

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:** Stephen McLaughlin



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

**WORSHIP WITH US:**

**DECEMBER 11, 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

802-524-4555

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

**REFLECTING THE SACRED THIS ADVENT:**

*The shiny additions to our Advent and Christmas visuals remind us that we are called to reflect the sacred each and every day. "Incarnation" is a word that means that God's presence came to dwell among all people, and we believe this happened in a special way in the birth of Jesus. All creation has always been imbued with the Creator's brilliance. This season, we will remember the call to shine with this holy light.*

**WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE****CENTERING WORDS:**

"When you do things from your soul, you feel a river moving in you, a joy." – Rumi

**THE PREPARATION**

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

PRELUDE: *LET ALL MORTAL FLESH KEEP SILENCE*      *FRENCH CAROL*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CROSSING THE THRESHOLD: GUIDED MEDITATION

SUNG CALL TO WORSHIP: CALL AND RESPONSE

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**.

**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

FROM WORSHIP DESIGN STUDIOS: REFLECTING ADVENT

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

- Nancy Newton, Thank You for decorating the Parlor and Mantel—it's a nice festive touch to our common areas!
- Laurie (Sue's sister), Thank You for updating the bulletin board outside the office, it look great and it's fun to read!
- Greg Beeman, Thank You for replacing the bannister in the choir loft stairwell.

**Music Notes:** Today's anthem is a Marion theme: *And that ship's name is Mary, of flowers the Rose is she; and brings to us her baby, from sin to set us free.*

### Bible Study

Next meeting is Wednesday December 14<sup>th</sup> on Zoom – please let Pastor Jessica know if you'd like to join in!

**Free Open Mic, Coffee House** is scheduled here on **Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, from 7 PM – 9 PM.** The theme is Happy Holidays. Burgers, dogs and snacks will be available. Music: instrumental, acapella, bands, sing alongs as well as spoken word, storytelling and skits. Everyone is welcome: beginners, experts and everyone in between. The performance space will be open for practice on **Thursday, Dec. 15, from 6 to 8 PM.** For information and if you would like to sign up ahead of time call Greg at 802-324-0308.

**Mitten Tree** – We are currently collecting mittens and scarfs to be distributed to local organizations and schools, who will in turn distribute them to individuals for the upcoming cold weather. Purchased items are also being accepted.

**\*\*TODAY \*\***

**DEC.11 at 3pm**

### Church Street Sounds of the Season: Va-et-vien

A crowd favorite! They bring French music of all regions to life with voices, violins, guitar, lutes, pipes, percussion, and mandolins. Laissez les bons temps rouler! Admission by donation.

## LIGHTING OF THE JOY ADVENT CANDLE

JENNY PARK AND SANDY CRISTMAN

We pray for Joy this day.

**We pray for Joy this day.**

We open to see the Sacred reflected in all things.  
**We open to see the Sacred reflected in all things.**

We open to see each place  
**We open to see each place**

as a gift of holy presence.  
**as a gift of holy presence.**

This is the gift of the Christ Mystery,  
**This is the gift of the Christ Mystery,**

lighting the way to joy.  
**lighting the way to joy.**

### REPEAT

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,**

MORNING PRAYER (UNISON)

**Living God, Christ Mystery, Spirit of Joy,  
we give you thanks for this physical and online space for  
gathering. As we take in the joy you offer,  
may we be a reflection of your light,  
expanding the sacred space of “right here”  
into the sacred place of “everywhere.”  
Amen.**

HYMN\*

**“ALL THINGS BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL”**

NCH 31

## ENCOUNTERING THE SACRED

**God, we confess that we have often placed our hope in people and things that can't fulfill our every need.  
We have searched for peace in shallow places.  
We have mistaken joy for temporal pleasure and artificial exhilaration. We have put limits on the ways we love, excluding those who need our loving kindness the most.  
God, when we have lost our way, show us yours.  
Guide us to the hope in you that will renew our strength.  
Lead us to your peace that transcends all understanding.  
Fill us with a joy we can only experience in your presence.  
Remind us that you have always loved us with an everlasting love, so that we may share that love with others. Amen.**

PAUSE FOR REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

PASSING OF THE PEACE

## THE MESSAGE

TIME WITH CHILDREN

SCRIPTURE READING

ISAIAH 35:1-10

ANTHEM      SONG OF THE SHIP      ROBERT J. POWELL

LUKE 1:46B-55

MORNING REFLECTION: "SACRED JUSTICE"

HYMN\*

**"O REST YE MERRY GENTLEMEN"**      (1,2,4) PH 122

## 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\*

**"JOY TO THE WORLD! THE LORD IS COME"**      PH 130

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE:      OF THE FATHER'S LOVE BEGOTTEN  
GREGORIAN CHANT (12TH CENTURY)