

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:** Nancy Holland



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

**WORSHIP WITH US:**

**SEPTEMBER 25, 2022**

**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:

"God is whispering in your heart, in the whole existence, just tune your ears." — Amit Ray

**THE PREPARATION**

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

PRELUDE      *Of the father's love begotten*  
13th century plainsong

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: **TAIZÉ**

Let all who are thirst - y come. Let

all who wish re - ceive the wa - ter of life

free - ly. A - men, come... Lord Je - sus. A -

men, come... Lord Je - sus. Let

**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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## Announcements Continued

### Special Collection for the FREE STORE at the food-shelf!

Are you doing a fall cleaning? Is it time to declutter? If so, we are collecting clothes, housewares, linens, etc. for the FREE STORE at Northwest Family Foods food-shelf. We are collecting during the month of October. You can drop off your donations on Sunday or anytime the office is open (M-F; 8am-11am).

### A Night of Peaceful Protest Music!

Saturday November 5 from 7-9pm

Open Mic - Coffee House. Sing-a-long to your favorite protest and peace music.

See Greg Beeman or call the office for more details.

### Walking the Walk Fall Session

**The Importance of Sabbath: It's all about rest!**

**November 5th, 12th, and 19th**

**10 AM to noon**

**Here at First Congregational Church**

Join Pastors Jessica, Janet, and Darcy for our fall session of Walking the Walk! Our focus is on Sabbath and the Biblical imperative for rest-- from the final day of Creation to Jubilee to Jesus' need for alone time to pray. The Bible is clear, we need rest-- so why is it so difficult for us to take the time?

### Sue is on Vacation Next Week

## MORNING PRAYER

God, we give you thanks that you make us redeemers, not just receivers of redemption. You bring us among friends and then ask for each one of our signatures to change your world. We hold the earthenware jar you call the church and fill it with all your promises. **Amen.**

## HYMN\*

***"For the Beauty of the Earth"*** (1, 2, 4)

NCH 28

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION<sup>1</sup> (UNISON)\*

**God, I have defaulted to un-hope in my life  
and I have encouraged un-hoping in others.**

**I have criticized plans before hearing them out  
and I have turned to family, church,  
friends, colleagues with my face painted,  
"we've tried that before  
and it didn't work."**

**Together we have laughed at new ideas  
and circulated only bad news.**

**Plant your promises deep in the field of our lives,  
and forgive us our presuming to define your future.**

**Amen**

## PAUSE FOR REFLECTION

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

## PASSING OF THE PEACE

## THE MESSAGE

## TIME WITH CHILDREN

ANTHEM     *A PLACE IN THE CHOIR*

BILL STAINES

## SCRIPTURE READING

JEREMIAH 32: 1-3A, 6-15

LUKE 16: 19-31

## MORNING REFLECTION

“Crossing the Line”

## HYMN\*

**“God of Grace and God of Glory”** (1, 2, 4) NCH 436

## THE THANKSGIVING

### SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

### CORAL 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\*

**“Let There Be Peace On Earth”** BB 35

### Benediction\*

POSTLUDE *The day thou gavest, Lord, is ended*

C.C. Scholefield

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

- Thank you to our Coffee Hour July, August, and September hosts: Jenny, Valerie, Paula, Sandy, Mary, and Hadley!

### Music Notes:

Today's anthem is to get us ready for next week's Blessing of the Animals! Can you hear us singing about all of God's creatures? Bullfrogs, cows, dogs, honeybees, ducks, otters, porcupines, bears and weasels!

### Bible Study

Next meeting is Wednesday, September 21<sup>st</sup> on Zoom – please let Pastor Jessica know if you’d like to join in!

### Church Street Sounds of the Season

October 9th the performance will be Music-Comp at 3pm

### Midday Meditation

**Monday · Wednesday · Friday**

**12pm- 1pm**

Please join us in the sanctuary for quiet reflection. We’ll have soothing music and meditation guides available.

### What is TAIZÉ?

Created by and named after the Taizé (taa-ZAY) monastic community in France, which began in the 1940’s; Taizé is a contemporary, repetitive, sung prayer set to simple music. The use of repetitive prayers has a long history in Christian spirituality (as well as many other faith traditions). Taizé prayers are unique in that they are fully ecumenical—they are adapted from core biblical texts and can be sung in various languages. The song should have no pre-determined length or number of repetitions—the intension is for the congregation to immerse itself in the simple harmonies leading to a contemplative state.