

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: Monday: 2pm-4pm; Tuesday 9am-2pm; Wednesday 10am-Noon; Thursday 9am-2pm; Friday 10am-Noon.

Church Office Phone Number: 802-524-4555

Pastor Jessica's Office Hours: By Appointment

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

For urgent pastoral matters 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:**

**APRIL 21, 2024**

**10 AM**

*REV. JESSICA MOORE, PASTOR*

*STEPHAN CONRADY, ORGANIST*

*DR. KEVIN DIRTH, CHOIR DIRECTOR*

*MONICA NEWTON, OFFICE MANAGER*

**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: "I wonder if fears ever really go away, or if they just lose their power over us." — Veronica Roth

**❖ BEGINNING OF SERVICE ❖**

**THE PREPARATION**

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

PRELUDE                      *It Only Takes a Spark*                      K. Kaiser

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Call To Worship

**All: Within this community**

One: We experience God's unconditional love

**All: Within this community**

One: We rejoice in the risen Christ

**All: Within this community**

One: We awaken to the Holy Spirit

**All: Within this community**

One: We join together in worship

Morning Prayer (**Unison**)

**Holy God, you sent us Jesus as our comforter and guide. We give you thanks for the ways he cares for us. Help us be empowered to join him in protecting the oppressed and marginalized. We pray this in gratitude for your provision. Amen.**

HYMN\*

**"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You" NCH 4**

**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>UCC, WORSHIP WAYS

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**OFFERING A WARM WELCOME  
CAN YOU HELP?**

The Capital Improvement Campaign for our Tower makes our church more visible to the community at large. Our participation in the Maple Festival Parade will bring more attention to our Tower. As a result of these events, people may visit our church out of curiosity.

This is a good opportunity to greet and welcome visitors as they enter the church - our church members are very good at welcoming people into church.

If you'd like to usher please send me your name, email and phone number. In a few weeks, I'll send out a schedule for ushers- for June, July and August.

For now- please sign up for the next few weeks:

There is a sign-up sheet at Coffee Hour

- April 21: Maria
- April 28:
- May 5:
- May 12: Maria
- May 19:
- May 26:

Thank you  
Maria Barresi

Maria-mom.barr@gmail.com; 203-241-5731

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

Shepherding Christ, even as you lay down your life for us, we confess our unwillingness to support those in need. Too often, we may be more like the one who runs away in times of trouble. We aren't always bold enough to protect the powerless; following your example is rarely easy or comfortable. Forgive us. Help us lay down our apathy and follow your example. Remind us that we belong to one another, and to you. Amen.

PAUSE FOR REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

PASSING OF THE PEACE

**THE MESSAGE**

TIME WITH CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

ANTHEM      *A New Commandment*    Richard Hubbard

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Acts 4:5-12 & John 10:11-18

MORNING REFLECTION

Asking for Directions

HYMN\*

***"God Is My Shepherd"*** (1,3,5) NCH 479

**THE THANKSGIVING**

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

CHORAL CALL TO PRAYER

*Hear Our Prayer, O lord*

D. Welpton

PASTOR'S PRAYER~

## 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

## OFFERTORY

## DOXOLOGY

***Praise God from whom all blessing flow  
Praise God all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, all heavenly hosts:  
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

## THE DEPARTURE

## HYMN\* "Go Now In Peace"

Go now in peace, never be afraid  
God will be with you each hour of every day

Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true  
Know he will guide you in all you do.

Go now in love, and show you believe  
Reach out to others so all the world can see

God will be there, watching from above  
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.

Amen. (X3)

## BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *LET THERE BE PEACE ON EARTH* J. JACKSON

❖ END OF SERVICE ❖

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

- ★ Thank You to our hard working Deacons: Sandy Cristman, Mary Bostwick, Hadley Shannon, and Jenny Parke. We could not do church without you!

**Martha's Kitchen Food Drive**

We are collecting the following items for Martha's Kitchen to be delivered in May:

- Ground Coffee
- Iced Tea Mix
- Sugar
- Powdered Creamer

**Music Notes:**

The writer of today's hymn is Richard Hubbard, a contemporary composer, born in 1961 and living in Suffolk, United Kingdom. In addition, he is a Lecturer in Music and Worship at London School of Theology, where for many years he also conducted the chamber choir, VivaVoce.

**Zoom Bible Study**

Our next Bible Study will meet on April 24; 7-8PM

Text: John 15:1-8

Join us at any time, call Pastor Jessica.

**Wi-Fi:**

Sanctuary  
sanctuary123

