

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

For urgent, pastoral matters outside of regular office hours, call Pastor Jessica at 207-632-5544.

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:

APRIL 2, 2023

10AM

REV. JESSICA MOORE, PASTOR

ERIN GRAINGER, MUSIC AND CHORAL DIRECTOR

STEPHAN CONRADY, ORGANIST

27 CHURCH STREET, ST. ALBANS, VT 05478

802-524-4555

INFO@FIRSTCONGREGATIONALSTALBANS.ORG

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

"Each night, when I go to sleep, I die. And the next morning, when I wake up, I am reborn."

— Mahatma Gandhi

THE PREPARATION

Prelude: Eternal God

G.F. Haendel

On Palm Sunday we will gather in the Chapel and process to the Sanctuary singing Hosanna!

PROCESSION OF THE PALMS

D.G.MASON

HOSANNA! HOSANNA! HOSANNA TO THE KING OF DAVID!

HOSANNA! HOSANNA! HOSANNA TO THE KING OF KINGS!

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS****MORNING PRAYER (UNISON)**

God of humble entries, we lay down our branches on the path ahead and give thanks for this day you have created. For this is the day you have made, and we rejoice in it together. As we walk with Jesus and his followers into Jerusalem today, open the gates of our hearts that we might enter your realm with joy and thanksgiving. In the name of the One who came humbly, we pray. 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

FROM WORSHIP DESIGN STUDIOS: REFLECTING ADVENT

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

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*

“Ride On! Ride On in Majesty”

(1,2,3)

NCH 215

PRAYER OF CONFESSION **(UNISON)**

O God, we know that our lives have missed the mark and fallen short of your call to love you and neighbor with our whole lives. At times we can enter into the circumstances of our lives with power over others, arrogance, or a lack of awareness of the needs of our neighbor. Forgive us for being more interested in our own achievements or our obsessed with seeking the approval of others. Come and save us now. Transform us into a people of humility and righteousness, we pray. Amen.

PAUSE FOR REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

PASSING OF THE PEACE

THE MESSAGE

ANTHEM

Hosanna We Sing

Stan Plethel

SCRIPTURE READING

PSALM 118:1-2, 19-29

MATTHEW 21:1-11

MORNING REFLECTION: “A TALE OF TWO CHURCHES”

HYMN*

“Let Us Break Bread Together”

NCH 330

THE COMMUNION

BLUE BINDER

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*

"My Song Is Love Unknown" (1, 3, 5) NCH 222

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

The Day Thou Gavest C.E. Scholefield

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

- Joel Magnuson Thank You for leading last week's Outreach Think Tank meeting, we appreciate your kind and focused leadership!
- Thank You to everyone who came to the Outreach Think Tank meeting: Alice Drislane, Sandy Cristman, Nancy Newton, Mara Vijups, Paula Kane, Mary Bostwick, Toni Gray, Nancy Holland, Sue and Ray Brown, and Hadley and Alan Shannon.

Women's Fellowship Breakfast

Great Food * Great Conversation!

April 16

9am @ Erika's in Fairfax

RSVP Sue Brown (527-6336).

Free Open Mic and Coffee House

Saturday, April 15th 7:00-9:00pm

Theme: Love Your Mother!

In honor of Earth Day we'll celebrate with song, story, refreshments and fellowship!

Everyone is welcome: beginners, experts and everyone in between. For information, call Greg at 802-324-0308

Bible Study

Our next Bible Study will meet on Feb. 8

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

Text: John 20:1-18

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

Music Notes: The composer of today's anthem is Professor Emeritus at Berry College in Georgia. Dr. Pethel has served as minister of music at several area churches in the Northwest Georgia area, and has 1300 compositions and arrangements in print from twenty-eight different publishers.