

June 22, 2022

Christ Episcopal Church of Guilford
An Order of Worship for the Evening
St. Alban, Martyr

7:00pm

The church is dark, or partially so, when the service is to begin.

Prelude: Now we pray to the Holy Spirit Bux WV 209

D. Buxtehude

The Officiant greets the people with these words

Stay with us, O Christ, for it is evening.

People: Make your Church bright with your radiance.

Let us pray:

‘Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple — truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.’

Matthew 10: 40-42

Opening Hymn #636 How firm a foundation

Foundation

**How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in his excellent word!
What more can he say than to you he hath said,
to you that for refuge to Jesus have fled?**

**“Fear not, I am with thee; O be not dismayed!
For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
I’ll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.**

**“When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
The rivers of woe shall not thee overflow;
For I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless,
And sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.**

A Reading from the First Letter of John:

3:13-18

Do not be astonished, brothers and sisters, that the world hates you. We know that we have passed from death to life because we love one another. Whoever does not love abides in death. All who hate a brother or sister are murderers, and you know that murderers do not have eternal life abiding in them. We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.

Officiant: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

- 1 I will bless the LORD at all times; *
his praise shall ever be in my mouth.
- 2 I will glory in the LORD; *
let the humble hear and rejoice.
- 3 Proclaim with me the greatness of the LORD; *
let us exalt his Name together.
- 4 I sought the LORD, and he
answered me *
and delivered me out of all my
terror.
- 5 Look upon him and be radiant, *
and let not your faces be
ashamed.
- 6 I called in my affliction and the
LORD heard me *
and saved me from all my
troubles.
- 7 The angel of the
LORD encompasses those who fear
him, *
and he will deliver them.
- 8 Taste and see that the LORD is
good; *
happy are they who trust in
him!

V. Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, One God;

R. **As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

Litany – Your Will Be Done *

Let us pray to the Father, asking for grace to drink the cup which God offers us.

Silence

With Christ our Brother we hear the call. With him we answer:

Father, your will be done.

You have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and have appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain.

Father, your will be done in us!

Father; your will be done in us! Make us strong with the faith of Abraham and Sarah.

Father, your will be done in us!

Make us bold with the courage of Moses, the leader of your people.

Father, your will be done in us!

Enlighten us with the wisdom of Samuel, ruler and judge over Israel.

Father, your will be done in us!

Give us the spirit of discernment and decision that we may work in your service with the authority of the great king David.

Father, your will be done in us!

Make us alive, as you did Isaiah the prophet, with a sense of your holy presence.

Father, your will be done in us!

Shape us, even as you made the Virgin Mary a perfect instrument in your hands.

Father, your will be done in us!

Give us, as you gave to John the Baptist, a passion for preparing your Way through our present wilderness.

Father, your will be done in us!

Make us great-hearted, that like Paul we may embrace all whom you make one body in Christ Jesus.

Father, your will be done in us!

Call us, even as you called Alban, to faithfully witness to your sacrificial life and resurrection.

Father, your will be done in us!

Let us pray, giving thanks to the Lord for having chosen us for our own individual roles and vocations: May we respond fully to the great gift of your call to us, and by your grace restore all people, all things, and ourselves to you; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Collect for St. Alban

Almighty God, by whose grace and power your holy martyr Alban triumphed over suffering and was faithful even unto death:

**Grant us, who now remember him in thanksgiving,
to be so faithful in our witness to you in this world
that we may receive with him the crown of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.***

Intercessions, petitions and thanksgivings may be offered at this time

The Officiant and People say together

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us in the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. *Amen.***

Almighty God, who hast given us this good land for our heritage: We humbly beseech thee that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of thy favor and glad to do thy will. Bless our land with honorable industry, sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people the multitudes brought hither out of many kindreds and tongues. Endue with the spirit of wisdom those to whom in thy Name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that, through obedience to thy law, we may show forth thy praise among the nations of the earth. In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in thee to fail; all which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Officiant concludes with the following

