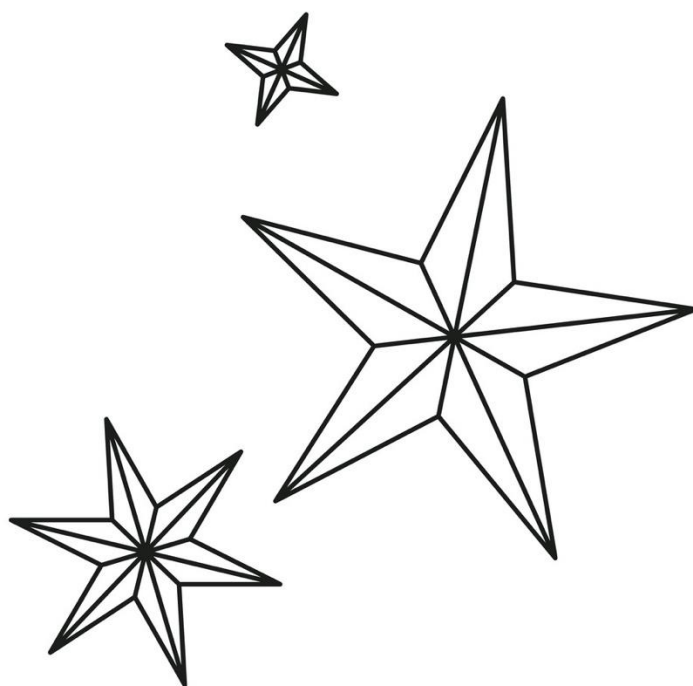


THE SEASON OF ADVENT

Advent 1, Year A

Sunday, November 30, 2025



St. Alban's Episcopal Church

Simsbury, CT

Celebrate. Inspire. Serve.



Welcome to St. Alban's!

We're glad that you've chosen to be with us this morning! Your prayers and presence for today's worship are a gift to this community; and we invite you to journey with us at whatever point you find yourself on the path. We pray that you sense the love of Christ, the holy stirring of the Spirit, and God's presence here this morning.

Worshipping with children

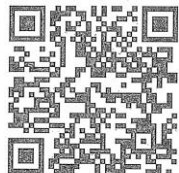
We invite you to visit our Playground in the rear balcony. Please feel free to bring books or an activity bag to your seats; or, sit in the balcony and allow your children to explore the space during worship. And please don't worry about wiggles, conversation, crying, laughing – all of it is welcome in this space and to the glory of God! If you need help finding the bathrooms, a changing table, or the water fountain, please ask an Usher.

Learning more about St. Alban's

We invite you to fill out one of the "Welcome" cards you can find on the table in the rear of the Sanctuary. This allows you to receive mailed materials from St. Alban's and our weekly e-news. You can also visit our website (stalbanssimsbury.org) or find us on Facebook.

Donating to St. Alban's

During our service today, Ushers will pass Offering plates. You are welcome to place cash or check donations directly into the plate. We also invite your donations through our website (stalbanssimsbury.org, click "Donate").



stalbanssimsbury.org/donate

You can find your way to that link with the QR code here and on the donation card in the Narthex.

If you need a gluten-free wafer at communion please let the priest know when you approach the altar for communion. You can also receive a blessing instead of bread by crossing your arms over your chest.

As you settle in to worship today, take the time and the moments of quiet you need to make the transition from getting here, to being here.

Our service comes from Enriching Our Worship and The Book of Common Prayer (BCP) and we make use of all hymnal resources approved by The Episcopal Church. Everything you need to worship fully today can be found in the bulletin.

***A note about standing, kneeling, sitting rubrics**

One of the spaces that has received more attention during the pandemic is around ableism. Our society, in large part, functions as though everyone has nearly full use of their bodies. Where a "standing" rubric might have been added alone, we're adding "seated", as well, as an invitation for you to listen and respond to the needs of your own body. You are invited to remember that our bodies are created by God and intended for worship, just like our voices. However you feel comfortable doing that, God sees that it is good!

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Prepare the way for the Christ child. God is about to be born among us.

We humbly wait for the light of the world to descend into our midst.

Our swords shall be beaten into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks.

We shall not learn war or hatred or division or cruelty any more.

Instead we light this candle of hope – hope for the joyous love of the Divine descending.

Into this time of darkness, we call upon the Lord to bring us out of the night.

