



St. Alban's Episcopal Church

Dear People of St. Alban's,

In my sermon on Trinity Sunday (which was really a Pentecost and Christmas sermon rolled into one!) I reminded us that bodies matter to God (that, in part, is what we learn from Christmas and the Incarnation) and that now God's spirit takes up residence in our bodies—that is the church (that is what we learn at Pentecost!). And we are in a profound moment of crisis about bodies—the bodies of the elderly and those with compromised health and the bodies of brown and black members of our communities. The following week I noted that the apostle Paul argues that in Christ God has worked out reconciliation between God and humanity and between groups of human beings. And now we live into that reconciliation, just as the disciples were invited by Jesus to live into the pattern of life that he set for them. On both Sundays we noted what is possible when we give sustained attention to a particular challenge—especially challenges we would like to avoid, or wish would just go away. We know now that the pandemic

and its far reaching impacts will be with us for a long time. We are seeing more clearly the cost to black lives from systemic racism long denied. Both of these crises are demanding that we affirm that bodies matter to us and to God and that we give them the sustained attention they deserve.

From that reference point I want to provide an update regarding the plans for reopening for worship & racial reconciliation. Thank you to everyone who completed the survey. This information is helping the team determine when to reopen for in-person worship. At a cursory glance, the responses indicate that there are those who are ready to return now and a larger number who want to wait until a vaccine is widely available or the virus has been more significantly contained. Other needs like 12 step groups meeting in person, keeping the sanctuary open for personal prayer, walks/hikes and outdoor worship are surfacing as possibilities for how we stay connected and nourish our spirits in this time. One change that has been discussed by the



planning team are the new responsibilities for ushers. They will have an expanded role that will include two people outside to welcome worshippers, ask the health screening questions, offer hand sanitizer and a mask to anyone who does not have one and redirect people who come after we have reached capacity. A third person in the narthex (entry way) will take down prayer requests and record the names of those present and contact info. for visitors. We will need this information in the event that someone in worship tests positive for the virus. We will need a fourth person to monitor the flow in and out of the bathrooms. **The timing of the reopening will depend on identifying and training ushers**

see RECTOR, page 3

Saint Alban's is a community of disciples growing into the full maturity of Christ. Our mission as a community worshipping in the Episcopal tradition is to be devoted to God through prayer, study and action; faithful in welcoming the stranger and serving the needs of our parish and beyond.

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June Vestry Highlights

The Vestry met on June 21st. The process of counting the weekly offering was discussed looking to the future when two counters would be the norm and adding more counters to the single counter process as it is now.

Daniel Moyer review the activities of the Creation Care Ministry including updates to church appliances, lighting and heating. Future projects were also discussed. Daniel will discuss the Creation Care Ministry in the Adult Forum and it will be recorded and posted to the Church's YouTube site.

Possible rescheduling of the Fun Day to work on several projects that need attention. Some outside projects have been completed but others remain. It is likely that the Fun Day will be scheduled to coincide with the reopening.

The Reopening Team provided a report on the elements that need to be in place before onsite worship can take place. Major elements include quieter music that is appropriate to limit the spread of COVID, limitations on seating to comply with social distancing, the use of masks, continuing online services for those that aren't comfortable attending onsite services and changing the duties of the ushers. The Team continues to meet weekly.

The next Vestry meeting is scheduled for July 19th.

Health Ministry at St Alban's

As we continue through these pandemic times, I just want to encourage each of us to pay attention to the most important actions we can take to care for one another and ourselves. This is particularly important as the county opens up more and more and – most importantly – as we approach re-gathering as church. We are working steadily towards that great day, hoping to welcome all those comfortable returning on one of the Sundays soon:

- 1 - Wear a mask. This is to protect mostly others but also you.
- 2 - Hand washing. Hand sanitizers should go with you and be used with the same motions you go through with soap and water.
- 3 - Cough into your bent elbow, not your hand.
- 4 - Keep your hands off your face.
- 5 - Observe social distancing – Maintain 6 feet between you and others.
- 6 - First thing when arriving home, wash your hands!

Emily Arents, RN, Parish Nurse

RECTOR: continued from page 1

for these new roles. I ask you to please give prayerful consideration as to whether this is a ministry you feel called to fulfill, especially those involved in other ministries that are currently on hiatus (choir, coffee hour and eucharistic visitors).

