# First Congregational Church of Saint Albans, Vermont

United Church of Christ

Third Sunday of Lent Ar

Amistad Sunday\*

March 7, 2021

## We Gather as God's People

CENTERING WORDS: "Be faithful in small things because it is in them that your strength lies." — Mother Theresa

#### THE PREPARATION

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

Prelude:

"Call to worship" (from "Karol's carols)

S. Conrady (2019)

Welcome and Announcements

Morning Prayer\*

for Amistad Sunday

Thankful are we for all the blessings of this life; love, freedom, bounty and beauty.

The joy we know is beyond our words to speak.

We can only image the suffering and pain of human slaves, past and present, which yearn from the depths of their souls to know the freedom we enjoy.

We celebrate this day the heritage we have in the cause of human freedom.

We celebrate this day our spiritual ancestors who worked for the freedom of the Mendi people on the slave ship, Amistad.

May that ship, like the cross, remind us of the ever present possibility of human evil.

And may that ship, like the cross, remind us of the power of divine love.

May we, through divine love,

shed the false, un-neighborly, covetous and dishonorable desires of the lives we sometimes live

and keep the commandments and walk in the way that brings life. Amen

Opening Hymn

"Let Us With a Joyful Mind"

vs 1, 3 & 5

NCH/Insert 16

Prayer of Confession\*

In this season of Lent we reflect on those things that lead us away from the life we desire.

We focus on whatever we do that oppresses and enslaves others who, like us, are created in the image of the divine.

And now we seek the grace that frees us to live in faithfulness to holy love. Amen

A moment for personal reflection

Words of Assurance

## THE MESSAGE

ANTHEM "Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days"

G. Faure, arr. M. Schweizer

A Time for Children of all Ages

Scripture Reading

Exodus 20:1-7 John 2:13-22

Morning Reflection "WWJD?"

Hymn "Christ is Made the Sure Foundation" vs 1 & 4 PH 263

## THE COMMUNION

Celebration of Holy Communion

## THE THANKSGIVING

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

Choral Call to Prayer "Hear Our Prayer, O Lord" D. Whelpton Prayer of the People ~ Lord's Prayer (trespasses)

Choral Response to Prayer "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee." Scottish Psalter, 1615

## THE DEPARTURE

Benediction

Postlude: "Lily of the Mohawks" (song) S. Conrady (2021)

\*Worship Ways, UCC: Rev. Madison Shockley, Pilgrim United Church of Christ in Carlsbad, CA

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No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here.

#### **Our Church Office Hours and Contact Information**

Administrative Office- 8 AM to 11 AM weekdays.

Church Office Phone Number- 1-802-524-4555

Pastor Jessica- Office Hours – Tuesdays thru Fridays, 9 AM – 12 PM Email-pastorjessica@firstcongregationalstalbans.org

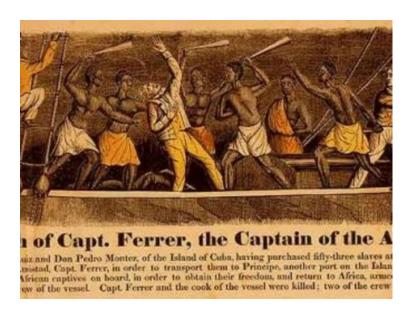
For urgent, pastoral matters outside of regular office hours, call Pastor Jessica at 207-632-5544

**Our worship service** is broadcast over the local public access channel 1079 on Sundays at 4 PM. Our **Videographer** today is Lane McElree.

**Music notes**: This morning's prelude is also a call to prayer. It is extracted from *Karol's Carols*, a liturgical mass for organ composed by Stephan Conrady in 2017. The postlude "Lily of the Mohawks" uses the main theme of the prelude and is written originally for mezzo soprano and organ; this is the piano solo version. Both pieces are dedicated to Kateri Tekakwitha, a native American, who lived in Kahnawake, near Montreal, 50 miles north from here. She was declared venerable by Pius XII. in 1943, beatified by John Paul II. in 1980. She is the first Native American woman of North America to be canonized by the Catholic Church (by Benedict XVI. in 2012). She died on April 17, 1680.

The Amistad incident: Important moment in the history of the U.S. and the United Church of Christ. In 1839, 55 Africans who had been captured in the slave trade struck out for their freedom while being transported out of Havana, Cuba, on a schooner called La Amistad. The captives successfully took over the ship and ordered the crew to sail back to Africa, but weeks later the ship ended up far north, at the tip of Long Island, New York. U.S. officials boarded the ship, arrested the captives and jailed them in Connecticut. There they were befriended by Christian abolitionists, many belonging to churches that are now part of the United Church of Christ. The abolitionists hired lawyers, including former President John Quincy Adams, to appeal the case all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, which declared the captives free in 1841. This abolitionist victory helped create momentum for the formation in 1846 of the American Missionary Association. This interracial agency's work in education, discipleship and justice eventually became part of the national mission structure of the UCC which continues to this day.\*

# The First Congregational Church of St. Albans United Church of Christ



# "We welcome you and serve all through faith."

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 www.Firstcongregationalstalbans.org

# Communion

### Invitation

ONE: God be with you.

**ALL:** And with your spirit

**ONE:** Lift up your hearts

ALL: We lift them up to God.

ONE: Give thanks to God.

ALL: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

## Words of blessing Remembrance

We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, and on the eve of his death, Jesus gathered his disciples for the Passover feast.

Jesus took the bread, and after giving thanks to you, broke it and gave it to the disciples saying: "Take and eat. This is my body broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way he took the cup, after supper, saying: "Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you and many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this as often as you drink in remembrance of me.

Sharing of the bread and cup

Communion Hymn "Let Us Break Bread Together" No. 288

Words of thanksgiving:

One: May the presence of Christ, Body and Spirit, keep and preserve you to everlasting life. Let us pray.

All: Thank you most Holy God, for meeting us in this simple meal.

May your presence within us ripple beyond us, ever expanding, until the day when you gather all your saints from the four winds

to share in your eternal banquet.