We must keep awake and be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

With quiet expectation, we come to worship the God who is, was, and is soon to come again.

HYMN *standing or seated.*

Once he came in blessing

H82 53



1 Once he came in bless - ing, all our ills re - dress - ing;
 2 Still he comes with - in us, still his voice would win us
 3 Thus, if thou canst name him, not a - shamed to claim him,
 4 One who thus en - dur - eth bright re - ward se - cur - eth.



came in like-ness low - ly, Son of God most ho - ly;
 from the sins that hurt us, would to Truth con - vert us:
 but wilt trust him bold - ly nor dost love him cold - ly,
 Come, then, O Lord Je - sus, from our sins re - lease us;



bore the cross to save us, hope and free - dom gave us.
 not in tor - ment hold us, but in love en - fold us.
 he will then re - ceive thee, heal thee, and for - give thee.
 let us here con - fess thee till in heaven we bless thee.

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

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.**

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy
on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -
ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,
you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most
High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the
glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

The musical score is written on ten staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It includes various musical notations such as treble clefs, notes, rests, and bar lines. There are three triplet markings (indicated by a '3' and a bracket) over the notes for 'Lamb of God' (measures 35-37), 'Most High' (measure 68), and 'Amen' (measure 85). The lyrics are printed below the staves, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

READING: *Isaiah 2:1-5*

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come
the mountain of the LORD's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.

Many peoples shall come and say,
'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.'

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,
and their spears into pruning-hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.

O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the LORD!

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 122

Laetatus sum

1 I was glad when they said to me, *
"Let us go to the house of the LORD."

- 2 Now our feet are standing *
within your gates, O Jerusalem.
- 3 Jerusalem is built as a city *
that is at unity with itself;
- 4 To which the tribes go up,
the tribes of the LORD, *
the assembly of Israel,
to praise the Name of the LORD.
- 5 For there are the thrones of judgment, *
the thrones of the house of David.
- 6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: *
"May they prosper who love you.
- 7 Peace be within your walls *
and quietness within your towers.
- 8 For my brethren and companions' sake, *
I pray for your prosperity.
- 9 Because of the house of the LORD our God, *
I will seek to do you good."



READING: *Romans 13:11-14*

You know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

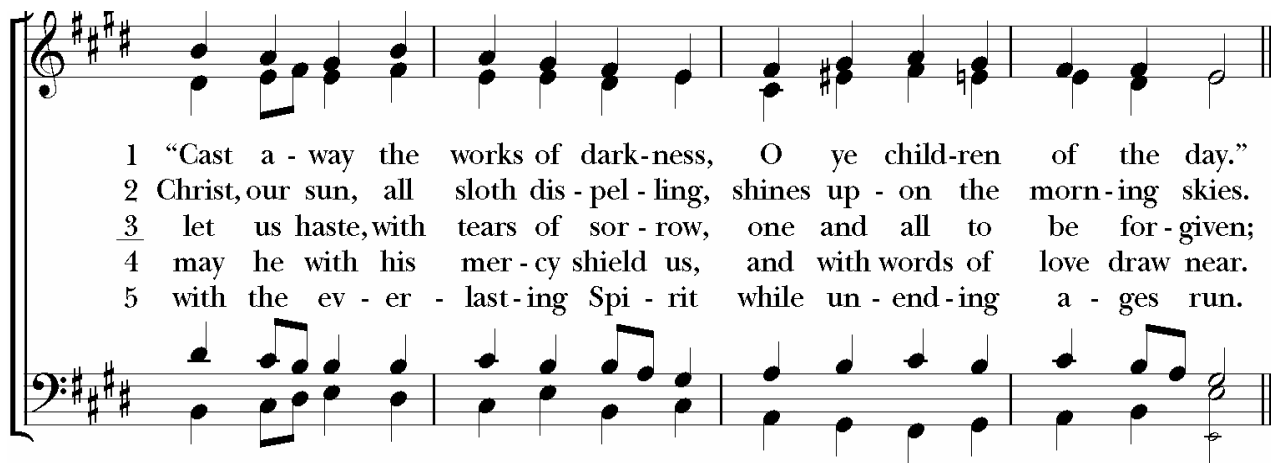
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

HYMN *standing or seated.*

Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding

H82 59

1 Hark! a thrill-ing voice is sound-ing: "Christ is nigh," it seems to say;
 2 Wak-ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth's bond-age let us rise;
 3 Lo! the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, comes with par-don down from heaven;
 4 so when next he comes with glo - ry, and the world is wrapped in fear,
 5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther and the Son,



THE GOSPEL: *Matthew 24:36-44*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said to the disciples, “But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Nancy Wright

THE NICENE CREED

Standing or seated

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit**

**he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;**

he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Intercessor

As the church worldwide celebrates the beginning of its New Year, let us turn our minds and hearts to the larger community of which we are a part, saying: Hear our prayer, O Lord, and grant us mercy.

