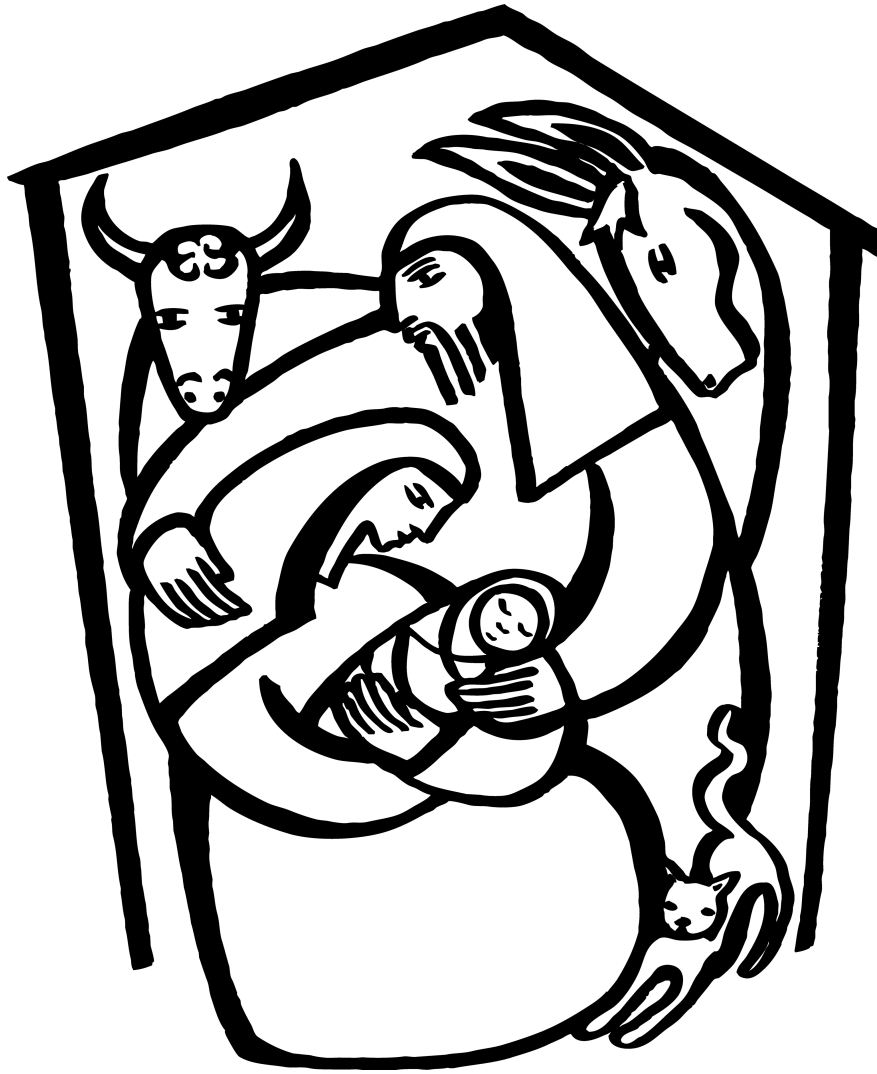


*The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ:
Christmas Eve*



Holy Eucharist

December 24, 2024
5:00 p.m.

Saint Alban's Episcopal Church Welcomes You
*130 39th Ave. Pl. NW, Hickory, NC 28601 (828)
324-1351*

Welcome to St. Alban's.



Love Came Down at Christmas

*Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, love divine;
Love was born at Christmas,
Star and angels gave the sign.*

*Worship we the Godhead,
Love incarnate, love divine;
Worship we our Jesus:
But wherewith for sacred sign?*

*Love shall be our token,
Love shall be yours and love be mine.
Love to God and to all me.
Love for plea and gift and sign.*

Christina Georgina Rossetti

Prelude	<i>Shepherds Pipe Carol</i> Genesis Bells	arr. Thompson
	<i>Hark! The Herald Angels Sing</i>	Benjamin Culli
	<i>Go Tell it on the Mountain</i> Adult Choir Women	arr. Kimmell
	<i>The One Who the Shepherds Praised</i>	Paul Fey
	<i>Joy to the World</i>	Paul Fey

The Liturgy of the Word

Processional Hymn	<i>O Come All Ye Faithful</i>	Hymnal 83
Opening Acclamation		BCP p. 355

The people standing, the Celebrant says

Celebrant Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

People Glory to God for ever and ever.

