



The _____
First Congregational Church
_____ of Woodstock _____

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

February 4th, 2024
Communion Sunday

The Order of Morning Worship

February 4th, 2024

Ten-thirty

Welcome & Announcements

Elder Stephen Briggs

Prelude & Silent Prayer

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| ❖ Call to Worship | Romans 5:1-5 | Elder |
| ❖ Hymn of Exultation #100 | <i>Holy, Holy, Holy</i> | Congregation |
| Scriptural Call to Repentance | based on Amos 5 | Elder |
| Prayer of Collective Confession | | Congregation |

Triune God, we humble ourselves before You. There is no one like You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. You are perfectly holy and in You there is no shadow of evil. We confess that we are stained with guilt and our hearts wander far from You. Hear our cry for mercy, Lord, we pray, and forgive our many sins.

Silent Reflection and Confession

Proclamation of Forgiveness based on Romans 8:15-17 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	Psalm 27:1-14	Elder
❖ Hymn of Reflection #529	<i>Love Divine, All Loves Excelling</i>	Congregation
The Sermon	Colossians 1:15-20	Pastor Doug Warren
	<i>“God’s Overflowing Delight and Beauty”</i>	
❖ Hymn of Response #295	<i>Crown Him With Many Crowns</i>	Congregation
Communion		Congregation
❖ Communion Hymn	<i>Behold the Lamb</i>	Congregation
❖ Benediction	2 Corinthians 13:14	Pastor

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

Postlude

~~ Organist: Jonathan Denham ~~

~~ Please ensure cell phones are off ~~

Prelude: Five Short Settings of the Tune "Amazing Grace" (Haan)

Offertory: Creation Sings (Townend/Getty/Larson)

Postlude: O God Beyond All Praising (Cherwien)

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**The February Prayer Letter is available on the back table.**  
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¹ The term “catholic” is used here in its generic sense of the universal church, not to refer to a denomination.

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## Save the Date!

**Sunday, February 11, 5 pm** — Young Adult Fellowship and Super Bowl Party

**Sunday, February 18** — Visit from Teen Challenge Women's Ministry

**Friday, March 8, 6:30-8:00 pm** — Concert of Prayer

**Sunday, March 31** — Easter

**Saturday, April 20, 5:30-8:00 pm** — Community Barn Dance & Potluck

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Young Adult Fellowship Group will meet tonight
at 6 pm in the church library.

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## Young Adult Fellowship & Super Bowl Party

The Young Adult Fellowship Group will meet next Sunday, February 11, at 5 pm at Karis's house. We will eat, sing, and study God's Word together. All are welcome to stay after and watch the Super Bowl.

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Nursery Staff Position

We are looking to hire someone to hire as our Nursery Attendant. Please join us in praying for the Lord to raise up a mature, responsible adult (18+) who loves Jesus and children and who would be the anchor for caring for the little ones on Sunday mornings, assisted by volunteers from the congregation. Please contact Kristen Warren at fccwinfo@gmail.com for more details or to submit an application. Thank you.

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## Concert of Prayer

Calling all members and regular attenders of FCCW! We will be gathering Friday night, March 8, at 6:30 pm for a concert of prayer. Our focus will be asking the Lord to guide us as we reach out together by faith in Christ. We want to love our neighbors faithfully in word and deed to the honor of Jesus. This evening of prayer should be a great time in God's presence together with praise music and prayer.

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## Community Barn Dance & Potluck

Come to a community barn dance on April 20 at First Congregational Church of Woodstock!

Come sample the hilarity and joy of moving through simple figures with neighbors in your community. Singles, couples, and children are all welcome. All dances taught in a walk through by dance leader Ruth Holleran (aka "Hootin' and Holleran"). No experience necessary. Smiles guaranteed!

Dance to the New England fiddle music of stellar contradance band recordings. These are the dances and fiddle tunes that have survived in rural pockets of New England from the days of English, Irish, and French-Canadian settlers. Foot-tapping good, they support upbeat cardio exercise and a cheerful social experience. Come join us for an evening of fun doing circles, easy contras, longways reels, and more!

Potluck at 5:30 (food supplied by the church), Dance 6:30 - 8:00 pm

Wear comfortable clothes and shoes. Chairs will also be available if you want to observe!

Bring your water bottle and invite your friends to this fun and free event!

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Weekly Gathering Opportunities

Sundays, 6:00 pm — Young Adult Fellowship Group in the library

Tuesdays, 7:00 am — Middle School & High School Bible Study—meet at Maplefields to grab breakfast, then on to the church for study, discussion, and prayer.

Tuesdays, 10:00 am — Ladies' Bible Study meets in person at the Thompson Senior Center and via ZOOM, please contact Bonnie Atwood at (802) 457-4120 or email bonhope2@gmail.com.

Tuesdays, 6:00 pm — Prayer Meeting, in person in the library and via ZOOM

Wednesdays, 6:15 am — Men's Bible Study, in person in the library and via ZOOM, please contact Dick Atwood at (802) 457-4120 or email rbatwood1@gmail.com.

