

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SECOND SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2026



St. Alban's Episcopal Church
Simsbury, CT
Celebrate. Inspire. Serve.



Welcome to St. Alban's!

Your prayers and presence today are a gift to this community. We are grateful that you are here. We pray that you feel the love of Christ, the holy stirring of the Spirit, and God's presence here this morning.

Worship

Everything you need to worship can be found in this bulletin and in your own heart. We may follow traditional times when we sit or stand or kneel, and it's all optional. Please feel free to speak, sing and move in ways that draw you into joyful life with each other and God. If you need help finding the bathrooms, a changing table, or the water fountain, please ask an Usher.

On Second Sundays (that's today!), we take an even less formal approach, with a special eye toward welcoming all who may be exploring what God is up to here. Enjoy!

Children

Children of all ages are welcome. Wiggles, noises, wandering, cries and conversation are the stuff of the Holy Spirit and enhance the joy of our time together. We also have special space where our children like to hang out. We call it the Playground and it's in the rear balcony. Please feel free to hang out there, or bring stuff to your seats.

Communion

Sharing in the bread and wine is the heart of our Sunday service. Please join in the feast (or just come forward for a blessing)! Ask if you would like gluten-free bread. If you want healing prayer, please see Pastor Stephen after the service.

Learning More

Ask one of us! And fill out a "Welcome" card, so we can stay in touch. They're on the table in the rear of the Sanctuary, or ask an usher. You can also visit our website or find us on Facebook. Please always feel free to contact Pastor Stephen if you have any questions or needs. See back page for all our contact info.

Donating

During our service today, Ushers will pass offering plates for your monetary gifts. On this 2nd Sunday, the cash donations will go to the rector's discretionary fund, which is used to support urgent needs of parishioners and the wider community. We also invite your donations through our website (stalbanssimsbury.org, click "Donate").

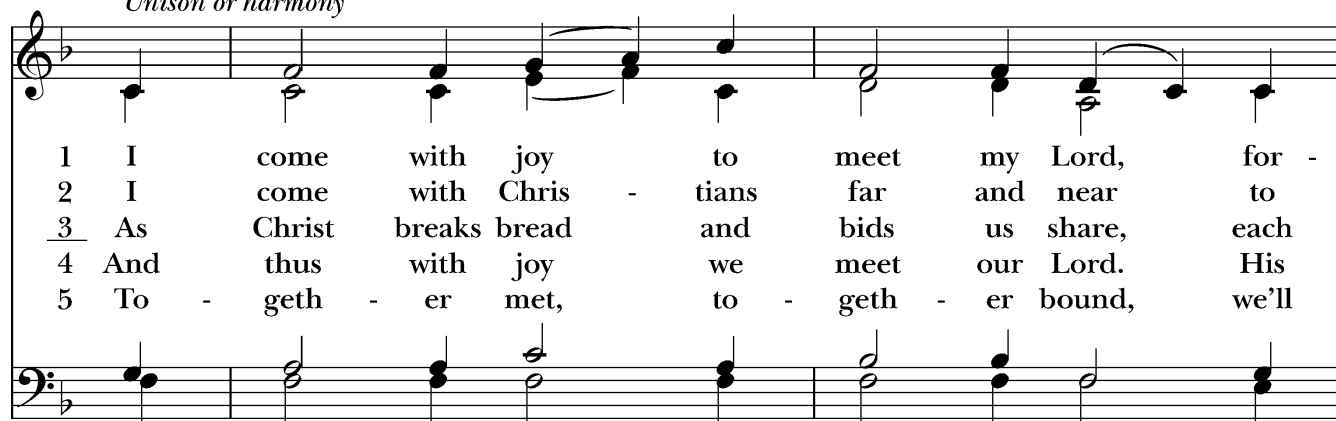
Cover art: "Reconciliation," by Josefina de Vasconcellos. Situated in the remains of old Coventry Cathedral, England, which was bombed in 1940. An identical sculpture is in the Peace Garden in Hiroshima. The inscription says "These sculptures remind us that in the face of destructive forces, human dignity and love will triumph over disaster and bring nations together in respect and peace." Photo ©2018 by Stephen Nagy

THE WORD OF GOD

Hymn

I come with joy to meet my Lord, (vv 1-4 only)

