

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

info@firstcongregationalstalbans.org

Pastor Jessica's Office Hours: Friday 9:30am - Noon

Email: pastorjessica@firstcongregationalstalbans.org

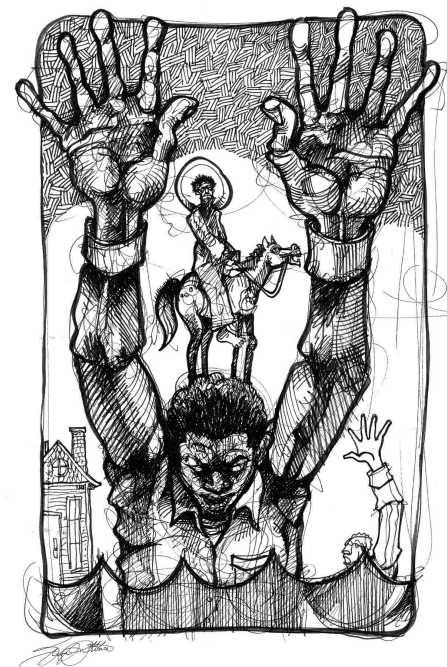
Pastor Jessica takes her Sabbath on Mondays.

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

Acolytes: Mykala Pryor, Ada Sanders, and Kaia Newton



"WE WELCOME YOU AND SERVE ALL THROUGH FAITH."

WORSHIP WITH US:

APRIL 13, 2025

10 AM

REV. JESSICA MOORE, PASTOR

BAILEY BROWN, CHOIR & MUSIC DIRECTOR

STEPHAN CONRADY, ORGANIST

STEPHEN McLAUGHLIN, OFFICE MANAGER

27 CHURCH STREET, ST. ALBANS, VT 05478

802-524-4555

WWW.FIRSTCONGREGATIONALSTALBANS.ORG

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

CENTERING WORDS:

Be grateful for whoever comes, because each has been sent as a guide from beyond. — Rumi

THE PREPARATION

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

PRELUDE

If Thou Suffer arr. S. Conrady

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNG CALL TO WORSHIP *Bless the Lord, My Soul* (Taizé)

***Bless the Lord, my soul
and Bless God's Holy name
Bless the Lord, my soul
who leads me into life.***

MORNING PRAYER¹ (Litany)

ONE: On this day, Jesus marched

**ALL: in between the city walls and the Temple,
in between joyful Hosannas and doubtful whispers,
in between oppressive poverty and greedy power,
in between rampant fear and hope unfurled.**

ONE: On this day, Jesus marched in between what had been and what could be.

ALL: So may we meet Christ in that liminal space. May we lay down our coats in that messy middle.

ONE: Hosanna in the highest!

ALL: Hosanna in between!

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

¹A SANCTIFIED ARTS

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

Walking the Walk Nugget: This Lent FCC member, Doug Klette will be giving us communication “Nuggets”—practical steps to help us better love our neighbor.

PLEASE HEAR WHAT I'M NOT SAYING

People crave understanding and acceptance but are often so fearful, they reject the efforts of those striving to offer God's love. The passage below reveals common fears experienced by all. Keep the speaker's words in mind and it can help you help others.

[Do not be fooled by the face I wear. I wear many masks. Masks that I am afraid to take off; and none of them are me. I give the impression I am in command; that I need no one. But do not believe me, please!

Beneath dwells the real me in confusion and in fear. But I hide that, I do not want anybody to know it. I panic at the thought of my weakness and fear being exposed. So, I pretend to be nonchalant.

I do not tell you this because I am afraid you will think less of me. You see, deep down, I believe I am no good. So, I will chit chat with you about surface talk. I will talk about everything that is nothing. It is my routine. Please Do Not Be Fooled By What I Am Not Saying.

Each time you are kind, and encouraging, each time you try to understand, my heart begins to grow wings, very small wings, very feeble wings – but wings.

It will not be easy for you. I might strike back. I will fight against the very thing I cry out for! But I am told love is stronger than the strongest walls.

Who am I? I am someone you know very well. I am every man you meet! I am every woman your meet! I am right in front of you!]

Adapted from: *PLEASE HEAR WHAT I AM NOT SAYING*,
Anonymous

HYMN*

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

NCH 213

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION¹ (Unison)

**Great Creator, forgive me
when I speak before listening,
when I speak over my neighbor,
when I speak with barbed words.
Creator God, forgive me when I listen to society,
when I listen to my friends,
when I listen to the news, but I do not listen to you.
Creator God, forgive me
when I shout out, but do not shout your name,
when I listen, but do not listen for your voice.
Forgive me.
Create in me a heart like yours.
Amen.**

PAUSE FOR REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

PASSING OF THE PEACE

THE MESSAGE

TIME WITH CHILDREN

ANTHEM *The Palms* Jean-Baptiste Faure

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 19: 28-40

CONTEMPORARY READING *If You Really Listen* Sarah Speed

MORNING REFLECTION

Unexpected

HYMN*

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

NCH 216

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

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*

Were You There?

NCH 229

POSTLUDE

Gethsemane

S. Conrady

❖ END OF SERVICE ❖

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

- ❖ Sandy Cristman Thank You for preparing and beautifying the Sanctuary for Palm Sunday.
- ❖ Park Newton, Greg Beeman, and Tony Odrechowski Thank You for replacing the old fire alarm sensors.

Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service

April 17 at 6:30pm

Intergenerational Pot-Luck

Please join us for this ancient worship service. We'll share a meal and Communion as we commemorate Jesus' Last Supper.

Tenebrae means shadow or darkness. In this service we'll hear the story of Jesus' last days --from his final Passover meal with the disciples, through his betrayal and arrest, to the Cross.

Easter Sunday

April 20

6:30am: Ecumenical Sunrise Service @ Hard'Ack Lodge

10:00am: Traditional Easter Service in the Sanctuary

Zoom Bible Study: Companionship on the Road

Wednesdays 7:00-8:00pm

April 16

Luke 24:1-12

Contact Pastor Jessica for the link

Online Giving:

Wi-Fi:

Sanctuary

sanctuary123

