual Communion

For those who unable to attend worship in person.

Beloved Jesus,

I believe that you are present in the

Blessed Sacrament of the Altar.

I love you above all things, and I

desire to receive you into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive

you in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood,

come spiritually into my heart.
I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you.
Let me never be separated from you in this life
or in the life to come. Amen.

National Cathedral Sunday Online Service 6.13.2021

Communion Hymn: Sing Ye Faithful, Sing with Gladness Hymn 492

Post Communion Prayer

Create in us a new heart and a new vision, O God, that the gifts of your Spirit may work in us and renew the face of the earth. May we be one with you so that our work is yours and your work is ours. Lead us to transform our lives to reflect your glory in Creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior who is alive with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever. Amen.

“Prayers of Intercession for Creation Time,” (2012)

Closing Prayers and Blessings

Deep peace, pure white of the moon to you. Deep peace, pure green of the grass to you. Deep peace, pure brown of the earth to you. Deep peace, pure gray of the dew to you. Deep peace, pure blue of the sky to you. Deep peace of the Son of Peace to you.

Fiona MacLeod,
The Dominion of Dreams: Under the Dark Star,
(New York, Duffield, 1910)

Closing Hymn: Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing Hymn 344

Dismissal

As we conclude our service, I invite you to join me in dedicating ourselves to care of the Earth.

Deacon: We join with the Earth and with each other
People: To bring new life to the land
To restore the waters
To refresh the air.

Deacon: We join with the Earth and with each other
People: To renew the forests
To care for the plants
To protect the creatures.

Deacon: We join with the Earth and with each other
People: To celebrate the seas
To rejoice in the sunlight
To sing the song of the stars.

Deacon: We join with the Earth and with each other
People: To recreate the human community
To promote justice and peace
To remember our children.

Deacon: We join with the Earth and with each other
All: We join together as many and diverse
expressions of one loving mystery:
for the healing of the Earth
and the renewal of all life. Amen.

“U.N. Environmental Sabbath Program”
Elizabeth Roberts and Elias Amidon ed.,
Earth Prayers (Harper, San Francisco, 1991), 94 - 95

Postlude

Announcements

Adult Bible Study Sundays at 9:30am: Join us for Adult Christian Education class (Bible Study) led by Robin McClelland on Sundays at 9:30am in the Annex and also on Zoom (see link below).

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83625063228?pwd=bcgNjSKTjQaV8OTcwoeaNgIbbx30Er.1>

Remember to Vote by 5:30 pm on September 30th! As we discussed at our Town Hall last week, any changes to services will be determined by votes from all parishioners. Ballots were mailed out on September 18th and will be gathered at 5:30pm on September 30th and tallied. Results of the voting will be published in Around the Parish to be sent out on October 2nd.

Blessing of the Animals Sunday October 4th: All year long our pets and animal companions bless, keep, and guard us. Join us in celebration of them on Sunday, October 4th for the Feast of St. Francis. This day we honor Francis who preached praise for the Creator and Redeemer of all things and saw his fellow creatures as sisters and brothers. Bring your animals or plants who are part of your family for a special blessing. If you are unable to bring your pet but wish for them to be included, consider bringing a picture. If you have a pet you wish to be remembered who is no longer with us, we will gladly honor their memory.

Game Night: Do you like to play games? We are planning a St. Alban's "game night" on Saturday, October 10th from 3 pm to 6 pm. This is an informal gathering. There will be some games available, but feel free to bring one of your favorites too. Also, bring your choice of beverage, and, if you want, a snack to share. Depending on turnout and what games are available, we will decide what to play. This is a first of possibly more opportunities. This idea started from the Hansons' recent auction item when 8 of us gathered for games and had a great time. Any questions, contact Maryellen Young at 425-776-2461 or maryelleny@comcast.net.

St. Alban's Participates in the Mission to Seafarers through November 10th: Please go shop as you are able, and help fill-up the "ditty bags". See complete list in the Parish Hall, along with a container to put your purchases in. Ditty Bag Stuffing Day – November 14th ~ 10am - Noon at St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church: 3050 California Avenue SW, Seattle, Washington.

Save the Date for Stew Fest: Mark your calendars for St. Alban's 13th Annual Stew Fest on Wednesday, October 21st. The dinner will feature a variety of stews. Salad, bread and dessert will be provided along with beverages including wine, beer and nonalcoholic drinks. Please join us for this always inspiring and enjoyable event!



Welcome to our Plenty Good Room season of stewardship! Over these next seven weeks, we'll reflect on God's abundance and our call to make space for all. There is room for everyone at God's table.

St. Alban's Episcopal Church

21405 82nd Place West, Edmonds, WA 98026 Office (425) 778-0371

Sunday Worship 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Bible Study 9:30 a.m.

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Website www.StAlbansEdmonds.org

the Rt. Rev. Philip LaBelle, Bishop Diocese of Olympia

the Rev. Greg Peters, Rector

Dan Mullene, Parish Care Minister

Serving in Today's Worship

Celebrant & Preacher

Deacon

Pianist

8am Crucifer

8am Lector

10:30 Crucifer

10:30am Lectors, Chalice & Arms Bearers

Altar Guild

A/V Ministry

Fr. Greg Peters

Jim Gilman

Jenny Liao

Raina Kille

Hailey Lanum

Betsy Newnum

Colyn LaVergne

Connie Forsberg

Mary Fowler

Pam Pomeroy

Linda Rowan

Phil McClelland

Denise Robertson

Brad Goergen

*Flowers are given to the glory of God by the people of St. Alban's
for our many blessings*

Weekly Sunday Outreach Basket Offerings

1st week—Food Bank

2nd week—Discretionary Fund

3rd week—Quarterly Outreach Offering

4th week—International Relief Offering

5th Week—Indigenous Women's Offering



For Online donations: go to
www.StAlbansEdmonds.org and click on
"Donate Now" or use QR code above.

Scripture Readings for October 4th

Isaiah 5:1-7; Psalm 80:7-14; Philippians 3:4b-14; Matthew 21:33-46