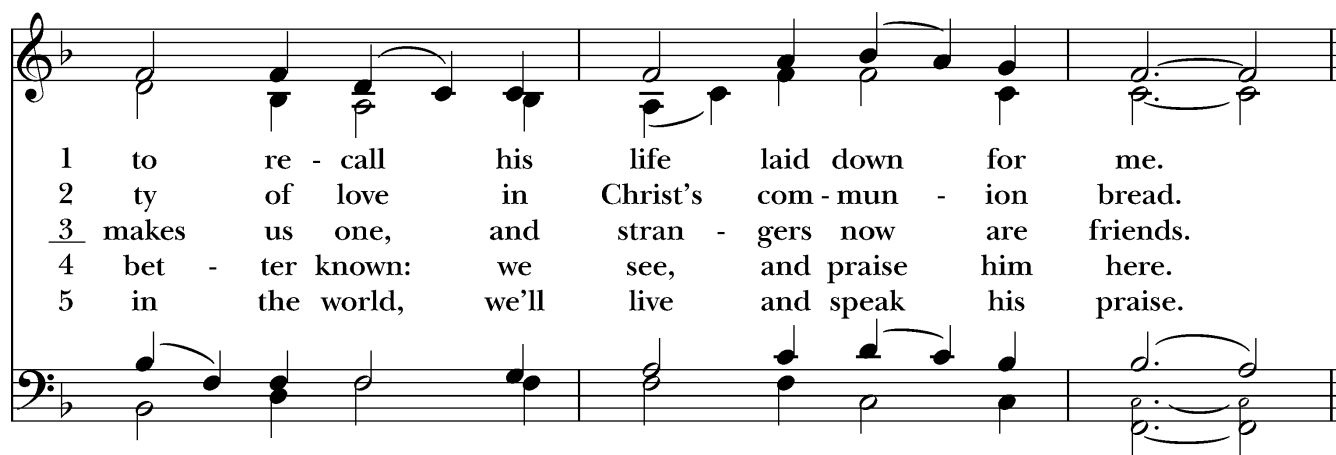
H82 304

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.

Opening Prayer



Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.
 Glory to God for ever and ever.

Do you see people making cross signs on their chests?
 You can too ---- Check out this dude!
 Look for the + symbol as we follow along in the
 bulletin for other places you might cross yourself!

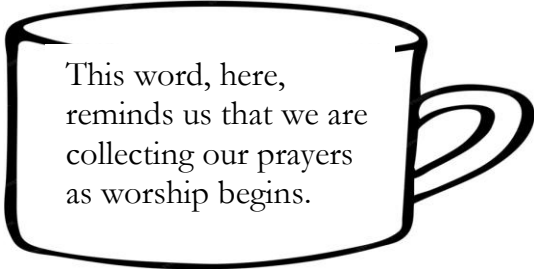


This is the day, this is the day
 That the Lord hath made, that the Lord hath made,
 We will rejoice, we will rejoice
 and be glad in it, and be glad in it;

This is the day that the Lord hath made,
 we will rejoice and be glad in it;
 This is the day, this is the day
 that the Lord hath made.

The **Collect** of the Day

God be with you.
And also with you.
 Let us pray.



This word, here,
 reminds us that we are
 collecting our prayers
 as worship begins.

O God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons

A Reading from the book of Genesis (50:15-21)

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Hymn - Psalm 103

Bless the Lord oh my soul (10000 reasons)

Matt Redman

Bless the Lord O my soul
 O my soul
 Worship his holy name
 Sing like never before
 O my soul
 I'll worship your holy name

The sun comes up
It's a new day dawning
It's time to sing your song again
Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me
Let me be singing when the evening comes

Bless the Lord O my soul
O my soul
Worship his holy name
Sing like never before
O my soul
I'll worship your holy name

You're rich in love and you're slow to anger
Your name is great and your heart is kind
For all your goodness I will keep on singing
10,000 reasons for my heart to find

Bless the Lord O my soul
O my soul
Worship his holy name
Sing like never before
O my soul
I'll worship your holy name
O I'll worship your holy name
I will worship your holy name
Holy name

The Good News of Jesus Christ according to Matthew (18:21-35)

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, if my brother keeps on sinning against me, how many times do I have to forgive him? Seven times?"

"No, not seven times," answered Jesus, "but seventy times seven, because the Kingdom of heaven is like this. Once there was a king who decided to check on his servants' accounts. He had just begun to do so when one of them was brought in who owed him millions of dollars. The servant did not have enough to pay his debt, so the king ordered him to be sold as a slave, with his wife and his children and all that he had, in order to pay the debt. The servant fell on his knees before the king. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay you everything!' The king felt sorry for him, so he forgave him the debt and let him go.

"Then the man went out and met one of his fellow servants who owed him a few dollars. He grabbed him and started choking him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he said. His fellow servant fell down and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back!' But he refused; instead, he had him thrown into jail until he should pay the debt. When the other servants saw what had happened, they were very upset and went to the king and told him everything. So he called the servant in. 'You worthless slave!' he said. 'I forgave you the whole

amount you owed me, just because you asked me to. You should have had mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you.’ The king was very angry, and he sent the servant to jail to be punished until he should pay back the whole amount.”

And Jesus concluded, “That is how my Father in heaven will treat every one of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

The Rev. Stephen Nagy, Rector

The Children’s Creed

We believe in God above.

We believe in Jesus’ love.

