

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:** Mara Vijups



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

**WORSHIP WITH US:**

**JANUARY 15, 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**

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**WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE**

CENTERING WORDS:

“There comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular, but he must take it because conscience tells him it is right.”

— Martin Luther King Jr.

**THE PREPARATION**

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

PRELUDE

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.**

**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

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## 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)

**To the revelation and the wonder, open us.**

**With the vision and the possibility, convict us.**

**For the recognizing and the following, equip us.**

**In the struggle and the seeking, be with us.**

**Holy One, manifest your love, make your justice known in and among us. Amen.**

HYMN\*

***“Hope of the World”***

(1, 2, 4) NCH 46

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (LITANY)

One: In this moment of stillness,  
feel for the rhythm of your own pulse  
listen to the cadence of your own breath.

**All: When we lose touch with our own flourishing,  
Holy One, forgive us, reconnect us.**

**In this moment of stillness,  
feel for the rhythm of another one’s pulse  
listen to the cadence of another one’s breath**

One: When we lose touch with the celebrations and  
struggles of our neighbors,  
Holy One, forgive us, reconnect us.

In this moment of stillness,  
feel for the rhythm of the pulse of justice for all  
listen to the cadence of the breath of love  
**All: When we lose touch with our collective liberation,  
Holy One, forgive us, reconnect us.**

PAUSE FOR REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

PASSING OF THE PEACE

## THE MESSAGE

TIME WITH CHILDREN

ANTHEM Hymn to Freedom - O. Peterson

SCRIPTURE READING

PSALM 40:1-11

JOHN 1:29-42

MORNING REFLECTION: "WHAT ARE WE SEEKING?"

HYMN\*

**"There Is a Balm in Gilead"** (1, 2) NCH 553

## 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

HYMN\*

**"Precious Lord, Take My Hand"** NCH 472

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

- Sue Brown, Thank You for your ministry facilitating the Women's Fellowship Breakfast.
- Everyone who came out yesterday to de-decorate the Sanctuary—Thank you!

**Music Notes:** This morning we observe MLK day with music from a Canadian jazz pianist and composer Oscar Peterson. He was called the "Maharaja of the keyboard" by Duke Ellington, but simply "O.P." by his friends. Peterson is considered one of the greatest jazz pianists of all time. He composed "Hymn to Freedom" in 1962 inspired by the civil rights movement in the United States.

### Bible Study

Our next Bible Study will meet on Jan. 18

Fellowship 6:45pm

Bible Study 7:00- 8:00pm

Text: Matthew 4:12-23

We meet on Zoom. You can join us at any time, call the office or Pastor Jessica for the Zoom link.

**Free Open Mic, Coffee House** is scheduled here on **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.