

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 -12:30pm

Monday is Pastor Jessica's Sabbath.

Email: pastorjessica@firstcongregationalstalbans.org

For urgent pastoral matters call Pastor Jessica at 207-632-5544.

OUR WORSHIP SERVICE IS BROADCAST OVER THE LOCAL PUBLIC ACCESS CHANNEL 1079 ON SUNDAYS AT 4 PM.



"WE WELCOME YOU AND SERVE ALL THROUGH FAITH."

WORSHIP WITH US:

MAY 3, 2026

10 AM

REV. JESSICA MOORE, PASTOR

BAILEY BROWN, MUSIC AND 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:

*Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!*

Emma Lazarus

THE PREPARATION

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

PRELUDE *The Gift of Love* arr. S. Conrady - English Melody

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 (Unison)

God, we gather in this place: Home for our souls.
Here we sense our true selves
Renewed in wholeness;
Scattered, now gathered in.
Fragments re-united, re-connected
Standing on solid ground
Upheld by faith - Renewed by love
We open ourselves to you. Amen

HYMN*

There Is A Wideness In God's Mercy

NCH 23

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).

THIS SERVICE IS MADE POSSIBLE WITH THE GENEROUS PARTICIPATION OF:**GREETERS:****READER:** Valerie Odrechowski**COFFEE HOUR HOSTS:**

**After the service please join us for fellowship,
conversation, coffee, and refreshments.**

*PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE

¹ UNITED METHODIST RESOURCE² ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA FROM WORLD REFUGEE DAY WORSHIP RESOURCE

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

- ★ Sandy Cristman Thank You for cleaning-up the church office and recycling the printer cartridges.
- ★ Mary Bostwick, Alice Drislane, Rich Guzman Thank You for your steadfast commitment to our Mission Welcome Home.
- ★ Jonathan Thank You for helping with the birth of the Thursday art studio at FCC!

May 9; 11am**Church Outdoor Clean-Up Day**

Bring gloves, a rake, and a sense of humor,
We'll have coffee and treats to help power you through!

May 16; 7-9pm**Open-Mic and Community Pot-Luck**

Sing- Play- Read- Recite- Tell a story- or just sit back, relax,
and enjoy!

Martha's Kitchen collection for May 17

Shopping List: ground coffee, dry creamer, hot-chocolate
packets, sugar, iced-tea mix, lemonade mix.

Mindful Awareness with Jonathan:**Thursday mornings 8-9am - Free**

Explore present-centered awareness
and insight through acceptance and
letting go. Everyone is welcome.

Bible Study: Wednesdays 7pm

Via Zoom

Next: May 6; John 14:15-21

Online Giving: QR Code

Wi-Fi
Sanctuary
sanctuary 123

**PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE² (INTERACTIVE)**

God you created our hands beautiful and capable but...
Too often we use them to grab what we want
We ball them up into fists to hit.
We use them to hug only ourselves.
We hide them behind our backs pretending there is nothing we
could do to help when we know there is.
So, we turn our hands up to you asking for forgiveness. Forgive
all the bad we have done with our hands.
Wash our hands and make them clean.
Lead us to use our hands well.
Teach us to open our hands to share with others.
Give us the power to shake hands with our neighbours.
Show us how to join hands with our neighbours to build your
kin-dom of love. Amen.

PAUSE FOR REFLECTION * WORDS OF ASSURANCE *PASSING OF THE PEACE

THE MESSAGE

ANTHEM *Oh, Be Swift to Love* N. Grundahl

SCRIPTURE READING

Leviticus 19:33-34; Mark 12:28-31

(from) *Questions for Ada* Ijeoma Umebinyuo

MORNING REFLECTION *Beautiful Tapestry*

THE COMMUNION

This is God's table and it extends beyond this time and space:
to food pantries, to community meals, to meals of the
imprisoned and detained, to dinners shared with the
home-bound, and even to coffee with friends. Wherever two
or three are gathered, Christ is present. When we show
hospitality to strangers, we entertain the Holy- for our tables
should be like God's table: Open to all - friends, strangers and
everyone in between.

One: May the peace of the Lord be with you always.

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

All: Loving God, recalling Christ's gracious life and death, and proclaiming the resurrection, we offer this bread and cup. Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts, that they may be for us the body and blood of Christ Jesus, and being built up by this precious sacrament of grace, we may receive the gift of eternal life in the blessed and heavenly realm.

One: We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, praying the prayer taught to the disciples:

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, poured out for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Distribution of the Bread and Cup: An Usher will invite you forward to be served Communion at the Table. If you would prefer to be served at your seat please notify the Usher.

COMMUNION TAIZÉ:

Let all who are thirsty come, let all who wish receive the water of life freely.

Amen, come Lord Jesus, amen, come Lord Jesus.

One: Let us pray.

All: Gracious God, we thank you for refreshing us at your table. May we who share Christ's bread live his risen life. May we who drink Christ's cup bring abundant life to others. May the Holy Spirit who lights the world also enlighten our lives. Strengthen in us the hope you set before us, so that we and all your children shall be free, and so that the whole earth may live to praise your name. Amen.

THE THANKSGIVING

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

CHORAL CALL TO PRAYER:

Hear Our Prayer, O Lord. D. Welpton

PASTOR'S PRAYER~

CHORAL RESPONSE TO PRAYER

*Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace,
Whose mind is stayed on thee.*

Scottish Psalter, 1615

THE DEPARTURE

HYMN*

O for a World

NCH 575

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

❖ END OF SERVICE ❖