

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: STEPHEN MCLAUGHLIN



"WE WELCOME YOU AND SERVE ALL THROUGH FAITH."

WORSHIP WITH US:

APRIL 9, 2023

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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WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

CENTERING WORDS:

“Then came the healing time, hearts started to shine, soul felt so fine, oh what a freeing time it was.” — Aberjhani

THE PREPARATION

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

PRELUDE

Easter Sequence

Gregorian Chant
arr. Conrady

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

Alleluia

MORNING PRAYER¹ (UNISON)

Resurrected God, you are the God of new beginnings, of new dawns and new mercies. Enter into our presence again. When we move toward the tomb, remind us that you come with life. When we despair at the world unfolding around us, assure us of your redemptive power. When we long for your voice, speak a word of hope, encouragement, and peace. May we reflect your image as resurrection people in covenant with you. Amen.

HYMN*

“Christ The Lord Is Risen Today” Pilgrim Hymnal 182

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

¹FROM 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.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION¹ (UNISON)

Amazing God, we know there is nothing you cannot overcome. We confess to our profound need of your love, strength, and mercy. Too often, we come toward the tomb resigned to the status quo. We anticipate the worst even when you are the provider of every good and perfect thing. We allow despair over the condition of our world overwhelm us when you call us to follow you. Fortify us to live abundantly in your kin-dom on earth. Transform us and breathe new life into us.

PAUSE FOR REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

PASSING OF THE PEACE

THE MESSAGE

TIME WITH CHILDREN

ANTHEM Easter Hodie - arr. Donald Hustad

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

JOHN 20:1-18

MORNING REFLECTION: **AWAKENED**

HYMN*

"The Day of Resurrection" Pilgrim Hymnal 192

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*

"Thine Is the Glory"

Pilgrim Hymnal 193

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Victimae Paschali Laudes

Gregorian Chant
arr. Conrady

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

- Joel Magnuson Thank You for building shelves, and organizing the Welcome Home Initiative stock. It looks beautiful.

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

There will be no Bible Study on April 12 (Jessica will be out of town).

Music Notes: Our Easter anthem is the familiar tune with an unfamiliar name (*Lasst uns erheufen* "Let us rejoice"). You may know it with the text of "All creatures of our God and King" or "Ye watchers and ye holy ones". The best part of it is the refrain of Alleluia!