For all peoples of every race, nation and disposition: May your love so embrace us all, that its power overcomes our conflicts, our defenses, and our fears. Quicken us to our true nature as your children that we may love one another. Hear our prayer, O Lord, **and grant us mercy.**

For all the churches of the world, Orthodox, Catholic, Protestant, and Pentecostal: May we grow together in our understanding of mission, that we may be strengthened in unity and united in acts of service. Call us to the one discipleship with its many gifts. Hear our prayer, O Lord, **and grant us mercy.**

For all Christian communities, young and growing, aging and changing: Renew our vision and experience of Christian community as ever birthing, ever transforming, ever young and open to risk, ever old and full of wisdom. Hear our prayer, O Lord, **and grant us mercy.**

For those who live in fear and confusion: Whether they be stateless people in refugee camps, or settled people hidden behind high fences, give to the vulnerable strength, and to the secure vulnerability, that our human compassion for one another may end injustice and give our societies a human face. Hear our prayer, O Lord, **and grant us mercy.**

For this community, especially for those who suffer most, for the emotionally and physically ill, for the dying, for those who grieve: especially for Tim, Kathy, Amanda, Margi, Monica, Jeff, Jason, Julie, Kassandra, Maryann, Peg, and anyone we name now silently or aloud. *(At this time, we invite your intercessions and thanksgivings silently or out loud.)* May we all, out of our own suffering, give comfort and support. Hear our prayer, O Lord, **and grant us mercy.**

For the larger community around us, especially for the newborn children, the homeless, and the imprisoned: May we create a world where shelter, food and medical care are available for

all and where the law protects people for a better chance and better choices. Hear our prayer, O Lord, **and grant us mercy.**

Celebrant continues

On this first day of the year, we gather up our prayers and offer them to you, O Lord, knowing full well that there are signs in the sun and moon and stars and in the common events of ordinary life that call us to attend to your coming. Prepare us for the time of trial and for your dominion, coming now and at the close of this age. **Amen.**

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

Standing, seated or kneeling

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name.
Amen.**

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.
Amen.

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The mission and ministry of St. Alban's depends on the financial and prayerful generosity and gifts of members of our congregation and community. We welcome your one-time or ongoing donation today. Please place cash or checks in the Offering Plate; or use the QR code on the inside cover of this bulletin, on the cards found in the rear of the Sanctuary, and in the Narthex to make an online donation. We are grateful that you've chosen to share your gifts with us today.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *instrumental*

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. For you are the source of light and life; you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Celebrant and People

SANCTUS

S129

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._____

The Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you

and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy Name,

thy kingdom come,

thy will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

and the power,

and the glory,

for ever and ever. Amen.

FRACTION ANTHEM

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

THE INVITATION

THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

Anyone of any age and tradition is invited to receive Holy Communion, and no one who comes to the altar with outstretched hands will be turned away. To receive a blessing instead of the sacrament, approach the altar and cross your arms over your chest.

To receive Holy Communion, you may stand or kneel at the altar rail; or stand in the space between the altar rails, in front of the altar. If you need the sacrament brought to you, please let someone know and we will be honored to bring it to you. If you need a gluten-free wafer, please let the priest know at the altar.

Remember, that communion "in one kind" (bread only) is a sufficient manifestation of the sacrament. If you'd like, you can simply hold the cup while the chalice bearer offers the words of reception, without drinking from the chalice.

COMMUNION HYMN

Let us break bread together on our knees

H82 325



1 Let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees; _____
2 Let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees; _____



let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees; _____
let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees; _____

Refrain



when I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing sun,



O Lord, have mer-cy on me. _____



3 Let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees; _____



let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees; _____

Refrain



when I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing sun,



O Lord, have mer-cy on me. _____

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

Celebrant and people

**Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE BLESSING

Celebrant

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. **Amen.**

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. **Amen.**

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

HYMN *standing or seated*

Rejoice, rejoice, believers

H82 68

1 Re - joice! re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear!
2 See that your lamps are burn - ing, re - ple-nish them with oil;
3 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;

The eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
look now for your sal - va - tion, the end of sin and toil.
a - rise, thou Sun so longed for, a - bove this dark-ened sphere!

