

# St. Alban's Episcopal Church

Oakland & Franklin Lakes

Day of Pentecost

May 31, 2020

WEEKEND UPDATE



Dear Saints of St. Alban's,

This Sunday is the Feast of Pentecost. Pentecost is the end of the Easter season and celebrates the gift of the Holy Spirit to lead and guide us in our ongoing walk of faith. For this celebration I have decided to do the entire liturgy on Zoom rather than Facebook Live. The biggest benefit of Zoom is that it will enable us to see each other and to have additional people read the lessons and lead prayers. The benefit of Facebook Live is that the 'product' is of higher visual quality. The downside is that it is not interactive. It has become clear that online worship will continue to be part of our experience for a considerable time going forward and therefore I want to try to make the switch to Zoom. The two most common sentiments expressed when I check-in with folks is the longing for the presence of our community together and the Eucharist. Zoom will help us to see and interact with each other even though it will still be remotely. We are all more accustomed to this now and, I believe, are more appreciative of the connections that are possible.

In preparation for this feast day I am inviting you to do a couple things that will increase your participation and visually connect us as a congregation.

**1. WEAR SOMETHING RED**

Wear red, orange, and yellow just as you would in coming to church on Pentecost! And if you have been worshiping in your pajamas wear your red Christmas ones! This is still a come as you are party and the most important thing is to sign on! Do you have a red hat, socks, t-shirt? Anything will do ... just add color!

**2. MAKE YOUR WORSHIP SPACE**

Please consider making a simple home altar (coffee table or card table works great) around which you can gather or sit around your table. Cover it with something red (the color that is used in church) or orange or yellow if that is what you have! Place a central candle that you will light when the service starts. Please have an additional candle for each person that will be lighted as part of a special Pentecost litany at the conclusion of the service. Think about something RED for coffee hour ... strawberries, red ice pops, apples, strawberry ice cream, cranberry juice! Be creative!

**3. PARISH FORUM TO FOLLOW SERVICE**

Immediately following the service, grab your snack and then join us as we begin to talk about The Journey Forward! Please see the information about the forum and plan to be a part of it.

I look forward to worshiping with you all and seeing your faces as we come together to celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit to dwell with us!

In God's love,  
Kathryn

## THE JOURNEY FORWARD

No one, certainly not me, envisioned 11 weeks ago that by June we would still be fasting from public worship. 'Fasting' was our Lenten description for this time and here we are now at the end of the 50 Days of Easter and preparing to celebrate Pentecost. Bishop Hughes has been meeting weekly, via Zoom, with the clergy throughout this time and in the past few weeks has also been offering open sessions to be in communication with all members of Vestries and congregations. Many of our members have participated. Additionally, teams have been formed to create and manage the varied ways we are now in relationship with one another. Everyone's experience in these past three months has been unique. We have learned so much! Who would have thought that, with only days of notice, we would have successfully begun to offer streaming worship, formation, and fellowship opportunities? And yet that is exactly what we have done ... and that isn't all. We are going to take time to gather our common thoughts and voices. In a parish Zoom forum after church service you will have the opportunity to talk together as we begin to turn our minds toward how we will Journey Forward Together. Please consider the following in preparation for the forum:

1. What do you miss?
2. What have you learned / experienced that you want to see continue?
3. What do you need in order to feel safe returning to public worship?



These questions will help inform the work of our Journeying Forward team at St. Alban's. Bishop Hughes has formed a diocesan team and each congregation is expected to form a parish team. Part of the work for each parish is to engage, with the whole congregation, questions of which these are a part. I have also established a Survey Monkey account and will be putting out a 10 question survey which will also be part of how we gather the information we need to make informed decisions for moving forward. We do not know how this is all going to progress but one thing seems quite clear from all of the medical and scientific information and that is that it will be 18 to 24 months before a vaccine is widely available and therefore we will likely be responding to ebbs and flows of gathering and refraining from gathering for that period of time.

Some wonderful new things have already arisen as we have been figuring things out and been open to trying new things even while grieving the things that we cannot do, some things that we formerly took for granted. It is all good and all worthy of reflection as we determine best and holy practices for our future.

Please plan to join the forum and share the wisdom you have gained, the griefs that you carry, and your hope for our common life together in Christ's service.

See you Sunday!

Kathryn+

## **BEDTIME BIBLE STORIES AND PRAYERS RESUME THIS WEEK**

After a week off because of conflicts in Reverend Kathryn's schedule with diocesan responsibilities, she will resume the Tuesday and Thursday evening sessions with our little ones. Zoom in at 6:45 PM on Tuesdays and Thursdays for 10-15 minutes of songs, stories, and prayers to end your busy day. All are welcome! The Zoom link is sent out in the afternoon to keep the call secure. Feel free to share with other families who might be interested but please do not publish on social media.



## ***THE LION, THE WITCH, AND THE WARDROBE***

Six young members of our parish have been Zooming twice a week with Reverend Kathryn and reading C. S. Lewis' classic, *The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe*. We take turns reading and spend about an hour each session. We are nearing 3/4 of the way through the book and having a GREAT time! It has been so well received that we will certainly start another book once we finish this one. It isn't too late to join in! All are welcome! We Zoom on Tuesday and Thursday evenings at 7 PM, right after the Bedtime Bible session.

Zoom links are sent out in the afternoon of each gathering.

We are planning a movie night to watch the movie as soon as we can safely do so. All are welcome for that regardless of whether you have read the book or not!

To learn more about our sessions you can talk with Sierra, Sean or Shane Mohamed; Stella Hancock; Helena Palmer; or Reverend Kathryn!



If anyone needs to reach our bookkeeper Mike Geiger, please email him directly at [mikegeiger1@aol.com](mailto:mikegeiger1@aol.com)