At the same time, we are reviewing and exploring resources which can help us in the deep work of racial reconciliation. I welcome your recommendations and suggestions in this area. To begin this work, I commend to you the study of the classic *Jesus and the Disinherited* by Howard Thurman that Mtr. Nancy is facilitating in July. See page 4 for more details.

Blessings,
Sara+

The Zoom Adventure Continues In The Holiday Spirit

This upcoming Sunday, July 5th, people are invited to share their dessert decorating creativity during our Noon Zoom Coffee Hour gathering.

Folks will be able to show off their decorating talent or even good attempts at decorating any kind of dessert, cookies, cupcakes, cakes, pies, brownies, vegan desserts, sugarless treats, baked goods, microwave delights, and stovetop creations. Chocolate ganache, flaky pie crust, bake, or no-bake. I could go on, but you get my drift.

Share your favorite recipe during this show and tell, and we will trust that it tastes absolutely delicious. Bring your finished dessert product to the screen and share your on-camera display. Rumor has it that there may even be a decorating demonstration.

A big thank you goes out to Jonah H. for suggesting this online coffee hour dessert decorating adventure

Contact Deacon Cindy at her new email address, cmwoods1730@gmail.com (or use the old one if need be - minitrees55@yahoo.com) and join in on the Zoom Coffee Hour Holiday Treat

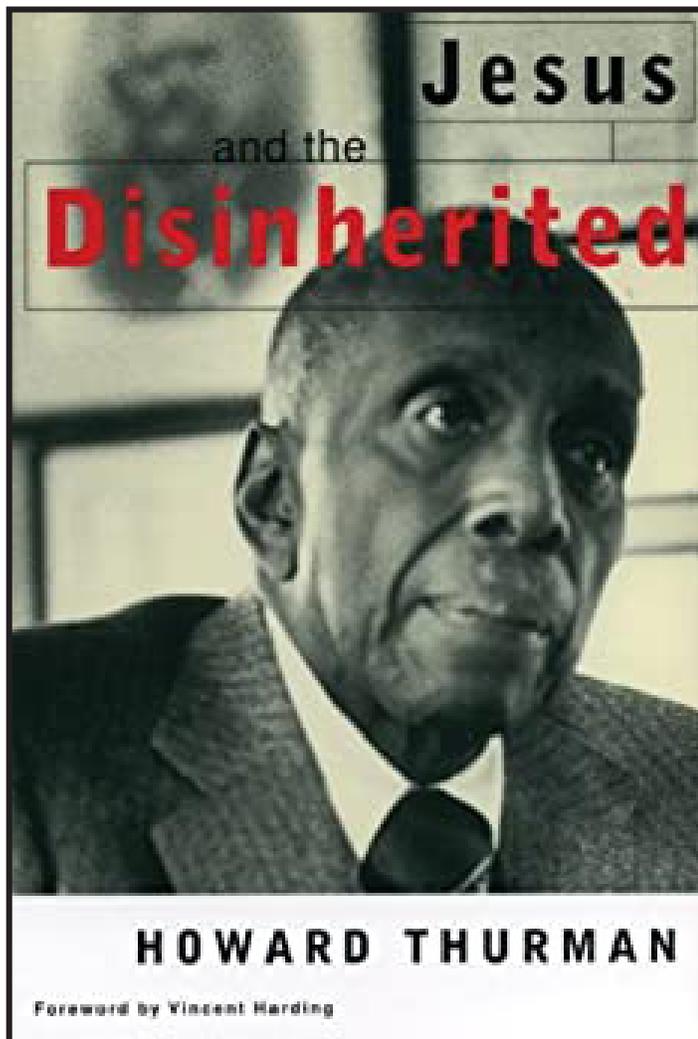


Summer Book Study: Jesus and the Disinherited

Please join the Rev. Nancy Streufert for a study and facilitated discussion of *Jesus and the Disinherited*, the classic book by Howard Thurman that influenced Martin Luther King, Jr. and that helped shape the civil rights movement.

