

# EPIPHANY 3, Year A

Sunday, January 25, 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 Prayground 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 our 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](http://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](http://stalbanssimsbury.org/donate), click "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. How ever you feel comfortable doing that, God sees that it is good!*

## WELCOME

## PRELUDE

Peg Hunt, Pianist

HYMN standing or seated.

*Singing songs of expectation*

H82 527

1 Sing - ing songs of ex - pec - ta - tion, on - ward  
 2 One the light of God's own pres - ence, o'er his  
 3 One the strain the lips of thou - sands lift as

goes the pil - grim band, through the night of  
 ran - somed peo - ple shed, chas - ing far the  
 from the heart of one; one the con - flict,

doubt and sor - row, march - ing to the prom - ised land.  
 gloom and ter - ror, bright - ening all the path we tread:  
 one the per - il, one the march in God be - gun:

Clear be - fore us through the dark - ness gleams and  
 one the ob - ject of our jour - ney, one the  
 one the glad - ness of re - joic - ing on the

burns the guid - ing light: trust - ing God we  
 faith which nev - er tires, one the ear - nest  
 far e - ter - nal shore, where the one al -

march to - geth - er step-ping fear - less through the night.  
 look-ing for - ward, one the hope our God in - spires.  
 might-y Fa - ther reigns in love for ev - er - more.

## 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.**

## THE GLORIA

S280

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



## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Give us grace, O Lord, to answer readily the call of our Savior Jesus Christ and proclaim to all people the Good News of his salvation, that we and the whole world may perceive the glory of his marvelous works; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## READING: *Isaiah 9:1-4*

There will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness--  
on them light has shined.

You have multiplied the nation,  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.

For the yoke of their burden,  
and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 27:1, 5-13

*Dominus illuminatio*

1 The LORD is my light and my salvation;  
whom then shall I fear? \*  
the LORD is the strength of my life;  
of whom then shall I be afraid?

5 One thing have I asked of the LORD;

    one thing I seek; \*

    that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life;

6 To behold the fair beauty of the LORD \*

    and to seek him in his temple.

7 For in the day of trouble he shall keep me safe in his shelter; \*

    he shall hide me in the secrecy of his dwelling

    and set me high upon a rock.

8 Even now he lifts up my head \*

    above my enemies round about me.

9 Therefore I will offer in his dwelling an oblation

    with sounds of great gladness; \*

    I will sing and make music to the LORD.

10 Hearken to my voice, O LORD, when I call; \*

    have mercy on me and answer me.

11 You speak in my heart and say, "Seek my face." \*

    Your face, LORD, will I seek.

12 Hide not your face from me, \*

    nor turn away your servant in displeasure.

13 You have been my helper;

    cast me not away; \*

#### READING: *1 Corinthians 1:10-18*

Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

1 They cast their nets in Gal - i - lee just  
 2 Con - tent - ed, peace ful fish - er - men, be -  
 3 Young John who trimmed the flap - ping sail, home -  
 4 The peace of God, it is no peace, but

off the hills of brown; such hap - py,  
 fore they ev - er knew the peace of  
 less, in Pat - mos died. Pe - ter, who  
 strife closed in the sod. Yet let us

sim - ple fish - er - folk, be - fore the Lord came down.  
 God that filled their hearts brim - ful, and broke them too.  
 hauled the teen - ing net, head - down was cru - ci - fied.  
 pray for but one thing— the mar - velous peace of God.

THE GOSPEL: *Matthew 4:12-23*

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

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

“Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,  
 on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—  
 the people who sat in darkness  
 have seen a great light,  
 and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death  
 light has dawned.”

From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.” Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

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*

*Rejoicing in the mercy of God, manifested for our salvation in the birth of Jesus Christ our Savior, let us pray for all the needs of the world, saying: Lord, have mercy.*

That the churches may know God and God's wisdom, that they may be assemblies of God's grace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

That the leaders of the church, along with all preachers and ministers, bishops, and teachers, may be formed by that wisdom of God manifest in Israel and born among us in Jesus Christ, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

That the leaders of nations may be brought to your wisdom, may honor peace, and may protect the earth's resources, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

That the Jewish people may know the continual comfort in God' mercy and great joy in the wisdom of their heritage, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

That those who suffer the ravages of winter, the hungry, the elderly, the unemployed, and the sick among us, especially for Tim, Kathy, Amanda, Margi, Monica, Jeff, Jason, Kassandra, Maryann, Mary Lou, Mike, Val, Meredith H., and anyone we name now silently or aloud. (*we invite you now to remember them either silently or aloud*), may be clothed with healing and comfort, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

That this assembly may be refreshed in its mission to bear witness to the word and wisdom of God, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the world, that a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow among nations and peoples. Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Celebrant continues*

*Into your hands, merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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 GREAT THANKSGIVING: EUCHARISTIC PRAYER A

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

### *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

*How wondrous and great thy works, God of praise*

H82 533

1 How won - drous and great thy works, God of praise!  
2 To na - tions of earth thy light shall be shown;  
  
How their just, King of saints, and true are to thy ways!  
wor - ship and vows shall come to thy throne:  
  
O thy who shall not fear thee, and hon - or thy Name?  
truth and thy judg - ments shall spread all a - broad,  
  
Thou till on - ly art ho - ly, thou on - ly su - preme.  
earth's ev - ery peo - ple con - fess thee their God.

## 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 the Lord Jesus Christ who walks on wounded feet walk with you to the end of the road. May the Lord Jesus Christ who loves with a wounded heart help you to love your neighbor and one another. May the Lord Jesus Christ who serves with wounded hands help you to serve each other and your neighbors. May you see the face of God on everyone you meet, and may the blessing of God Almighty, The Creator, The Redeemer and the Sustainer be with you this day and remain with you always. Amen.*

HYMN standing or seated

*I come with joy to meet my Lord*

H82 304

*Unison or harmony*

1 I come with joy to meet my Lord, for -  
 2 I come with Chris tians far and near to -  
 3 As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each  
 4 And thus with joy we meet our Lord. His  
 5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound, we'll

1 giv - en, loved, and free, in awe and won - der  
 2 find, as all are fed, the new com - mu - ni -  
 3 proud di - vi - sion ends. That love that made us  
 4 pres - ence, al - ways near, is in such friend - ship  
 5 go our dif - ferent ways, and as his peo - ple

1 to re - call his life laid down for me.  
2 ty of love in Christ's com - mun - ion bread.  
3 makes us one, and stran - gers now are friends.  
4 bet - ter known: we see, and praise him here.  
5 in the world, we'll live and speak his praise.

### THE DISMISSAL

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

*Peg Hunt, Pianist*