

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 9:30am - Noon

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: Mara Vijups

Acolytes: Mykala Pryor and Ada Sanders



"WE WELCOME YOU AND SERVE ALL THROUGH FAITH."

WORSHIP WITH US:

DECEMBER 15, 2024

10 AM

REV. JESSICA MOORE, PASTOR

BAILEY BROWN, MUSIC & CHOIR DIRECTOR

STEPHAN CONRADY, ORGANIST

STEPHEN McLAUGHLIN, OFFICE MANAGER

27 CHURCH STREET, ST. ALBANS, VT 05478

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WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

CENTERING WORDS:

I can't change the whole world
 But I can change the world I know
 What's within three feet or so
 —Carrie Newcomer

❖ BEGINNING OF SERVICE ❖**THE PREPARATION**

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

PRELUDE *Christmas Music* arr. Conrady

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

MORNING PRAYER¹ (Unison)**Listening God,**

**We know that you are constantly speaking to us.
 Through music, scripture, nature, and relationships,
 you make yourself known again and again.
 In gratitude, we long to return the favor.
 In gratitude, we long to meet you halfway.
 So in this moment, we are quieting the noise in our heads.
 We are closing our eyes. We are leaning in.
 We are listening. We are doing the good that is ours to do.
 Speak to us through the chaos.
 Speak to us as only you can.
 With hope in our hearts we listen, 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

¹ SANCTIFIED ARTS

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

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

- Park Newton Thank You for re-hanging the chandeliers in the Fellowship Hall—they look beautiful!
- Maria Barresi Thank You for delivering the final round of “Self-Care” gift bags to area social workers!

Christmas Mission : The Mitten Tree

We are currently collecting mittens and scarves to be distributed to local organizations and schools, who will in turn distribute them to individuals for the upcoming cold weather. Knitting instructions are available during Coffee Hour! Purchased items are also being accepted.

Open Mic Night

Free & For All Ages
December 21 @ 7:00-9:00PM
Pot-Luck Dinner!

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December. 24th 7:00PM

Our traditional Christmas Eve service- lessons and carols! Bring a friend and soak in the beauty of our sanctuary in all its Christmas splendor!

Zoom Bible Study: Companionship on the Road

Wednesday 7:00-8:00pm
Luke 1:46-55
Contact Pastor Jessica for the link.

Online Giving:

Wi-Fi:
Sanctuary
sanctuary123

**CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY: JOY**

Odrechowski Family

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

All: Let us start small. Let us begin with what is right in front of us. Let us do the good that is ours to do, and let us do it with joy!

One: Yes, let us begin with joy. Today we light the candles of hope, peace, and joy.

All: May these lights remind us of what could be. May these lights inspire action. May the warmth of these lights fill us with joy.

One: May it be so! Amen.

HYMN* **Good Christian Friends Rejoice** NCH 129

PRAYER OF CONFESSION¹ (LITANY)

Liberating God,

There are days when the world can feel like it's crumbling.

There are days when I doubt that I can make a difference.

I ask myself,

What could these two hands do?

What could this one voice say?

Shake me free of my own paralysis and self-doubt.

Remind me that I am not called to fix everything.

I am simply called to do the good that is mine to do.

With hope in my heart and a fire in my bones, I pray.

Amen.

PAUSE FOR REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

PASSING OF THE PEACE

THE MESSAGE

TIME WITH CHILDREN

ANTHEM

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 3:7-16

CONTEMPORARY READING

Harvest

Sarah (Are) Speed

MORNING REFLECTION:

Growing Where We Are Planted

HYMN* **They Will Know We Are Christians** BB57

THE THANKSGIVING

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

CHORAL CALL TO PRAYER

Hear Our Prayer, O lord

D. Welpton

PASTOR'S 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

OFFERTORY MUSIC

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* **Go Now in Peace**

***Go now in peace, never be afraid
God will be with you each hour of every day

Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true
Know he will guide you in all you do.

Go now in love, and show you believe
Reach out to others so all the world can see

God will be there, watching from above
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.

Amen. Amen. Amen***

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Follow that Star S Conrady

❖ END OF SERVICE ❖