The Bride-groom is a - ris - ing, and soon he will draw nigh;
 The mar - riage - feast is wait - ing, the gates wide o - pen stand;
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see
 up, watch in ex - pec - ta - tion! at mid - night comes the cry.
 rise up, ye heirs of glo - ry, the Bride-groom is at hand!
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion, and ev - er be with thee!

THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Peg Hunt, Pianist

+++++

POST ON THE REFRIGERATOR

Announcements for November 30, 2025

Welcome to St. Alban's! – We're so glad you joined us for worship! Join us in the Parish Hall after worship for coffee hour where we'll enjoy fellowship and refreshments!

Today:

- † Is the 1st Sunday of Advent and the start of a new Church year!
- † We are thankful to have The Rev. Dr. Nancy Wright as our Guest Celebrant for today's service!

Stewardship campaign – You should have received a stewardship letter and a pledge card recently in the mail. If you didn't receive one, please contact Tammie in the office at office@stalbanssimsbury.org. Pledge cards need to be returned by Sunday, December 21st so that we can gather them on the Altar and bless them for God's work here at St. Alban's!

Advent Diaper Drive – The Deacons of ECCT invite us to participate in a diocesan-wide Advent diaper drive in cooperation with The Diaper Bank of Connecticut. **The Diaper Bank distributes 75,000 diapers each week**, year-round, to individuals and families who are struggling to make ends meet. According to The Diaper Bank's website, **1 in 2 Connecticut families struggle to afford**

diapers. All sizes and brands of diapers are needed, so please join others in the diocese and bring diapers to church on the Sundays in Advent. Let's fill the designated box in the Narthex to overflowing! **Thank you!**

St. Alban's Book Group – **won't meet on Tuesday, December 2nd and Tuesday, December 9th** the Book Group schedule through December is on the table in the Narthex. **Looking ahead: On Tuesday, December 16th**, we'll have lunch at 1 pm at The Maple Tree Cafe in Simsbury. If you'd like to join us for lunch (an excellent way to find out more about the Book Group!), please contact Diane Mather (dmather13@me.com), 860-874-6107 or find her at coffee hour; she's there most Sundays.

Feed A Friend (People & Pets) – Simsbury's Dept. of Social Services **has changed the list of needed food and other items.** **Most needed:** Canned vegetables (corn, peas, mixed, beets...), stuffing, rice, toilet paper (wrapped singles or 4 packs), gluten free items, hygiene products (body soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, lotion, shaving cream) and feminine hygiene products. **Canned cat food and canned or dry dog food are always needed.** The church is always open; drop off donations at your convenience! **Donations will be blessed Sunday, December 14th. Thank you for donating!**

As We Pray Together Today and as you offer your personal prayers throughout the week, please include the following people who we have been asked to pray for: Kathy M., Charlotte, Tom, Chris, Tim, Kathy, Amanda, Margi, Monica, Jeff, Jason, Julie, Cassandra, Maryann, and Peg. If you would like prayers for yourself or for someone else, please add their name to the "Intercessory Prayer" sheet located at the front of the Sanctuary; or, email the Parish Office (office@stalbanssimsbury.org).

Save the Date...

VOCE Concert! Friday, December 13, 7:30pm – Tickets are selling fast for this year's VOCE Concert. This Hartford area choral group is not to be missed! See Bryan Adams for tickets after the service today.

Presented by Music at the Red Door

CANDLELIGHT FESTIVAL OF



Nine Lessons and Carols

- In-person and livestreamed
- Donations welcome (suggested donation: \$20)
- Free admission

Sunday, December 14, 2025
3:00pm

The Richard P. Garmany Fund

MUSIC AT THE RED DOOR
St. John's Episcopal Church
679 Farmington Ave., West Hartford, CT 06119
RedDoorMusic.org

Week of December 1 – December 7

Tuesday, December 2

Church office open, 11am – 1pm
NO Book Group

Thursday, December 4

Church office open, 11am – 1pm

Sunday, December 7 – Advent II

Morning Prayer, 10am