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## **Theological Series—Our Triune God of Love**

10:30 am Worship Service: *Colossians 1:15-20; Psalm 27:1-14; 104:1-35*

### **God's Overflowing Delight and Beauty**

*The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit have made a beautiful Creation  
for us to enjoy with them.*

**1. All of Creation Testifies to God's Beauty (Colossians 1).**

**2. Our Triune God Is Captivatingly Beautiful (Psalm 27).**

**3. God Has Freed Us to Delight in His Splendor (Psalm 104).**

Conclusion: God is perfectly beautiful. All three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are eternally united yet diverse. The Creation that they together have brought into existence proclaims this glorious splendor and calls all who perceive it to give praise to the Lord. They have accomplished our redemption to free us to enjoy the New Heaven and New Earth together with them and one another forever. Let us delight together in our great God and enjoy His Creation to His glory!

## **Psalm 27:4**

One thing have I asked of the LORD,  
that will I seek after:  
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD  
all the days of my life,  
to gaze upon *the beauty of the LORD*  
and to inquire in his temple.

## **Romans 8:19-25**

For the **creation** waits with eager longing for the *revealing of the sons of God*.<sup>20</sup> For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope<sup>21</sup> that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.<sup>22</sup> For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now.<sup>23</sup> And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.<sup>24</sup> *For in this hope we were saved*. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees?<sup>25</sup> But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

## **Genesis 1:1-5**

In the beginning, *God* created the heavens and the earth.<sup>2</sup> The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the *Spirit of God* was hovering over the *face of the waters*.

<sup>3</sup> And *God said*, "Let there be light," and there was light.<sup>4</sup> And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness.<sup>5</sup> God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

## **Mark 1:9-11**

<sup>9</sup> In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.<sup>10</sup> And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove.<sup>11</sup> And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

# Taking Gathered Worship Home

Throughout the Bible God reveals Himself as the Creator of all that there is and the Redeemer of His people. Both of these accomplishments (creation and redemption) demonstrate God's incomparable beauty. The fullness of God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is at work in both and enable us to join in God's eternal love.

*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 **Colossians 1:15-20; Psalm 27:1-14; 36:5-9; 104:1-35; Romans 8:19-25; Genesis 1:1-4; Mark 1:9-11.** DISCUSS What is the most beautiful aspect of God to you? Why? How do you see His beauty reflected in Creation? How are you praising Him for it? SERVE someone in need. MEDITATE on **Psalm 27:4.** PRAY "Triune God, You are all beautiful. Make us more and more desirous of You."

## Sunday Evening

GATHER for Young Adult Bible Study and Fellowship at 6pm.

## Monday

READ **Colossians 1:15-20; Psalm 27:1-14.** DISCUSS What does it mean for Jesus to be the "firstborn of all creation?" What difference does it make that all that was made was by Him, through Him, and for Him? SERVE by putting someone else's interests *above your own!* MEDITATE **Psalm 27:4.** PRAY, "Father God, You have testified to Your love of Your Son with the magnificence of the galaxies. Teach us to treat Creation as the tribute You intended."

## Tuesday

READ **Colossians 1:15-20; Psalm 36:5-9.** DISCUSS How do the heavens reflect His faithfulness? What about the deep speaks about God's beauty? Why has God blessed sinners with the blessings of Creation? SERVE by considering someone else's needs *above your own!* MEDITATE on **Psalm 27:4.** PRAY, "Lord Jesus, we see *Your faithfulness all around and most clearly on the cross.* Enable us to honor You in the way we steward Creation and delight in what You have made."



### Wednesday

READ **Colossians 1:15-20; Psalm 104:1-35; Romans 8:19-25**. DISCUSS God speaks about Creation as clothing that adorns His beauty. How does this image help you? SERVE by *caring about someone else* more than yourself! MEDITATE on **Psalm 27:4**. PRAY, “Holy Spirit, thank You for renewing the ground and bringing life in so many amazing ways! Enable us to praise You.”

### Thursday

READ **Romans 8:19-25; Genesis 1:1-4; Mark 1:9-11**. DISCUSS What similarities do you see between Creation and Christ’s baptism? Do you see all three members of the Trinity? SERVE by putting someone else’s interests *above your own*! MEDITATE on **Psalm 27:4**. PRAY, “Triune God, thank You for the generous way You love us and surround us with Your beauty.”

### Friday

READ **Colossians 1:15-20; Psalm 27:1-14; 36:5-9; 104:1-35; Romans 8:19-25; Genesis 1:1-4; Mark 1:9-11**. DISCUSS, What has the Holy Spirit been teaching you this week through these passages? MEDITATE on **Psalm 27:4**. PRAY that we at FCCW would *be transformed together by God’s self-giving love and beauty*.

### Saturday

PREPARE for *gathered worship tomorrow*. READ **Mark 1:1-45**. Invite others to join you tomorrow for the *worship service @ 10:30*. Ask Jesus to *reveal Himself to us in His Word by His Spirit*.

## Key Verses — *God is three in one*

“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is *one*. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.”  
—**Deuteronomy 6:4-5**

The grace of the **Lord Jesus Christ** and the love of **God** and the fellowship of the **Holy Spirit** be with you all.”  
—**Second Corinthians 13:14**