The Collect of the Day		BCP p. 378
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Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have know the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

Hymn	<i>Angels we have heard on high</i>	Hymnal 96
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The Lesson: Isaiah 9:2-7 *(The people sit.)*

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah.

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.

For all the boots of the tramping
warriors and all the garments rolled in
blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

For a child has been born for us, a
son given to us; authority rests
upon his shoulders; and he is
named Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God,

Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
His authority shall grow continually, and
there shall be endless peace for the
throne of David and his kingdom. He
will establish and uphold it with justice
and with righteousness from this time
onward and forevermore. The zeal of the
Lord of hosts will do this.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

Anthem

See Amid the Winter's Snow

arr. Forrest

The Epistle: Titus 2:11-14

A Reading from the Book of Titus.

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn

Hark! the herald angels sing

Hymnal 87

The Holy Gospel: Luke 2:1-14

People The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
 Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to

you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

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

The Sermon

The Rev. Anne Bridgers

The Prayers of the People *(Stand or kneel)*

The Celebrant and People pray responsively.

Come let us adore Christ our Savior, praying, "God of glory, grant us your peace."

Christ our Savior, we humbly adore you: make joyful our hearts. Strengthen your Church with humility and faith that we might triumph over the power of evil.

God of glory,

People ***Grant us your peace.***

Christ our Savior we humbly adore you. Shine your light on all the world that the nations may look upon your truth and find their salvation.

God of glory,

People ***Grant us your peace.***

Christ our Savior, we humbly adore you: may all of creation burst forth in songs of praise. May all the works of your hand glorify you.

God of glory,

People ***Grant us your peace.***

Christ our Savior, we humbly adore you: summon the people of our city to yourself. May all of the distractions and heartache of our lives fade away in the joy of your presence.

God of glory,

People ***Grant us your peace.***

Christ our Savior, we humbly adore you: you love us so dearly. Grant your healing grace to sinners, to the poor, to those in need of love. Open your arms to the sick and the lonely.

God of glory,

People ***Grant us your peace.***

Christ our Savior, we humbly adore you: all glory be given to you. You blessed this earthly body with your birth; and you promise to raise us to new life by your death and resurrection.

God of glory,

People ***Grant us your peace.***

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

Almighty God and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Peace *(All stand.)*

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

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Announcements

The Holy Communion

Anthem

Love's Pure Light

Hagenberg

Doxology

(People stand and sing as offering is presented)

Hymn 380, verse 3

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him all the creatures here below; praise him above the heavenly host; praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer B

BCP p. 367

The people remain standing.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because you gave you Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

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:

Sanctus *(People sing)*

S125

Celebrant and People

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.

The people stand or kneel. Then the Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it or lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with Alban and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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,

People and Celebrant

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, and 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.

Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

The ministers receive the Sacrament in both kinds, and then immediately deliver it to the people.

Gluten free waters are available upon request at the altar rail.

Two chalices are offered at the altar rail. The first one is offered to those who prefer to drink from the cup. The second chalice follow for those who prefer to intinct (dip) the wafer in the wine before consuming. Please hold the wafer in your open palm to indicate your preference to the server.

The Communion of the People

The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven.

The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation.

Communion Anthem

*Gift of the Manger
Oxford Bells*

Buckwalter

Communion Hymn

O little town of Bethlehem

Hymnal 79

Post-Communion Prayer

BCP p. 365

Let us pray.

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 Candle Lighting

*A flame from the altar will be passed to the people sitting at the end of the pews. Once your candle is lighted, pass the flame by holding the candle upright. When all the candles are lighted, the lights are dimmed as we sing
Silent Night, Holy Night*

Silent Night, Holy Night

***Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright, round yon virgin mother, and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace. Sleep in heavenly peace.***

***Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight, glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing alleluia; Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!***

***Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light, radiant beams from thy holy face, With
the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, lord at thy birth. Jesus, Lord at thy birth.***

Candles are extinguished

The Blessing

May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*

Recessional Hymn

Joy to the World

Hymnal 100

Dismissal

BCP p. 366

Alleluia, Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People

Thanks be to God, Alleluia.

Postlude

God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

Benjamin Culli

Merry Christmas!
Join us for Punch and Cookies in the Commons Room
immediately following the service.

