

First Congregational Church of St. Albans (FCC) is a welcoming community of spiritual seekers, believers, and doubters.

**Please know that no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here.**

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH VISION STATEMENT

To create an open and loving community that encourages a joyous exploration with God.

To work together to care for and nurture the wider community.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission as a community resource church is to provide a safe place for spiritual exploration and personal growth. To affirm the value of each person and to meet them where they are.

To connect to the community through personal service, giving, and pastoral care.

**Please feel free to contact us:**

Administrative Office: 8 AM to 11 AM weekdays.

Church Office Phone Number: 802-524-4555

Pastor Jessica's Office Hours: T-W-F, 9am-12pm

Email: [pastorjessica@firstcongregationalstalbans.org](mailto:pastorjessica@firstcongregationalstalbans.org)

For urgent, pastoral matters outside of regular office hours, call Pastor Jessica at 207-632-5544.

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**OUR WORSHIP SERVICE** IS BROADCAST OVER THE LOCAL PUBLIC ACCESS CHANNEL 1079 ON SUNDAYS AT 4 PM.

**SCRIPTURE READER:** Jean Vanslette



**"WE WELCOME YOU AND SERVE ALL THROUGH FAITH."**

**WORSHIP WITH US:**

**JANUARY 8, 2023**

**10AM**

**REV. JESSICA MOORE, PASTOR**

**ERIN GRAINGER, MUSIC AND CHORAL DIRECTOR**

**STEPHAN CONRADY, ORGANIST**

**SUE POWERS, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**

**27 CHURCH STREET, ST. ALBANS, VT 05478**

**802-524-4555**

**[INFO@FIRSTCONGREGATIONALSTALBANS.ORG](mailto:INFO@FIRSTCONGREGATIONALSTALBANS.ORG)**

**[WWW.FIRSTCONGREGATIONALSTALBANS.ORG](http://WWW.FIRSTCONGREGATIONALSTALBANS.ORG)**

**WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE**

CENTERING WORDS:

“Everything visible, without exception, is the outpouring of God. What else could it really be?” Richard Rohr, *The Universal Christ*

**THE PREPARATION**

*The beginning of the prelude is a call to enter into the spirit of prayer and community.*

PRELUDE            *In the Bleak Midwinter*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNG CALL TO WORSHIP

Let your Spirit come, **Let your Spirit come,**  
fall upon me now, **fall upon me now.**

Let your Spirit come, **Let your Spirit come**  
fall upon us now, **fall upon us now,**

Let your rain fall down, **Let your rain fall down**  
pour upon our souls, **pour upon our souls**  
Come and wash us now, **Come and wash us now,**  
come and make us whole, **come and make us whole.**

Let your Spirit come, **Let your Spirit come,**  
fall upon me now, **fall upon me now.**

Let your Spirit come, **Let your Spirit come**  
fall upon us now, **fall upon us now.**

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**WELCOME TO ALL VISITORS:** We are delighted that you chose to worship with us today and are strengthened by your participation in our service!

If you are new to First Congregational Church of St. Albans, please sign the guest book in the narthex (main entrance of the church).

If you would like more information about our church and its programs or would like to receive our Morning Reflections, and weekly e-newsletter, “From the Manse,” please fill out a Welcome Card and place it in the Offering tray (be sure to include your email address).

**After the service please join us for fellowship,  
conversation, coffee, and refreshments.**

\*PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE

FROM WORSHIP DESIGN STUDIOS: REFLECTING ADVENT

MUSIC, COPYRIGHT PERMISSIONS: CCLI #4799426 AND SJMP #14586

## Mission Highlight

### The Welcome Home Initiative:

First Congregational Church of St. Albans is a founding member of the Welcome Home Initiative (WH). WH provides people transitioning from homelessness to permanent housing in Franklin and Grand Isle Counties of Vermont with new- home essentials (mop, broom, dishes, cleaners, trash can, pots & pans, etc.), personal items (shampoo, deodorant, etc.), and a full pantry, fridge, and freezer stock of food.

