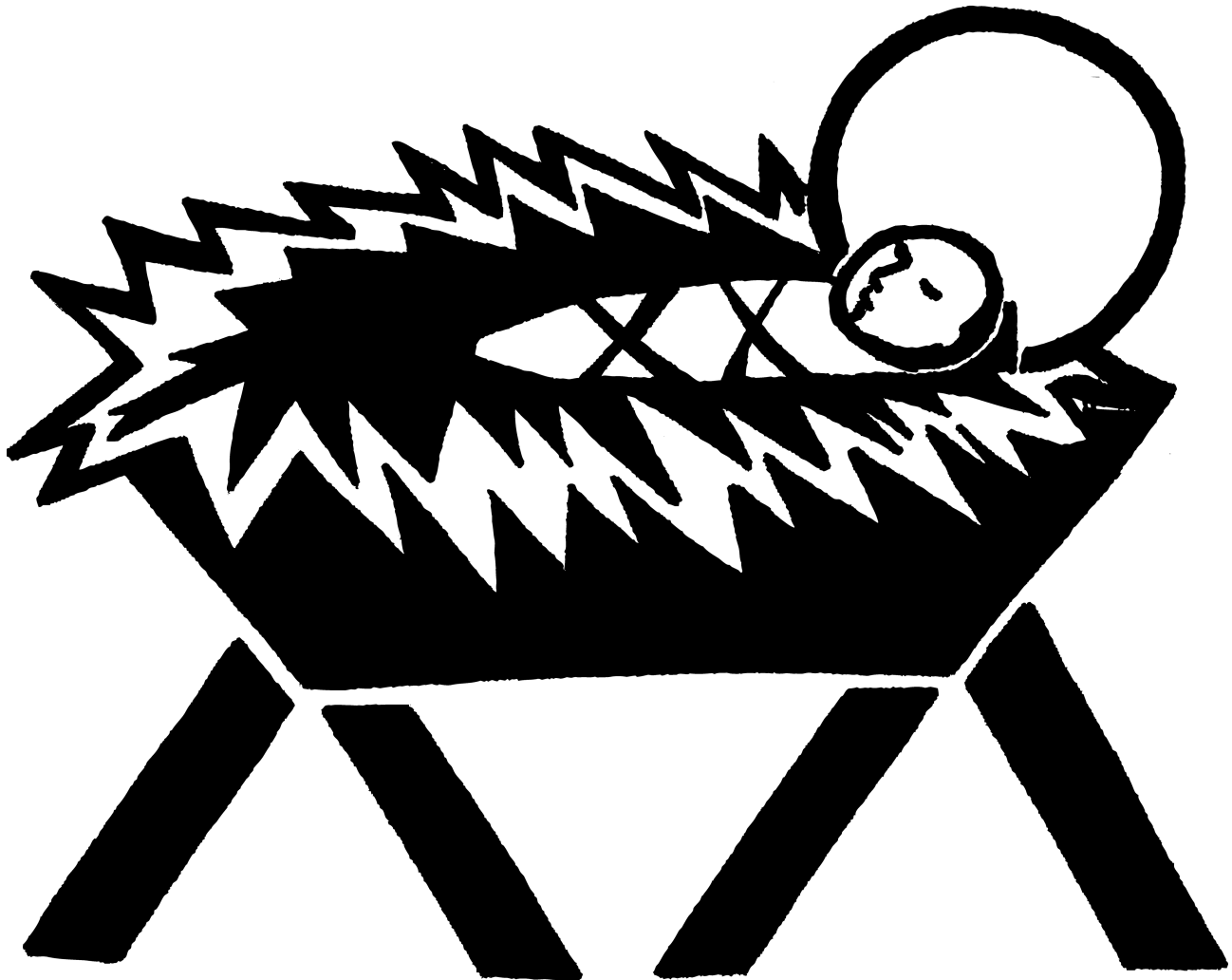


*The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ:  
Christmas Eve*



**Holy Eucharist**

December 24, 2024  
3:00 p.m.

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

*Welcome to St. Alban's.*  
*All children are invited to participate in building the Crèche on this most holy night.*

**Prelude**

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

Benjamin Culli

**The Liturgy of the Word**

**Processional Hymn**

*Joy to the World*

Hymnal 100

**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

*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.*

**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.

### **Sequence Hymn**

*Away in a Manger*

Hymnal 101

### **The Holy Gospel: Luke 1:1-14**

*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.

### **We Share the Story**

*Children are invited to come forward and help build the manger scene.  
Children are invited to remain seated around the manger to share the Christmas story.*

**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 the 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 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

**Doxology**

*(People stand as the 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 2

Enriching Our Worship

*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.

*The Celebrant proceeds*

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, moon, 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 mother cares for her 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 sing:

**Sanctus**

S129

*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*

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 may made. In the fullness of time bring us, with Mary, Joseph, 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,

*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 Hymn**

*O Little Town of Bethlehem  
Go Tell it on the Mountain*

Hymnal 79  
Hymnal 99

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**

*O Come, Oh Ye Faithful*

Hymnal 83

**Dismissal**

BCP p. 366

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

*People* Thanks be to God.

**Postlude**

*Good Christian Men, Rejoice*

Wilbur Held

***We gather for festive refreshments in the Commons Room immediately following the service.  
Join us and Merry Christmas!***

## *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*

***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.***

**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.

**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!!

**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](mailto:smithbruce56@gmail.com). Training for this valuable ministry is included, as well as thankfulness for your service!

**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 828 324-1351 ext. 304 or [revanne.stalbans@gmail.com](mailto:revanne.stalbans@gmail.com).