



The _____
First Congregational Church
_____ of Woodstock _____

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

January 8th, 2023

Deacons' Offering	(collected from back to front)	Congregation
❖ Creedal Song #735	<i>Gloria Patri</i>	Congregation
❖ Scripture Reading	Matthew 9:9-13	Elder
❖ Hymn of Reflection	<i>Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery</i>	Congregation
The Sermon	Luke 15:1-10; 19:5-10 <i>"Jesus Loves the Lost"</i>	Rev. John Meinen
❖ Hymn of Response #498	<i>Jesus! What a Friend for Sinners</i>	Congregation
❖ Benediction	2 Thessalonians 2:16-17	Rev. Meinen

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

Postlude

~~ Organist: Jonathan Denham ~~

~~ Please ensure cell phones are off ~~

Prelude: How Bright Shinerh the Day-Star! (Dupre)

Offertory: Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern (J. C. Bach)

Deacon's Offering: Behold What Manner of Love (Patricia Van Tyne)

Postlude: Exultemus (Rawsthorne)

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 Young Adult Fellowship Group will meet tonight  
 at 6 pm in the church library.  
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 The January Prayer letter is available in the narthex.  
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## Deacons' Offering – Today, January 8<sup>th</sup>

Our church receives many requests for help from not just within our church body but the community at large. The deacons have a great many opportunities to share God's love with folks in need, whether it is paying a bill for them or buying them a pair of glasses. This is a vital ministry that our church has to reach into our communities and share the gospel in a loving, gracious way. If you are in need or know someone who is, please contact Dan Bruce, the Deacons' Mercy Minister at home (802) 457-3975, at his cell number (802) 345-8870, or email him at [rhondan08@myfairpoint.net](mailto:rhondan08@myfairpoint.net).

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Guest Preacher—Rev. John Meinen

John Meinen is the campus minister for Reformed University Fellowship (RUF) at the University of Vermont (UVM). RUF seeks to reach students with the good news of Jesus and equip them to love and serve Christ, his church, and his world the whole of their lives.

John is a graduate of the University of Colorado at Boulder ('04) and Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary ('12). Before starting RUF at UVM, John served low-income entrepreneurs in the Bay Area, studied microfinance in Bangladesh, led backpacking trips for Outward Bound, and completed a year-long fellowship program in the nation's capital. His wife, Megan, is the Director for UVM's Adventure Ropes Course. John and Megan live near the UVM campus with their two children, Willa and JB. They love sharing meals with friends, watching nature documentaries, and playing outside. If you want to know more about the ministry of RUF at UVM, please don't hesitate to contact John via email (john.meinen@ruf.org) or by cell (802.922.4202). You can also visit www.rufuvm.org.

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### **Matthew 9:9-13**

<sup>9</sup> As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called *Matthew* sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, “*Follow me.*” And he rose and followed him.

<sup>10</sup> And as Jesus reclined at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were reclining with Jesus and his disciples. <sup>11</sup> And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” <sup>12</sup> But when he heard it, he said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. <sup>13</sup> Go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.’ *For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.*” (Emphasis added)

### **Luke 19:41-44**

<sup>41</sup> And when Jesus drew near and saw the city, *he wept over it*, <sup>42</sup> saying, “Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. <sup>43</sup> For the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up a barricade around you and surround you and hem you in on every side <sup>44</sup> and tear you down to the ground, you and your children within you. And they will not leave one stone upon another in you, because you did not know the time of your visitation.”

### **Hebrews 4:14-16**

<sup>14</sup> Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. <sup>15</sup> For we do not have a high priest who is unable to *sympathize with our weaknesses*, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. <sup>16</sup> Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

### **Isaiah 63:7-9**

<sup>7</sup> I will recount *the steadfast love of the Lord*, the praises of the Lord, according to all that the Lord has granted us,

and the great goodness to the house of Israel that he has granted them *according to his compassion, according to the abundance of his steadfast love.*

<sup>8</sup> For he said, “Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely.”