Flower Dedications

Given in memory of Lauren Nixon from Russell, Toby, Shenandoah, and Clara.

Given in thanksgiving for Doug, Lauren, and all our choirs for their music ministry from Tammy Shook.

Given in memory of Allan and Virginia Webb from Gina Claypoole.

Given in memory of Lydia Mary Claypoole from William Claypoole.

Given in thanksgiving for the People and Ministry of St. Alban's from The Bridgers.

Given in thanksgiving for wonderful parents and grandparents, John and Eileen Leach, from Jacqui, Hugh, Ian, Katie, and Keely Cox.

Given in memory of Lyle and Agnes Brands and Jake and Lorene Tanner from Dick and Pett Brands.

Given in memory of Mack D. Huffman from Sarah Huffman.

Given in thanksgiving for Hugh, Jacqui, Ian, Katie, and Keely Cox from John and Eileen Leach.

Given in thanksgiving for Terry Jennings and Judy Caywood, our Senior and Junior Wardens from Jane Earl.

Given in memory of my daughter Elissa Earl Harrell from Jane Earl.

Given in memory of Tom Neely and John Milholland from Meghan Neely and Eddie Alala.

Given in thanksgiving for Mackenzie, Chase, Olivia Alala from Meghan Neely and Eddie Alala.

Given in memory of Ed Alala, Sr. from Meghan Neely and Eddie Alala.

Given in thanksgiving for my children and grandchildren from Chris Oram.

Given in thanksgiving for Valerie Zentner, Charles Hager's daughter, from Jean Forbes.

Given in thanksgiving for Jan Houck from Jay Tate.

Given in memory of my parents, Helen and Jim Tate, from Jay Tate.

Given in memory of Reginald Moore and Carolyn Piland from Reg and Claudia Moore.

Given in memory of Elisabeth and Jack Spottswood from Reg and Claudia Moore.

Given in thanksgiving for our children and grandchildren from Reg and Claudia Moore.

Given in thanksgiving for Jack Hastings from John and Ashton Hastings.

Given in thanksgiving for Isla Hastings from John and Ashton Hastings.

Given in thanksgiving for St. Alban's Vestry from Becky Ferrell.

Given in thanksgiving for Graham, Jack, Ferrell, and Sierra from Becky Ferrell.

Given in memory of Mike and Joyce McCall from Rachel Lucas.

Given in thanksgiving for our children and grandchildren from Florence and Jeff Mackie.

Given in thanksgiving for Caroline, Olivia, Anna, and P.J. from Bob and Mary Klinger.

Given in memory of John K. Earl from Bob and Mary Klinger.

Given in memory of our parents and other family members who are missed so dearly from Richard and Morri Brantley.

Given in memory of Richard Wright from Nancy Wright.

Given in thanksgiving for Rev. Anne from Marshall and Rosemary Fisher.

Given in thanksgiving for Rev. Anne and Staff from Ingrid Peake.

Given in memory of Jim Rice and Mike Smallridge from Pat Rice.

Music Dedications

Given in thanksgiving for Doug, Lauren, and all our choirs for their music ministry from Tammy Shook.

Given in memory of Riley Hoke from Carol LeGrand.

Given in thanksgiving for my wife, Melissa, from Charles Bolick.

Given in memory of Zachary Marzbanian from Gina Claypoole.

Given in thanksgiving for The People and Ministry of St. Alban's from The Bridgers.

Given in thanksgiving for Tammy Shook and the Choir from Amy Campbell.

Given in memory of Norma Brands from Dick and Pett Brands.

Given in thanksgiving for Rev. Anne, Dixon, and St. Alban's from Jane Earl.

Given in memory of my husband, John Earl, from Jane Earl.

Given in thanksgiving for Janie Neely from Meghan Neely and Eddie Alala.

Given in memory of Shannon Neely and Janie Milholland from Meghan Neely and Eddie Alala.

Given in thanksgiving for St. Alban's from Chris Oram.

Given in memory of Wayne Oram from Chris Oram.

Given in memory of Charles Hager and daughters Laurie and Brenda from Jean Forbes.

Given in thanksgiving for my sister and brother-in-law, Emily and Tom Soapes, from Anne Williams.

Given in memory of Kay Hahn from Jan Houck.

Given in thanksgiving for Doug and Nancy Brady from Jay Tate.

Given in memory of Nathan Hefner from Jay Tate.