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our fathers, creator of the changes of day and night, giving rest to the weary, renewing the strength of those who are spent, bestowing upon us occasions of song in the evening. As you have protected us in the day that is past, so be with us in the coming night; keep us from every sin, every evil, and every fear; for you are our light and salvation, and the strength of our life. To you be glory for endless ages. *Amen.*

Closing Hymn #382 King of glory, King of peace

General Seminary

**King of glory, King of peace, I will love thee;
and that love may never cease, I will move thee.
Thou hast granted my request, thou hast heard me;
thou didst note my working breast, thou hast spared me.**

**Where-fore with my utmost art, I will sing thee;
and the cream of all my heart, I will bring thee.
Though my sins against me cried, thou didst clear me;
and alone, when they replied, thou didst hear me.**

**Seven whole days, not one in seven, I will praise thee;
in my heart, though not in heaven, I can raise thee.
Small it is in this poor sort to enroll thee;
e'en eternity's too short to extol thee.**

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

Romans 15:13

Officiant: Let us bless the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude: Voluntary X

W. Boyce

* * from Book Of Common Worship (1993), as quoted in *The Wideness of God's Mercy*, Revised and Updated Edition. Collected and edited by Jeffrey Rowthorn and Alfred Tisdale, Church Publishing Inc.. Kindle Edition. 2007.

St. Alban – First Christian Martyr in Britain, c304

Alban is the earliest Christian in Britain who is known by name and, according to tradition, the first British martyr. He was a soldier in the Roman army, stationed at Verulamium, a city about twenty miles northeast of London, which is now called St. Alban's.

Alban gave shelter to a Christian priest who was fleeing from persecution and was converted by him. When officers came to Alban's house, he dressed himself in the garments of the priest and gave himself up. Alban was tortured and martyred in place of the priest, on the hilltop where the Cathedral of St. Alban's now stands. The traditional date of his martyrdom is 303 or 304, although the dates 209 and 251 have also been suggested by some scholars.

The site of Alban's martyrdom soon became a shrine. King Offa of Mercia established a monastery there about the year 793, and, in the high Middle Ages, St. Alban's ranked as the premier abbey in England.

Bede gives this account of Alban's trial: "When Alban was brought in, the judge happened to be standing before an altar, offering sacrifice to demons ... 'What is your family and race?' demanded the judge. 'How does my family concern you?' replied Alban; 'If you wish to know the truth about my religion, know that I am a Christian and am ready to do a Christian's duty.' 'I demand to know your name,' insisted the judge. 'Tell me at once.' 'My parents named me Alban,' he answered, 'and I worship and adore the living and true God, who created all things.'"

Lesser Feasts and Fasts 2018: New York: Church Publishing, 2018, p. 94

Upcoming Calendar Events

Sunday, June 26 – 3rd Sunday after Pentecost

Morning Prayer – 9:00AM in the Garden weather Permitting

Holy Eucharist – 10AM (streamed and in-person) with organ and hymns. Bishop Jim Curry, Celebrant and Preacher followed by demonstration and hands-on participation at forge and anvil. This will take place in the Parish House driveway courtesy of Swords-2-Plowshares Ministry Network.

Sunday, July 3, 2022 – 4th Sunday after Pentecost

Morning Prayer – 9:00AM in the Garden weather permitting

Holy Eucharist – 10AM (streamed and in-person) with organ and hymns. The Rev. Mary Anne Osborn officiating.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rector on Sabbatical Leave July 1 – 27

Parish Office Closed the week of July 4th. Administrator returns on Tuesday, July 12. Phones and emails will be monitored.

ECW's ongoing and much needed "New Sox and Underwear" project and Food Bank memorial projects continue. Your participation is greatly appreciated.

The Guilford Food Bank requests help with the following items:

Baked beans, canned tomatoes, Pasta Sauce, Cooking oil, Household cleaner, Laundry detergent, Paper towels, Ketchup, Mayonnaise, Muffin mix, White rice. Please leave your donations in the bin by the north (Town Hall-side) door to the Narthex.

COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Tests are available on a first-come, first-served basis on the Ushers' Table and in the rectory entry hall.

Looking Ahead

Vacation Bible School – August 22-26