**We believe God’s Spirit, too,
comes to teach us what to do.**

The Prayers of the People

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

For all people in their daily life and work;

For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Sean Rowe, our Presiding Bishop; and Jeff and Laura our Bishops; and for all bishops and other ministers;

For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation. We pray especially for Chris, Kathy, Margi, Mary Lou, Meredith H., Miriam, Tom M., T.J., Gilbert III, Christina, Amanda, Christena and family, Mary, Mary Ann A., Robert, Ronnie, Brad, and all those we name silently or aloud; for the dying victims of incurable disease, for those changed by depressions, fear, and addiction, and for those who minister to them. *(Please add your own petitions).*

Silence

Hear us, Lord;

For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

(Please add your own thanksgivings)

Silence

We will exalt you, O God our King;

And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

(Please add your own petitions)

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

Who put their trust in you.

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

Silence

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;

in your compassion forgive us our sins,

known and unknown,

things done and left undone;

and so uphold us by your Spirit

that we may live and serve you in newness of life,

to the honor and glory of your Name;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Announcements

The mission and ministry of St. Alban's depends on the generosity of our congregation and community. We welcome your donation of cash or checks in the offering plate;

or use the QR code on the cards available from an usher.

We are grateful that you've chosen to share your gifts with us today.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Hymn

Simple gifts

H82 554



'Tis the gift to be sim - ple, 'tis the gift to be free,
'tis the gift to come down where we ought to be,
and when we find our - selves in the place just right,
'twill be in the val - ley of love and de - light.
When true sim - pli - ci - ty is gained to
bow and to bend we shan't be a-shamed, to turn, turn, will
be our de-light till by turn - ing, turn - ing we come round right.

The Great Thanksgiving

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.

If you're having any trouble
hearing  or seeing  or
you just want to get closer,
come right up to the altar!

And, if you want, 
you can copy the
priest's movements as
he prays the Eucharistic Prayer!

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant.
From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep
and brought all things into being: sun, moons, and stars; earth, winds, and waters;
and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways.
But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a parent cares for

children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love. And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we say:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of Power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. 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 for the remembrance of me." As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with Alban and all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and 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.**

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

A period of silence is kept.

Then may be said:

God of promise, you have prepared a banquet for us.

Happy are those who are called to the Supper of the Lamb.

The Communion of the People

You are invited to come forward to receive Holy Communion.

No one who comes to the altar with outstretched hands will be turned away.

Stand or kneel in a semi-circle around the holy table in whatever way is comfortable for you. The sacrament is offered as bread (ask for gluten free) and/or wine. If you need the sacrament brought to you, please let us know and we will be honored to do so.

To receive a blessing instead, let us know by crossing your arms over your chest.

Communion

Day by Day

Stephen Schwartz

Day by day,

Day by day,

Oh, dear Lord, three things I pray

To see Thee more clearly

Love Thee more dearly

Follow Thee more nearly

Day by day, day by day.

Day by day, by day by day by day.

Postcommunion Prayer

Let us pray.

Loving God,

We give you thanks

for restoring us in your image

and nourishing us with spiritual food

in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.

Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed;

that we may proclaim your love to the world

and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior.

Amen.

The Blessing

God's Blessing be with you,
Christ's peace be with you,
the Spirit's outpouring be with you,
now and always. **Amen.**



Hymn

This Little Light of Mine

LEVAS 221

This little light of mine
I'm going to let it shine
Oh, this little light of mine
I'm going to let it shine
This little light of mine
I'm going to let it shine
Let it shine, all the time, let it shine

Jesus gave that light to me
I'm going to let it shine
Jesus gave that light to me
I'm going to let it shine
Jesus gave that light to me
I'm going to let it shine
Let it shine, all the time, let it shine

Hide it under a bushel? No!
I'm going to let it shine
Hide it under a bushel? No!
I'm going to let it shine
Hide it under a bushel? No!
I'm going to let it shine
Let it shine, all the time, let it shine.

All around the neighborhood
I'm going to let it shine
All around the neighborhood
I'm going to let it shine
All around the neighborhood
I'm going to let it shine
Let it shine, all the time, let it shine.

This little light of mine
I'm going to let it shine
Oh, this little light of mine
I'm going to let it shine

This little light of mine
I'm going to let it shine
Let it shine, all the time, let it shine

The Dismissal

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

Postlude

Andrew King, Pianist

Thank you to our Ministers today:

Musician - Andrew King
Acolytes - Jon Lynch, Wesley Riedel
Reader - Ann Hall
Intercessor - Judy Duncan
Ushers - Adam & Hollyn Riedel
Tech - Mikaila Riedel



ST. ALBAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Rev. Stephen Nagy, Rector
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Tammie Levy, Parish Administrator
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Brian Spooner, Bookkeeper
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VESTRY

Judy Duncan, Senior Warden
Bryan Adams, Junior Warden
Meredith Jacob, Treasurer
Mikaila Riedel, Clerk

Vestry Members:
Ann Hall, Jim Lewis,
Eleanor Terrell, Kathleen Canzano

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