

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 Tues. & Thurs.

9am-12pm Wed. & Fri.

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:**

**APRIL 16, 2023**

**10AM**

**REV. JESSICA MOORE, PASTOR**

**ERIN GRAINGER, MUSIC AND CHORAL DIRECTOR**

**STEPHAN CONRADY, ORGANIST**

**MONICA NEWTON, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**

**27 CHURCH STREET, ST. ALBANS, VT 05478**

**802-524-4555**

**INFO@FIRSTCONGREGATIONALSTALBANS.ORG**

**WWW.FIRSTCONGREGATIONALSTALBANS.ORG**

**WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE**

CENTERING WORDS: "You may say I'm a dreamer, but I'm not the only one. I hope someday you'll join us. And the world will live as one."

— John Lennon

**THE PREPARATION**

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

PRELUDE                      *Yigdal*                                      *Hebrew Melody*

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS****SUNG CALL TO WORSHIP**

You are welcome here, **You are welcome here.**

No matter who you are, **No matter who you are.**

No matter where you are, **No matter where you are**  
on life's journey, **on life's journey.**

You are welcome here, **You are welcome here.**

No matter who you are, **No matter who you are.**

Come and join with us, **Come and join with us,**  
We're united in the church of Christ. **We're united in the church of Christ.**

**MORNING PRAYER<sup>1</sup>                      (UNISON)**

**God of the risen Jesus, we praise you for the great love that you have shown to redeem us by sending your Son Jesus. Help us today to embrace the New Life that the resurrected Christ is giving us. A Life beyond our doubts, faith over fear, courage over confusion, belief over disbelief, and trust to follow your guidance. As we worship today, help us to feel the presence of resurrected Jesus in our midst, reminding us of your love and our purpose. Amen.**

**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>FROM UCC WORSHIP WAYS

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## Mission Highlight

### The Welcome Home Initiative:

First Congregational Church of St. Albans is a founding member of the Welcome Home Initiative (WH). WH provides people transitioning from homelessness to permanent housing in Franklin and Grand Isle Counties of Vermont with new- home essentials (mop, broom, dishes, cleaners, trash can, pots & pans, etc.), personal items (shampoo, deodorant, etc.), and a full pantry, fridge, and freezer stock of food.

The Welcome Home Initiative is a collaboration among:

- Franklin/Grand Isle CVOEO- Community Action
- First Congregational Church of St Albans
- Grace Episcopal Church, Sheldon
- Sheldon Methodist Food Shelf
- Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Swanton
- Our local Girl Scout Troop
- As well as other churches and businesses that have donated to the Initiative.

WH works with local housing case workers from:

- F/GI Community Action
- Voices Against Violence
- Samaritan House
- Restorative Justice Center
- Pathways

First Congregational Church functions as the fiscal agent, collection center and pick-up hub for the program. WH serves on average 6-7 individuals/families to be housed a month.

HYMN\*

**“Praise to the Living God”** (1,2,4) NCH 8

PRAYER OF CONFESSION<sup>1</sup> (UNISON)

**All: Loving God, we confess that many a time, we are more doubters than believers.**

**We doubt your love for us when we see the oppression, sickness, death, violence against nature, wars, and hatred against each other. Help us to recognize these outcomes of our selfishness, greed, and the evil spirit of dominance.**

One: Through the death and resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, help us to understand your sacrificial love for us so that we will love one another. Help us to learn from the courage of Jesus to take up the cross to stand against oppression. Enlighten us as we celebrate resurrection to rise again and again to annihilate injustice and to create peace in this world. Amen.

PAUSE FOR REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

PASSING OF THE PEACE

## THE MESSAGE

TIME WITH CHILDREN

ANTHEM Carol of St. Thomas — *O fili et filiae*,  
arr. Anthony Greening

SCRIPTURE READING

JOHN 20:19-31

MORNING REFLECTION: **DOUBTFUL**

HYMN\*

**“Joyful, Joyful We Adore You”** (1,2,3) NCH 4

## 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

## OFFERTORY

DOXOLOGY

***Praise God from whom all blessing flow  
Praise God all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, all heavenly hosts:  
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

OFFERTORY PRAYER

## THE DEPARTURE

HYMN\*

***"Let There Be Peace on Earth"*** Blue Binder 35

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Eternal God* G.F. Haendel

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

- To FCC's Maundy Thursday readers, Thank You, you all read beautifully, it was truly moving!
- Sue Powers, Thank You for helping out in the office during Holy Week and for training our new Office Manager Monica Newton!
- Monica Newton, Welcome and Thank You for joining the FCC team!

### Save the Date:

Green-Up Day

May 6<sup>th</sup> Stay tuned for details!

### Sounds of the Season Concert, St Luke's

April 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm

The first springtime Sounds of the Season concert is at St Luke's on Thu Apr 20th at 7:00pm. Featuring Heliand Ensemble and three music students from BFA playing music of Music of Beethoven, Chick Corea, Florence Price, William Grant Still & others.

### Bible Study

Our next Bible Study will meet on April 19

Fellowship 6:45pm; Bible Study 7:00- 8:00pm

Text: Luke 24:13-35

You can join us at any time, call Pastor Jessica for the Zoom link.

**Music Notes:** The original chant tune, "O fili et filiae", is a hymn celebrating Easter. It was written by the Franciscan monk Jean Tisserand, who died in 1494 at Paris, France. Originally it had fourteen Latin verses, punctuated by the