And he became their Savior.

<sup>9</sup> In all their affliction *he was afflicted*, and the angel of his presence saved them; *in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.*

### **Matthew 15:24-28**

<sup>24</sup> Jesus answered, “I was sent only to *the lost sheep of the house of Israel.*” <sup>25</sup> But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” <sup>26</sup> And he answered, “It is not right to take the children’s bread and throw it to the dogs.” <sup>27</sup> She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” <sup>28</sup> Then Jesus answered her, “O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire.” And her daughter was healed instantly.

# Taking Gathered Worship Home

Christ has redeemed us out of sin and death so that we might be like Him in righteousness and together with Him, His Father, and the Holy Spirit. One of the primary ways we are being made like Jesus is through and for our love for the lost. This week let us consider together what that means.

*Please use the devotional material below each day this week to praise Christ. Ask Jesus to teach us His ways that we may walk in them to accomplish His purposes.*

## Sunday Morning

READ **Luke 15:1-10; 19:5-10; Matthew 9:9-13; Luke 19:41-44; Hebrews 4:14-16; Isaiah 63:7-9.** DISCUSS How do these passages demonstrate Christ's love for the lost? Who are the lost? Why? How are the lost found? MEDITATE on **Luke 19:10.** PRAY "Jesus, thank You for loving us even when we were lost in our sin and hatred of You and all that is right. Enable us to love those who are lost like we were."

## Sunday Evening

The *Young Adults' Fellowship* will meet at **6pm** in the FCCW Library.

## Monday

READ **Luke 15:1-10; 19:5-10; Matthew 9:9-13.** DISCUSS How do we see Christ's love for the lost in His calling a tax collector like Matthew? How were tax collectors different then? How did the Pharisees respond to Jesus loving the lost? How do we? SERVE by putting someone else's interests *above your own!* MEDITATE on **Luke 19:10.** PRAY, "Father, make us more like Christ. Enable us to love others as You love us."

## Tuesday

READ **Luke 15:1-10; 19:5-10; 41-44; Matthew 15:21-28.** DISCUSS Why did Jesus weep over Jerusalem? How were the people of Jerusalem lost? Can you be part of God's people and still be lost? SERVE by considering someone else's needs *above your own!* MEDITATE on **Luke 19:10.** PRAY, "Jesus, You have pursued us despite our rebellion against You. Empower us to pursue our lost neighbors as You have taken the initiative with us."

### Wednesday

READ **Luke 15:1-10; 19:5-10; Hebrews 4:14-16**. DISCUSS How did Christ sympathize with our weaknesses? How are you (we) demonstrating the same compassion with our neighbors, coworkers, and lost family members? How do you need to repent? SERVE by *caring about someone else* more than yourself! MEDITATE on **Luke 19:10**. PRAY, “Lord, change our hearts so that we might be compassionate like You.”

### Thursday

READ **Luke 15:1-10; 19:5-10; Isaiah 63:7-9**. DISCUSS How has God demonstrated His steadfast love for the lost? SERVE by putting someone else’s interests *above your own!* MEDITATE on **Luke 19:10**. PRAY, “Lord, You give us all that we have. You are forever kind and gracious to Your people. Please receive our humble gratitude and forgive us our presumption.”

### Friday

READ **Luke 15:1-10; 19:5-10; Matthew 9:9-13; Luke 19:41-44; Hebrews 4:14-16; Isaiah 63:7-9**. DISCUSS, What have you been learning from these passages? How has God been present with you in His Word this week? What do you need to change as a result? MEDITATE on **Luke 19:10**. PRAY that we at FCCW would *honor Christ in all that we think, say, and do*.

### Saturday

PREPARE for gathered worship *tomorrow*. READ **Psalm 100:1-5**. Invite others to join you tomorrow for the *worship service @ 10:30*. Ask Jesus to *help us praise Him as we gather*.

## Luke 19:10

“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”