

EPIPHANY 2, YEAR A

MORNING PRAYER

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18, 2026



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

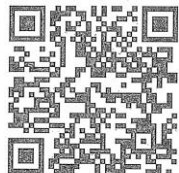
We invite you to visit our Playground in the rear balcony. Please feel free to bring books or an activity bag to your seats; or, sit in the balcony and allow your children to explore the space during worship. And please don't worry about wiggles, conversation, crying, laughing – all of it is welcome 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!

WELCOME

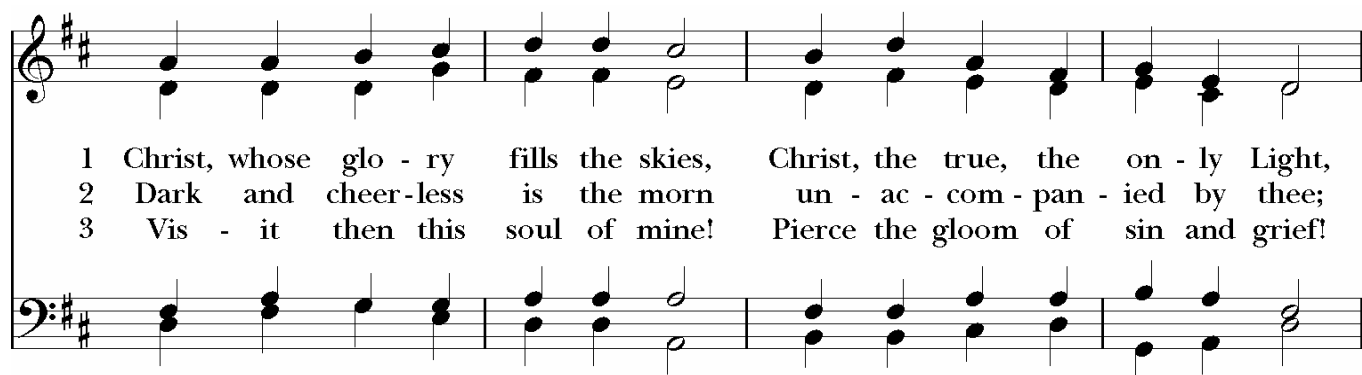
PRELUDE

Andrew King, Pianist

HYMN *Standing or seated**

Christ, whose glory fills the skies

H82 6



1 Christ, whose glo - ry fills the skies, Christ, the true, the on - ly Light,
2 Dark and cheer-less is the morn un - ac - com - pan - ied by thee;
3 Vis - it then this soul of mine! Pierce the gloom of sin and grief!



Sun of Right-eous - ness, a - rise! Tri-umph o'er the shades of night:
joy-less is the day's re - turn, till thy mer - cy's beams I see,
Fill me, ra - dian - cy di - vine; scat - ter all my un - be - lief;



Day-spring from on high, be near; Day-star, in my heart ap - pear.
till they in - ward light im - part, glad my eyes, and warm my heart.
more and more thy - self dis - play, shin - ing to the per - fect day.

I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth. *Isaiah 49:6b*

THE CONFESSION OF SIN *Standing, seated or kneeling**

The Officiant says

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 us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ,
strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.
Amen.

Officiant Lord, open our lips.
And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Officiant and People
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the
beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia!

The Lord has shown forth his glory: **Come, let us adore him.**

VENITE

S35

1. Come, let us sing to the
Lord; let us shout for joy to the Rock of our sal -
va - tion. 2. Let us come be-fore his pres-ence with thanks - giv - ing
and raise a loud shout to him with psalms. 3. For the

Lord is a great God, — and a great King a - bove all
 gods. — 4. In his hand are the cav-erns of the earth, —
 — and the heights of the hills are his al - so. — 5. The
 sea is his, for he made it, — and his hands have
 mold - ed the dry land. — 6. Come, let us bow down, and bend the
 knee, — and kneel be-fore the Lord our Ma - ker. — 7. For
 he is our God, — and we are the peo - ple of his
 pas - ture — and the sheep of his hand. —
 — Oh, that to - day you would heark-en to his voice! —

PSALM 40:1-12

Expectans, expectavi

- 1 I waited patiently upon the LORD; *
 he stooped to me and heard my cry.
- 2 He lifted me out of the desolate pit, out of the mire and clay; *
 he set my feet upon a high cliff and made my footing sure.
- 3 He put a new song in my mouth,
 a song of praise to our God; *
 many shall see, and stand in awe,
 and put their trust in the LORD.