Given in thanksgiving for Doug Brady, Tammy Shook, Lauren Timmons, and Becky Ferrell from Reg and Claudia Moore.

Given in thanksgiving for Mary Michele Millholen from Mark and Tina Morgan.

Given in thanksgiving of Eddie Alala and Meghan Neely from Janie Neely.

Given in memory of Abel Hastings from John and Ashton Hastings.

Given in memory of Eloise Hastings from John and Ashton Hastings.

Given in thanksgiving for Tammy, Lauren, and Doug from Becky Ferrell.

Given in memory of Forrest Ferrell from Becky Ferrell.

Given in thanksgiving for Rev. Anne from Becky Ferrell.

Given in thanksgiving for Charlie, Kelly, and Oliver from Richard and Morri Brantley.

Given in thanksgiving for all the beauty of the Choir and Organist from Ingrid Peake.

Given in memory of Mary Jean, Gale, Gerald, and Bill Millholen from Mary Michele Millholen.

Given in memory of my parents, Dwight and Margaret Lowther from Pat Rice.

Announcements

Today we welcome our string quartet of Will Freeman, Nan Freeman, Andrea Jove, and Lincoln Gaskins, as well as our trumpeter Garrett Chitwood.

Parish Offices will be closed December 23 – January 1 in observance of Christmastide.

Bringing Gifts to the Manger on January 5! The Feast of the Epiphany is January 6, so we will transfer and celebrate the Feast day on January 5. On this day we remember the Magi who traveled from the East to bring gifts to Jesus. Instead of gold, frankincense, and myrrh we will bring gifts requested by the Council on Adolescents of Catawba County. New mothers and their infants need diapers of varying sizes, baby wipes, baby clothes, sippy cups, socks, and underwear for 3-5 year olds. Gifts may be brought forward at communion and placed in the manger to be distributed after the service.

Say “Yes”, to volunteering! We are in need of parishioners to serve as Ushers! Bruce Smith coordinates our Usher Ministry and would love to hear from you! Reach out to Bruce at 828.234.9197 or smithbruce56@gmail.com. Training for this valuable ministry is included, as well as thankfulness for your service!

Hospitality happens whenever we intentionally seek to welcome the other. Today our hospitality includes a time of refreshment around a table of cookies and lemonade while the coffee is brewing. Our time of refreshment NEEDS YOU! Please sign up to serve as a Hospitality Host in the Commons Room. We might think we’re only dishing out brownies, but the Holy Spirit has other plans – inviting us to offer refreshment in all its forms to those who gather there. Thank you!!

Hurricane Helene Outreach Opportunity – We have a wonderful local opportunity to help those in need of long-term assistance following the devastation of Hurricane Helene. United Carolinas Calvary is a nonprofit organization collecting for and distributing in some of the hardest hit areas: Yancy, Ashe, Mitchell, and Madison counties. So many areas are still in great need of assistance and will face additional needs as the weather turns colder. UCC is committed to delivering key items to these areas for the upcoming months as recovery continues. They need help organizing and palletizing donations as truckloads come in so they are ready to distribute as communities send specific requests. If you’d like to volunteer, they are open weekdays 9am-5pm at 1155 Hwy SW (next to Roses); just show up, and check in to the left! They’ll appreciate any amount of time you can spare!

Prayer Corner... The St Alban’s Chapter of the Daughters of the King remove and pray weekly for the prayer requests added to the Prayer Box. It is located on the shelf at the Wall of Crosses which were hand wrought using wood from the St. Alban’s original altar rail. Prayers of thanksgiving and intercession continue with the addition of the Prayer Box and the faithful ongoing ministry of the Daughters of the King. All prayer requests are held in confidence and available for all to use.

Contact Rev. Anne - If you’d like to reach out to Rev. Anne, please feel free to call her at the church office at 828 3241351 ext. 304 or revanne.stalbans@gmail.com.

Our Walk in Love Stewardship Update brings much good news!

As of December 15, a total of 90 pledging units for the 2025 mission and ministry of St. Alban’s have been received. The total amount pledged is \$426,624, which reflects a 21% increase from the previous year. This total includes fourteen new pledges and increased pledges from fifteen parishioners, which allows the vestry to develop a healthy budget for 2025. Thank you!

If you have not pledged-more good news-it’s not too late. Pledge cards are always available in the Commons Room or arrangements may be made by phoning Janet, the Financial Administrator, in the Parish Office.