

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](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: Alan Shannon

Acolytes: Mykala Pryor and Ada Sanders



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

**WORSHIP WITH US:**

**DECEMBER 8, 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**

**802-524-4555**

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**WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE**

## CENTERING WORDS:

We must allow the Word of God to confront us, to disturb our security, to undermine our complacency and to overthrow our patterns of thought and behavior. — John Stott

❖ BEGINNING OF SERVICE ❖**THE PREPARATION**

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

PRELUDE      *O come Emmanuel*      arr. Conrady

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

MORNING PRAYER<sup>1</sup> (Unison)

**Holy God, The words of this world whip around us like a mighty wind. We are caught up in news reports, in text messages, in emails and notifications.**

**We are drowning in updates from the media, caught off guard by the constant hum of it all.**

**But here on this bright morning we remember: you too are speaking.**

**Still the voices around us. Calm our minds and center our hearts so that we can hear your words above the wind. We are leaning closer.**

**We are beginning again.**

**Speak to us, as only you can. 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

<sup>1</sup>SANCTIFIED ARTS

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

- ❖ Laurie Gadouas Thank You for keeping the bulletin board across from the Office up-to-date and in season! The kids from the Nursery School love to play "I Spy" with it!

**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.

**Christmas Cookie Bake, Swap, Share!**

Saturday December 14th, 1-6pm

**For more info TEXT Val: (802)370-6417**

**Ecumenical Caroling Fun @ local care facilities.**

Dec 14th exact time TBA; rehearsal on Dec. 12th 6pm at St. Albans Bay UMC.

**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 3:7-16

Contact Pastor Jessica for the link.

**Online Giving:**

**Wi-Fi:**

Sanctuary

sanctuary123

**CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY: PEACE**

Jessica Pecor & Ada Sanders

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

**All: Let us begin together. Let us begin arm in arm. Let us begin by holding each other up, instead of tearing each other down. Let us begin with words of peace.**

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

**All: May these lights remind us of what could be. May these lights mark a new beginning. May peace flow like a river, and may it start with us.**

One: Arm in arm, hand in hand, side by side. May we begin again. Amen.

HYMN\* ***Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You*** NCH 4

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION<sup>1</sup> (LITANY)**

One: I have tried to make my own way.

I have tried to lace my own shoes, to build my own house, to kindle my own faith.

I have said a thousand times, "turn back," as if I am fine on my own.

But the days are long and I am forgetful.

I need your help. Can you remind me?

**All: We will remind you of this everlasting truth:**

**You are not alone. Where you go, God goes.**

**You are held in grace.**

**Trust in this good news.**

One: Thanks be to God! I remember. I believe.

**All: Now we need your help.**

**We, too, have tried to make our own way.**

**We have tried to lace our own shoes, to build our own houses, to kindle our own faiths.**

**We have said a thousand times, “turn back,” as if we are fine on our own.**

**But the days are long and we are forgetful.**

**We need your help. Can you remind us?**

One: I will remind you of this everlasting truth:

You are not alone.

Where you go, God goes.

You are held in grace.

Trust in this good news.

**All: Thanks be to God! We remember. We believe.**

**Alleluia! Amen**

PAUSE FOR REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

PASSING OF THE PEACE

## THE MESSAGE

TIME WITH CHILDREN      The Story of Ruth

ANTHEM      *Breathe on Me, Breath of God*      R. Jackson

SCRIPTURE READING

Ecclesiastes 4: 9-12

CONTEMPORARY READING

*When will You Be Back?*      Sarah (Are) Speed

MORNING REFLECTION:

*Better Together*

HYMN\*      ***O Come All You Faithful (1,2,3)***      NCH 135

## 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\*      ***O God of Love, O God of Peace***      NCH 571

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE      *Miracle Song*      Arr. Conrady      S. Boyle