The Welcome Home Initiative is a collaboration among:

- Franklin/Grand Isle CVOEO- Community Action
- First Congregational Church of St Albans
- Grace Episcopal Church, Sheldon
- Sheldon Methodist Food Shelf
- Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Swanton
- Our local Girl Scout Troop
- As well as other churches and businesses that have donated to the Initiative.

WH works with local housing case workers from:

- F/GI Community Action
- Voices Against Violence
- Samaritan House
- Restorative Justice Center
- Pathways

First Congregational Church functions as the fiscal agent, collection center and pick-up hub for the program. WH serves on average 6-7 individuals/families to be housed a month.

MORNING PRAYER (UNISON)

**Voice, Body, and Spirit,**

**You make your presence among us. We receive your love and affirmation. We cherish your guidance and direction. We follow your path and example. Remind us of our connection to you and your covenantal relationship with us. Wash us in the baptized life for renewal and revitalization. Amen.**

HYMN\*

***“Go Tell It on the Mountain”***

NCH 154

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (UNISON)

**Holy One, we confess our need for grace and mercy. We seek forgiveness for the ways in which we have drawn away from you and our neighbors. We express remorse for our participation in the systems of the world that are actively opposed to your kin-dom. Transform us to be carriers and promoters of your good news of new life, liberation, and hope in the world. Amen..**

PAUSE FOR REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

PASSING OF THE PEACE

**THE MESSAGE**

TIME WITH CHILDREN

ANTHEM

## SCRIPTURE READING

ISAIAH 42:1-9

MATTHEW 3:13-17

MORNING REFLECTION: "GRACE PERIOD"

HYMN\*

**"As with Gladness Those of Old"** (1, 3, 4) NCH 159

## THE THANKSGIVING

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

CHORAL CALL TO PRAYER:

*HEAR OUR PRAYER, O LORD* D. WELPTON

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE ~

LORD'S PRAYER

**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, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever, Amen**

CHORAL RESPONSE TO PRAYER

*"THOU WILT KEEP HIM IN PERFECT PEACE, WHOSE MIND IS STAYED ON THEE."* SCOTTISH PSALTER, 1615

## THE DEPARTURE

A BLESSING:

SAYING GOOD BYE TO SANCTUARY UNTIL PALM SUNDAY

HYMN\*

**"God Be with You"** (1, 2, 4) NCH 81

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Postludium in C-minor* S. Conrady

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

### A Special Note of Gratitude From All of Us At FCC:

- Sue Powers and Stephen McLaughlin- Thank You for the smooth operation of the Church Office in 2022!
- Erin Grainger and Stephan Conrady- Thank You for your gifts of music in 2022!
- FCC Choir- Thank You for your voices and dedication throughout 2022!
- Everyone who participated in Breakfast Church Thank You for coming and sharing food! It was such a great way to bring in 2023!

**Altar Flowers are from Mara Vijups in honor and memory of Doris Hughes.**

**Music Notes:** Our anthem's tune comes from the Appalachian region, and you may recognize it from the 2000 film "O Brother Where Art Thou". Also known as "Down to the River to Pray," "Down in the Valley to Pray," "The Good Old Way," or "Come, Let Us All Go Down", it has been categorized as a Christian folk hymn, an African-American spiritual, an Appalachian song, and a Southern gospel song. The exact origin of the song is unknown. Its meaning lies both in its instructions to escaping slaves to walk *in* the river to avoid being tracked, and to full-immersion baptism

### Free Open Mic, Coffee House

**Saturday, January 28th, from 7 PM – 9 PM.**

The theme is **Old Meets New.**

Refreshments will be available.

Music: instrumental, acapella, bands, sing alongs as well as spoken word, storytelling and skits. Everyone is welcome: beginners, experts and everyone in between

For information and if you would like to sign up ahead of time call Greg at 802-324-0308.

### Bible Study

Next meeting is Wednesday January 11<sup>th</sup> on Zoom – please let Pastor Jessica know if you'd like to join in!