- 4 Happy are they who trust in the LORD! *
they do not resort to evil spirits or turn to false gods.
- 5 Great things are they that you have done, O LORD my God!
how great your wonders and your plans for us! *
there is none who can be compared with you.
- 6 Oh, that I could make them known and tell them! *
but they are more than I can count.
- 7 In sacrifice and offering you take no pleasure *
(you have given me ears to hear you);
- 8 Burnt-offering and sin-offering you have not required, *
and so I said, "Behold, I come.
- 9 In the roll of the book it is written concerning me: *
'I love to do your will, O my God;
your law is deep in my heart.'
- 10 I proclaimed righteousness in the great congregation; *
behold, I did not restrain my lips;
and that, O LORD, you know.
- 11 Your righteousness have I not hidden in my heart;
I have spoken of your faithfulness and your deliverance; *
I have not concealed your love and faithfulness from the great congregation.
- 12 You are the LORD;
do not withhold your compassion from me; *
let your love and your faithfulness keep me safe for ever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

READING: *Isaiah 49:1-7*

Listen to me, O coastlands,
pay attention, you peoples from far away!
The LORD called me before I was born,
while I was in my mother's womb he named me.
He made my mouth like a sharp sword,
in the shadow of his hand he hid me;
he made me a polished arrow,
in his quiver he hid me away.
And he said to me, "You are my servant,
Israel, in whom I will be glorified."
But I said, "I have labored in vain,
I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;
yet surely my cause is with the LORD,
and my reward with my God."

And now the LORD says,
 who formed me in the womb to be his servant,
to bring Jacob back to him,
 and that Israel might be gathered to him,
for I am honored in the sight of the LORD,
 and my God has become my strength--
he says,
“It is too light a thing that you should be my servant
 to raise up the tribes of Jacob
 and to restore the survivors of Israel;
I will give you as a light to the nations,
 that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”

Thus says the LORD,
 the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,
to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations,
 the slave of rulers,
“Kings shall see and stand up,
 princes, and they shall prostrate themselves,
because of the LORD, who is faithful,
 the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.”

Here ends the Lesson.

CANTICLE 11: *The Third Song of Isaiah* *Surge, illuminare*
Isaiah 60:1-3, 11a, 14c, 18-19

Arise, shine, for your light has come, *
 and the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you.
For behold, darkness covers the land; *
 deep gloom enshrouds the peoples.
But over you the Lord will rise, *
 and his glory will appear upon you.
Nations will stream to your light, *
 and kings to the brightness of your dawning.
Your gates will always be open; *
 by day or night they will never be shut.
They will call you, The City of the Lord, *
 The Zion of the Holy One of Israel.
Violence will no more be heard in your land, *
 ruin or destruction within your borders.
You will call your walls, Salvation, *

and all your portals, Praise.
The sun will no more be your light by day; *
by night you will not need the brightness of the moon.
The Lord will be your everlasting light, *
and your God will be your glory.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

READING: *1 Corinthians 1:1-9*

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother
Sosthenes (*Soh sthen ees*),

To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus,
called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our
Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been
given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech
and knowledge of every kind-- just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened
among you-- so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the
revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you
may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you
were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Here ends the Lesson.

CANTICLE 9: *The First Song of Isaiah Ecce Deus*

Isaiah 12:2-6

Surely, it is God who saves me; *
I will trust in him and not be afraid.
For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, *
and he will be my Savior.
Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing *
from the springs of salvation.
And on that day you shall say, *
Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;
Make his deeds known among the peoples; *
see that they remember that his Name is exalted.
Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, *
and this is known in all the world.

Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, *
for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

READING: *John 1:29-42*

John saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’ I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.” And John testified, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.”

The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!” The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?” He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter).

Here ends the Lesson.

REFLECTION

Meredith Jacob

THE APOSTLES’ CREED *standing or seated.*

Officiant and People

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth;**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE PRAYERS

Officiant The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us pray.

