

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:** LANE MCELREE



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

**WORSHIP WITH US:**

**OCTOBER 23, 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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**WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE****CENTERING WORDS:**

"Because with true friends, no one is keeping score. But it still feels good to repay them – even in the tiniest increments."

— Emery Lord

**THE PREPARATION**

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

Prelude

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:

**MUSIC NOTES:** Today's anthem was named the State Song of Vermont in 2000, replacing "Hail to Vermont" Which was written in 1938. This particular arrangement is by Saint Michael's College music professor Nathaniel G. Lew.

### Bible Study

Next meeting is Wednesday October 26<sup>th</sup> on Zoom – please let Pastor Jessica know if you'd like to join in!

### 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.

### MORNING PRAYER<sup>1</sup>

God, we come from years of losses – pandemic years, disappointment years, hiding years – and from broken days, wasted hours, painful moments. Yet our hands are out, expecting love so wide it seeps through our fingers. We hold only what we share. We receive only what is shared with us – worship blessings, life blessings, surprising blessings. **Amen.**

### HYMN\*

**"Be Now My Vision"** (1, 2, 4)

NCH 451

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION<sup>1</sup> (Unison)

**God, we have put your people to shame. We have shamed people because of color, age, size, gender identity, sexual orientation, sensory difference, cognitive difference, life choices influenced by faith, politics, mobility, memory, mental illness diagnoses.**

**God, we have not been ashamed of shaming your children, but we have often been decided we know your preferences and been ashamed of ourselves. That too is sin. We ask, O Holy One, for your forgiveness. Amen**

PAUSE FOR REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

PASSING OF THE PEACE

### THE MESSAGE

TIME WITH CHILDREN

ANTHEM

THESE GREEN MOUNTAINS

DIANE MARTIN, ARR. N. LEW

## SCRIPTURE READING

Joel 2:23-32  
Luke 18:9-14

## MORNING REFLECTION

“Powerless”

HYMN\*

**“Sweet Hour of Prayer”**

NCH 505

## 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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

- Sandy Cristman, Thank You for leading worship last Sunday!
- To everyone who came to church last Sunday to help clean, sort, scrub, and rake, Thank You for keeping our church a warm, safe, welcoming space for the community.

### 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?

Space is limited-- please register with Pastor Jessica.

### 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. We'll have burgers, dogs, and snacks!

Call Greg Beeman to sign up ahead of time or for more information: 324-0308

### 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.