



The _____
First Congregational Church
of Woodstock _____

*Declaring, "Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today,
and forever." Hebrews 13:8*

January 1st, 2023

The Order of Morning Worship

January 1st. 2023

Ten-thirty

Welcome & Announcements

Elder Dennis Snider

Prelude & Silent Prayer

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|---------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| ❖ Call to Worship | Psalm 34 | Elder |
| ❖ Hymn of Exultation | <i>We Three Kings</i> | Congregation |
| Scriptural Call to Repentance | Isaiah 55:6-7 | Elder |
| Prayer of Collective Confession | Psalm 25 | Congregation |

Be mindful of Your mercy, O Lord, and of Your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. Do not remember the sins of our youth or our transgressions; according to Your steadfast love remember us, for Your goodness' sake, O Lord! Good and upright is the Lord; therefore He instructs sinners in the way. For Your name's sake, O Lord, pardon our guilt, for it is great. Turn to us and be gracious to us, for we are lonely and afflicted. Relieve the troubles of our hearts, and bring us out of our distress. Consider our affliction and our trouble, and forgive all our sins.

Silent Reflection and Confession

Proclamation of Forgiveness Colossians 2:13-14 Elder

Pastoral Prayer Elder

Offering (collected from back to front) Congregation

Affirmation of Faith *The Apostles' Creed* Congregation

Elder: Christian, what do you believe concerning God, the Father?

Congregation: I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

Elder: What do you believe concerning Jesus?

Congregation: I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and buried; He descended into hell.

The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

Elder: Christian, what do you believe concerning the Holy Spirit and His work?

Congregation: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic¹ church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

❖ Creedal Song #731	<i>Doxology</i>	Congregation
❖ Scripture Reading	Ephesians 4:1-16	Elder
❖ Hymn of Reflection	<i>Psalm 72</i>	Congregation
The Sermon	Psalm 72:8-11	Pastor Doug Warren
	<i>“The King’s Dominion”</i>	
❖ Hymn of Response #218	<i>Angels, From the Realms of Glory</i>	Congregation
Communion		Congregation
❖ Communion Hymn #203	<i>Hark! the Herald Angels Sing</i>	Congregation
❖ Benediction	Romans 15:13	Pastor

The Congregation may be seated after the Benediction for silent prayer.

Postlude

~~ Organist: Jonathan Denham ~~

~~ Please ensure cell phones are off ~~

Prelude: Once in Royal David's City (Howell)

Offertory: Creator of the Stars of Night (Latin, 9th cent.)

Postlude: The First Nowell (Phillips)

¹ The term “catholic” is used here in its generic sense of the universal church, not to refer to a denomination.

The King's Dominion

How Does Messiah Sing This Song of Praise?

May the King Subdue All His and Our Enemies (8).

May All the King's Enemies Be Subdued (9-11).

May We Joyfully Submit to the King of Kings.

Re-read (sing) with This *Christ-Centered* Understanding.

Application— Joyfully Submit to Christ in Every Aspect of Life!

CONCLUSION: As we begin this new year, no amount of resolutions will change our stubborn rebellion against King Jesus. But submitting our wills to the leading of the Holy Spirit through Christ's Word of the Scripture by faith is the way Jesus has designed for us to be transformed by His grace. Let us join together in joyfully submitting to the Lordship of King Jesus. Let us conform our everyday thoughts, words, and actions to His in order to demonstrate the heart change He has made within us and so joyfully bow before our King!

Psalm 72:8-11 ESV

- ⁸ May **He** have **dominion** from *sea to sea*,
and from *the River to the ends of the earth!*
- ⁹ May desert tribes bow down before **Him**,
and **His** enemies lick the dust!
- ¹⁰ May the kings of Tarshish and of the coastlands
render **Him** tribute;
may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts!
- ¹¹ May all kings fall down before **Him**,

The Celebration of Christmas—December 25-January 6

The season of Christmas *starts Christmas morning and runs through the Feast of the Epiphany* (January 6th) that is the traditional celebration of the wise men coming to worship Christ as King. Whereas Advent's emphasis is *longing for Christ's next coming* and fasting over our sin, traditionally the focus through the twelve days of Christmas and Epiphany is on celebration and feasting since Christ has come.

The **Eighth** Day of CHRISTMAS Sunday—January 1

Please **join together with God's people in gathered worship** either in-person or by participating in the live-stream (www.fccw.net).

READ: Matthew 5:21-48; Psalm 72:8-11.

DISCUSS: How are you responding today to Christ's redemption?

SING: *What Child Is This?*

PRAY: "God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, You have promised from of old that You would send a Redeemer for Your people. We praise and thank You for Your faithfulness in that redemption. Transform our hearts, make us joyful people because of Your steadfast love. Make our feet willingly run to You. Give our tongues boldness in proclaiming Your grace. Lead us more and more so that we can see Your face. Amen."

The **Ninth** Day of CHRISTMAS Monday—January 2

READ: Isaiah 60:1-7; Psalm 72:8-11.

DISCUSS: What stands out to you about the Lord's prayer? How can praying it demonstrate faith in Christ? How can praying it be something else? Why?

SING: *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*

PRAY: "God of our fathers, we praise You for the miracle of the incarnation. Jesus, we thank You for becoming a man to set us free. Holy Spirit, we rejoice in Your supernatural power and we pray that You would work in us to declare the glory of Christ to our neighbors, coworkers, and friends."

The **Tenth** Day of CHRISTMAS
Tuesday—January 3

READ: Psalm 72:8-11; Matthew 6:16-24.

DISCUSS: What role do the nations play in redemption?

SING: *Angels We Have Heard on High*

PRAY: “Glory to God in the highest! You are worthy of all our praise.” Now thank Him for specific ways in which He is worth all of your praise!

The **Eleventh** Day of CHRISTMAS
Wednesday— January 4

READ: Isaiah 60:1-7; Matthew 6:25-34; Psalm 72:8-11.

DISCUSS: How do you see Jesus providing everything we need?

SING: *Angels We Have Heard on High and Good Christian Men, Rejoice!*

PRAY: “Glorious God, we praise You for giving us the Light of the world. Lord Christ, we do believe in Your name. It is through Your name that we are made children of God, co-heirs with You. We worship and adore You.”

The **Twelfth** Day of CHRISTMAS
Thursday—January 5

READ: Isaiah 42:1-9; Acts 2:1-12; Psalm 72:8-11.

DISCUSS: How did Jesus bringing the Holy Spirit fulfill the promise of God?

SING: *Angels We Have Heard on High and Good Christian Men, Rejoice!*

PRAY: “Glorious God, thank You for giving us Your Holy Spirit and for dwelling together with us as You promised.”

The Feast of the Epiphany—Friday, January 6
Messiah Worshipped by Gentiles

READ ALOUD: Matthew 2:1-12

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

““And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.””

Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.” After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

The promise of redemption had been given time and again to God’s people. He chose to work through the nation of Israel *in order to bless all the nations of the world.* Read God’s promise given to Abraham in Genesis 12:1-3.

Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

SING: *Good Christian Men, Rejoice!*

DISCUSS: What is the significance of Gentiles coming to praise the King of Israel?

PRAY: Thank the Lord for sovereignly ruling and reigning over all nations.

FEAST: Enjoy a special meal as a thanksgiving offering to the King of Kings

Saturday—January 7

READ: Revelation 11:1-19.

DISCUSS: How can we encourage one another to trust Christ in our daily lives?

SING: *Angels We Have Heard on High*

PRAY: “Glory to God in the highest! You are worthy of all our praise.” Now thank Him for specific ways in which He is worth all of your praise!