Two sessions by Zoom covering the same material will be offered (please choose one):
 Mondays at 7 – 8 pm (July 20, 27, Aug 3, 10, 17) followed by Compline
 Tuesdays at 4 – 5 pm (July 21, 28, Aug 4, 11, 18) followed by Evening Prayer

Please acquire the book from your favorite bookstore and read Chapter One “Jesus – an Interpretation” before our first meeting. For more information and to receive the Zoom invitation contact Mother Nancy at revnancysstreufert@gmail.com



First published in 1949, Jesus and the Disinherited is a brilliant and compassionate look at God's work in our lives. As we struggle today with issues of poverty, racism, and spiritual disengagement, Howard Thurman's discerning reading of the message of renewal through self-love as exemplified in the life of Jesus resonates powerfully once again. (back cover)

From Chapter Two “Fear,” Thurman writes, “Fear is one of the persistent hounds of hell that dog the footsteps of the poor, the dispossessed, the disinherited. There is nothing new or recent about fear – it is doubtless as old as the life of man on the planet. ... The ever-present fear that besets the vast poor, the economically and socially insecure, is a fear of still a different breed. It is a climate closing in; it is like the fog in San Francisco or in London. It is nowhere in particular yet everywhere. It is a mood which one carries around with himself, distilled from the acrid conflict with which his days are surrounded. ... Any slight conflict, any alleged insult, any vague whim, any unrelated frustration, may bring down upon the head of the defenseless the full weight of naked physical violence. Even in such a circumstance it is not the fear of death that is most often at work; it is the deep humiliation arising from dying without benefit of cause or purpose. ... The whole experience attacks the fundamental sense of self-respect and personal dignity, without which a man is no man.”

Thank You From Episcopal Relief And Development

Episcopal Relief and Development has received a contribution in honor of The Parishioners of St. Alban's From Jack Moore.

With this gift, Episcopal Relief and Development is able to save lives and build hope in communities to create lasting change. We rejoice with you at this time.

Episcopal Relief and Development—Working Together for Lasting Change

Bible Study

Bible Study continues Wednesdays, via Zoom. The sessions are from 6:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. The group has resumed their study of the Gospel according to John, using study guides by N. T. Wright. If you wish to participate, please contact Bob Webb at his email: spider.man@suddenlink.net and he will include you in the Zoom invitation.

Compline

Please join us Wednesday evenings at 8 p.m. for Compline via Zoom. In this short service (15 minutes) from the Prayer Book we offer thanks for the day that is past and ask God for a restful sleep. Contact Deacon Cindy at her new email: cmwoods1730@gmail.com if you wish to join us.

Morning Prayer

Morning Prayer continues each morning, Monday thru Friday at 9:00 a.m. via Zoom. To join in, email the Rev. Nancy Streufert at email: revnancysstreufert@gmail.com, and she will send you an invitation to join the group. To participate fully in the service, you will need a Book of Common Prayer, a 1982 Hymnal, and a Bible ((NRSV) to share in the readings.

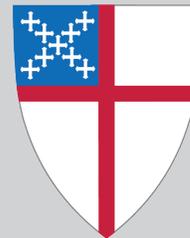
Designated Mission And Outreach Offerings for 2020

Good Friday Offering for the Church Jerusalem and the Middle East: \$230.00

COVID 19 fund: \$4,155.00

Arcata House Partnership: \$1,025.00

Thank you for your generosity!



Want the latest news from the Episcopal News Service? Subscribe for free at:

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Have an Announcement For the Church Newsletter?

Is there an event you're involved with? Would you like for folks in the congregation to know about it but aren't quite sure how to spread the word?

Send the details to communications@stalbansarcata.org. Information will be included in the newsletter as space permits.



St. Albans Episcopal Church

1675 Chester Avenue
Arcata, CA 95521



WEEKLY GATHERINGS

GROUP:	DAY:	TIME:	CONTACT:
Bible Study	Wednesday	6:30-8pm (via Zoom)	Bob Webb
Choir Rehearsal	Suspended until	further notice	Nan Voss-Herlihy

MONTHLY GATHERINGS

GROUP:	DAY & TIME:	TIME:	CONTACT:
Creation Care Ministry	2nd Tuesday (via Zoom)	6:30pm-8:00pm	Daniel Moyer
Vestry	3rd Sunday (via Zoom)	12:30pm-2:30pm	Rick Timmons
Wisdom Group	Suspended until	further notice	Emily Arents
Worship Committee	1st Saturday every other month (via Zoom)	10am	Mtr. Sara Potter