

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: 8-12 Tuesday, 8-10 Wednesday,  
8-12 Thursday and 9-12 Friday.

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:** Mara Vijups



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

**WORSHIP WITH US:**

**MAY 7, 2023**

**10AM**

**REV. JESSICA MOORE, PASTOR**

**ERIN GRAINGER, MUSIC AND CHORAL DIRECTOR**

**STEPHAN CONRADY, ORGANIST**

**MONICA NEWTON, OFFICE MANAGER**

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

**802-524-4555**

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

**WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE**

CENTERING WORDS:

"In the sky there are always answers and explanations for everything: every pain, every suffering, joy and confusion."

— Ishmael Beah

**THE PREPARATION**

Prelude: Eternal God

G.F. Haendel

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 (UNISON)

**Gracious God, we now open our eyes, ears and hearts (to**  
**listen to you). Please speak to us and give us Your word,**  
**for we cannot live on bread alone.**

**Please light us up with the work of the living Holy Spirit.**

**We pray in the name of Jesus Christ. 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

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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\*

***“God Is Here! As We Your People Meet”*** (1, 2 , 4) NCH 70

PRAYER OF CONFESSION **(UNISON)**

**Holy God, we were not able to love You with all our hearts and love our neighbor as ourselves. We wanted to be forgiven, but we could not forgive others. Please give us the grace of forgiveness so that we can get back on our feet today. There are still conflicts in this world that can only lead us to hatred. Please give us Your will and wisdom to overcome conflicts and live together. Lead us to a new step, free from hatred and conflict. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

PAUSE FOR REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

PASSING OF THE PEACE

## THE MESSAGE

ANTHEM      A NEW COMMANDMENT – RICHARD HUBBARD

SCRIPTURE READING

PSALM 31: 1-5; 15-16

JOHN 14: 1-14

MORNING REFLECTION: “CONNECTIONS”

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

PASTORAL PRAYER ~

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\*

***"In Christ There Is No East or West"*** NCH 395

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE FATHER ETERNAL, RULER OF CREATION G. SHAW

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

- Larry Bruce, Thank You for stepping up to be FCC's assistant Treasurer!
- Helen Short and the Franklin County Quilt Guild's Comfort Quilt volunteers, Thank You for the donation of hand-crafted quilts for the Welcome Home Initiative; what a wonderful way to welcome folks to our community!

### Women's Fellowship Breakfast

May 13<sup>th</sup> ; 9am @ Maple City Diner  
RSVP Sue Brown (527-6336).

### Circle of Security with Camelia Maianu

May 20; 10:00am -12:00pm

Camelia will present an introduction to Circle of Security (COS), which is both a framework for understanding close relationships and an intervention program for improving the security of caregiver-child relationships. The COS framework can help us understand what makes for a healthy and secure relationship as well as why we struggle in close relationships and how we can overcome unhealthy patterns.

### Free Open Mic and Coffee House

**Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup> 7:00-9:00pm**

**Theme: Renewal!**

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 May 10

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

Stories of Luke with Kent Gramm

We are meeting IN PERSON, in the Fellowship Hall

**Music Notes:** This morning's anthem text is technically from the gospel of John ("A new command I give you: Love one another"), which is itself a reiteration from today's lectionary in Deuteronomy: "obey the commandments of the Lord your God...by loving."