

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:**

**MARCH 12, 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**

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

**WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE**

CENTERING WORDS:

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it is the only thing that has ever happened.” –Margaret Mead

**THE PREPARATION**

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

PRELUDE    *O Holy City, Seen of John*    *Kentucky Harmony*

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

<sup>1</sup>FROM UCC WORSHIP WAYS

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<sup>1</sup> (UNISON)

**Holy One, we are thankful for who you are and all that you are. Your presence is desired here. We take joy in knowing that you are as close to us as our next breath. We thirst for you. May we be filled to overflowing with your love. Amen.**

HYMN\*

***“Praise to the Living God*** (1, 3, 4) NCH 8

PRAYER OF CONFESSION<sup>1</sup> (UNISON)

**Enduring Presence, we confess that sometimes we question if you are among us or not. Sometimes we quarrel with you when we are tested. These are the moments when our outlook needs transformation. You are gracious in looking beyond our faults to see our needs and meet them. Thank you for your immeasurable grace. Amen.**

PAUSE FOR REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

PASSING OF THE PEACE

## THE MESSAGE

TIME WITH CHILDREN

ANTHEM *A Gaelic Blessing* J. Rutter

SCRIPTURE READING

EXODUS 17:1-7

JOHN 4:5-15

MORNING REFLECTION: WILDERNESS TEST

HYMN\*

***“Lift High the Cross”*** (1, 3, 5) NCH 198

## 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\*

***"Help Us Accept Each Other"*** (1, 2, 4) NCH 388

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

On the Nature of Daylight arr. Conrady M. Richter

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

- Hadley and Alan Shannon Thank You for organizing Game Night! It was hilariously fun!
- Sue Powers—what can we say but THANK YOU for all you've brought to FCC (on the clock and off).

### Bible Study

Our next Bible Study will meet on March 15  
Fellowship 6:45pm; Bible Study 7:00- 8:00pm  
Text: John 9:1-41

### Free Open Mic, Coffee House: SPRING!

**Saturday, March 18th, from 7 PM – 9 PM.**

Everyone is welcome: beginners, experts and everyone in between. For information, call Greg at 802-324-0308.

### Outreach Think-Tank

**Saturday March 25<sup>th</sup> 2:00pm- 4:00pm**

We'll be reviewing 2022's outreach efforts and planning 2023 outreach. Everyone is welcome!

### New to FCC Orientation after church March 12 and 19

Are you new to First Congregational Church and/or the United Church of Christ?

Are you curious about what we believe, what we do, how we do it? Please come to these two brief after church discussions with Pastor Jessica—all questions welcome and encouraged.

**Music Notes:** Composer John Rutter is exceptionally well known in the choral music world! Our choir has sung many pieces by him over the years. This piece was commissioned by the Chancel Choir of First United Methodist Church in Omaha. This is the blessing: *Deep peace of the running wave to you / Deep peace of the flowing air to you / Deep peace of the quiet earth to you / Deep peace of the shining stars to you / Deep peace of the gentle night to you / Moon and stars pour their healing light on you / Deep peace of Christ, the light of the world, to you / Deep peace of Christ to you.*