

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: Tuesday - Friday: 9am- 2pm

Church Office Phone Number: 802-524-4555

Pastor Jessica's Office Hours: Friday: 9am-12pm, and by appt.

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: Stephen McLaughlin  
Acolytes: Mykala Pryor and Ada Sanders



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

**WORSHIP WITH US:**

**DECEMBER 1, 2024**

**10 AM**

REV. JESSICA MOORE, PASTOR

STEPHAN CONRADY, ORGANIST

MONICA NEWTON, OFFICE MANAGER

27 CHURCH STREET, ST. ALBANS, VT 05478

802-524-4555

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**WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE**

CENTERING WORDS:

When we give cheerfully and accept gratefully, everyone is blessed.

– Maya Angelou

**❖ BEGINNING OF SERVICE ❖**

**THE PREPARATION**

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

PRELUDE                  Advent Carol                  arr. Conrady

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNG CALL TO WORSHIP                  Come and Fill Our Hearts (Taizé)

***Come and fill our hearts with your hope,  
You alone, O God, are holy.  
Come and fill our hearts with your hope,  
Al-le-lu--ia!***

MORNING PRAYER                  (UNISON)

**God says, "Do not be afraid."  
God says, "I have called you by name."  
God says, "I will be with you."  
God says, "You are precious and honored in my sight."  
At the beginning of this season, at the start of this week,  
at the top of this hour, may we wrap ourselves in these  
words. May we begin again. Let us worship our Holy God!  
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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## THE THANKSGIVING

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

CHORAL CALL TO PRAYER:

HEAR OUR PRAYER, O LORD      D. WELPTON

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE ~

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\*

*"O How Shall I Receive You"*      NCH 102

POSTLUDE      *Mary, Did You Know?*      arr. Conrady

❖ END OF SERVICE ❖

LIGHTING OF THE HOPE ADVENT CANDLE

Nancy Holland and Mykala Pryor

One: In a weary and worn world, how do we begin  
again? Where do we start?

**All: Let us begin with the good news! Let us begin by  
trusting that we are a blessing, loved by a gracious  
God. Let us begin with music and singing! Let us begin  
with warmth and welcome. Let us begin with hope.**

One: Yes, let us begin with hope. Today we light the  
candle of hope to shine a light in a worn and weary  
world.

**All: May this be our foundation. May this be our fresh  
start. May this be our new beginning. One: May hope  
flow forth from here. Amen!**

HYMN\*

*"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"*      (1, 2, 3)      NCH 116

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Affirming God, Your first words to creation were words of  
love. You looked at this earth and said, "It is good." You  
spoke affirmations through the prophets. You spoke  
blessings over Mary. You spoke belonging through Christ.  
At every turn, you have reiterated that we are a blessing,  
made in your image, held in your love. Forgive us for  
forgetting this truth. Forgive us for measuring our worth  
by society's measuring stick instead of yours. We believe.  
Help our unbelief. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.**

PAUSE FOR REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

PASSING OF THE PEACE

## THE MESSAGE

ANTHEM      *Keep Awake, Be Always Ready*      Wachet Auf

SCRIPTURE READING      LUKE 1:26-38

CONTEMPORARY READING      Joy and Celebration      Sarah Speed

MORNING REFLECTION:      ***YOU ARE BLESSED***

HYMN\*

***“Comfort, Comfort O My People”***      NCH 101

## THE COMMUNION

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

. . .

So come.

This good news is for you. All are welcome here.

One: Peace be with you

**All: And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

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

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Pause

Loving God, We come to this Table today longing for a new beginning . . .

With joy and hope, we weave our voices together to pray the words your son taught us to pray, saying . . .

***All: 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.***

One: Gathered with his friends, Jesus took bread, broke it and said, “This is my body, broken for you. Take and eat.”  
And Jesus took the juice and said, “This is my blood, spilled out for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

**Distribution of the Bread and Cup:** please hold your cup until we serve all, so that all may drink together.

One: Let us pray.

**All: Nourishing God, Sometimes we tell ourselves that too much has taken place to begin again.**

**We think the world is too far gone.**

**We think we have made too many mistakes.**

**We tell ourselves that we couldn’t possibly begin again.**

**But then we come to this Table and we get a glimpse of your kin-dom.**

**We come to this Table and all are welcomed, all are seen, all are fed.**

**And just like that, we have hope.**

**Just like that, we begin again.**

**Thank you for the gift of this fresh start.**

**Thank you for planting hope deep in our bones.**

**Thank you for meeting us in ordinary bread and juice to remind us that it’s never too late to build your kin-dom here.**

**We are grateful.**

**We are so grateful.**

**Amen**