

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:** Sandy Cristman



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

**WORSHIP WITH US:**

**DECEMBER 4, 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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**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:**

"Everything visible, without exception, is the outpouring of God. What else could it really be?" Richard Rohr, *The Universal Christ*

**THE PREPARATION**

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

PRELUDE                      ***Three Kings of Orient***                      J. Hopkins

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CROSSING THE THRESHOLD: GUIDED MEDITATION

SUNG CALL TO WORSHIP

Let your Spirit come, fall upon me now

Let your Spirit come, fall upon us now.

Let your rain fall down, pour upon our souls

Come and wash us now, 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

MUSIC, COPYRIGHT PERMISSIONS: CCLI #4799426 AND SJMP #14586

Do this, as often as you drink it,  
in remembrance of me.”

And so,  
in remembrance of your mighty acts in Christ Jesus,  
we offer ourselves  
in union with Christ’s offering for us,  
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

*Distribution of Communion*

*Please hold your bread and juice until all are served, so that all may eat together.*

## 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\*

**“O Splendor of God's Glory Bright”** (1, 2, 4) NCH 87

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE **Follow that star** S. Conrady

## LIGHTING OF THE LOVE ADVENT CANDLE

*ALICE DRISLANE AND TONI GRAY*

One: We pray for Love this day.

**All: We pray for Love this day.**

One: We open to see the Sacred reflected in all things.

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

One: We open to see each moment

**All: We open to see each moment**

One: as a gift of holy presence.

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

One: This is the gift of the Christ Mystery,

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

One: lighting the way to love.

**All: lighting the way to love.**

REPEAT

Let your Spirit come, fall upon me now

Let your Spirit come, fall upon us now.

MORNING PRAYER (UNISON)

**Living God, Christ Mystery, Spirit of Love,  
we give you thanks for this holy gathering of Beloveds.**

**As we take in the love you offer,  
may we be a reflection of your light,  
expanding the sacred presence you have promised  
into the sacred presence we can offer.  
Amen.**

HYMN\*

**“For the Beauty of the Earth”** (1, 2, 4) NCH 28

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Maker and Lover of all, forgive us when we are too  
preoccupied, self-involved, or worried to notice your  
presence in our lives...  
when we are too rushed to allow moments of wonder and  
awe that lead to hope,  
when we are too frightened to imagine those not like us  
loved equally by you,  
when we gloss over the most ordinary details as a revelation  
of your joy,  
when we fail to stop and reside in peace with you in our  
depths.

**Open us, O God,  
free us to reflect the sacred.  
Touch us with your presence,  
we pray in your Holy Name:  
Christ, Anointed One.  
Amen.**

#### PAUSE FOR REFLECTION

#### WORDS OF ASSURANCE

#### PASSING OF THE PEACE

#### THE MESSAGE

#### SCRIPTURE READING

ROMANS 15:4-13

ANTHEM *Zion hears the watchman's voices* J. S. Bach

MATTHEW 3:1-12

#### MORNING REFLECTION: "WHICH PATH?"

#### HYMN\*

***"The Baptist Shouts on the Jordan's Shore"*** (1, 3, 4) NCH 115

#### COMMUNION

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,  
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,  
Word of God, Logos from the beginning.

You made us reflective of your image  
and set us ablaze with the breath of life.  
When we turned away, and our love dulled,  
your love remained as light for our lives.

You delivered us from captivity,  
made a covenant with us to be our sovereign God,  
and spoke to us through your prophets.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us,  
he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread,  
gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, he took the cup,  
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Drink from this, all of you;  
this is my blood of the new covenant,  
poured out for you and for many  
for the forgiveness of sins.