Officiant and People

**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.**

SUFFRAGES A *V* = *versicle* (*Officiant*); *R* = *response* (*People*)

V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;
R. **And grant us your salvation.**
V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;
R. **Let your people sing with joy.**
V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;
R. **For only in you can we live in safety.**
V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;
R. **And guide us in the way of justice and truth.**
V. Let your way be known upon earth;

R. Your saving health among all nations.
V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;
R. Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.
V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;
R. And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ is the light of the world: Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and Sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A COLLECT FOR SUNDAYS

O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A COLLECT FOR PEACE

Almighty God, kindle, we pray, in every heart the true love of peace, and guide with your wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth, that in tranquility your dominion may increase until the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

A COLLECT FOR THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this day, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; especially for Tim, Kathy, Amanda, Margi, Monica, Jeff, Jason, Julie, Kassandra, Maryann, Mary Lou, Mike, Val, Jack, Julie, Meredith and her family, and anyone we name now silently or aloud. *(At this time, we invite your intercessions and thanksgivings silently or out loud.)* All for your love's sake. **Amen.**

Officiant

O God, you have made of one blood all peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. I have de - cid - ed to fol - low Je - sus,
 2. Though no one join me, still I will fol - low,
 3. The world be - hind me, the cross be - fore me,

1. I have de - cid - ed to fol - low Je - sus,
 2. Though no one join me, still I will fol - low,
 3. The world be - hind me, the cross be - fore me,

1. I have de - cid - ed to fol - low Je - sus,
 2. Though no one join me, still I will fol - low,
 3. The world be - hind me, the cross be - fore me,

— No turn - ing back, (no turn - ing back,) no turn - ing back!

THE GENERAL THANKSGIVING

Officiant and People

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
 we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
 for all your goodness and loving-kindness
 to us and to all whom you have made.
 We bless you for our creation, preservation,

and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to your service,
and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

A PRAYER OF ST. CHRYSOSTOM

Officiant and People

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.

HYMN *Standing or seated.*

Ye servants of God, your Master proclaim

H82 535



1 Ye ser - vants of God, your Mas - ter pro - claim,
2 God rul - eth on high, al - might - y to save;
3 Sal - va - tion to God who sits on the throne!
4 Then let us a - dore, and give him his right:

and pub - lish a - broad his won - der - ful Name;
and still he is nigh: his pres - ence we have.
Let all cry a - loud, and hon - or the Son.
All glo - ry and power, all wis - dom and might,



the Name all - vic - to - rious of Je - sus ex - tol:
The great con - gre - ga - tion his tri - umph shall sing,
The prais - es of Je - sus the an - gels pro - claim,
and hon - or and bless - ing, with an - gels a - bove,

his king - dom is glo - rious; he rules o - ver all.
as - crib - ing sal - va - tion to Je - sus our King.
fall down on their fa - ces, and wor - ship the Lamb.
and thanks nev - er - ceas - ing and in - fi - nite love.

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Officiant

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. **Amen.** (2 Corinthians 13:14)



POST ON THE REFRIGERATOR

Announcements for January 13, 2026

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:

- † We are thankful to have Meredith Jacob as our officiant for today's Morning Prayer service!
- † The altar flowers today are given in loving memory of John B. Sanborn, Jr. by Doris Sanborn.

St. Alban's Book Group – **will meet this Tuesday, January 20th**, when we'll watch an interview with Kristin Hannah, author of *The Women*, an extraordinary novel about a woman's experience working as a nurse during the Vietnam War. **On Tuesday, January 25th**, we'll discuss *The Women*. Discussion questions for *The Women* as well as the schedule through March are on the table in the Narthex. Please join us! We meet in the Library most Tuesdays from 1:30 to 2:45. For more information, contact Diane Mather (dmather13@me.com, 860-874-6107) or find her at Fellowship Hour in the Parish Hall after the service. She's there most Sundays.

Feed A Friend (People & Pets) – Thank you to those who donated items; **9 bags of food and other items as well as 32 cans of cat food and 12 cans of dog food** were dropped off at First Church of Christ Simsbury. Those registered with Simsbury Social Services will choose the items they want on Tuesday, January 20th. **Here is the current list of most needed items:** Canned meats and tuna, pasta sauce, canned tomato products, peanut butter and jelly, canned fruit (regular and low sugar), hearty soups and canned meals like ravioli and stews (regular and low salt), coffee (regular and decaf), crackers, maple and other pancake syrup, pancake mix, cereal, healthy snacks for children, toilet paper (wrapped singles or 4 packs), household cleaning products (trash bags, all-purpose cleaner, bathroom cleaner, etc.), personal hygiene products for men and women (body soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, lotion, shaving cream). **Canned cat food and canned or dry dog food are always needed.** The church is always open; drop off donations at your convenience! **Thank you for donating!**

Week of January 19 – January 25
<u>Tuesday, January 20</u> Church office open, 11am – 1pm Book Group – 1:30pm
<u>Thursday, January 22</u> Church office open, 11am – 1pm
<u>Sunday, January 25</u> Holy Eucharist, 10am

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, Kassandra, Maryann, Mary Lou, Val, Jace, Meredith and her family. 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).