



The _____
First Congregational Church
of Woodstock _____

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

February 18th, 2024

The Order of Morning Worship

February 18th, 2024

Ten-thirty

Welcome & Announcements

Pastor Doug Warren

Moment for Missions

Teen Challenge Women

Prelude & Silent Prayer

❖ Call to Worship from Psalm 19 Pastor

❖ Hymn of Exultation #44 *How Great Thou Art* Congregation

Scriptural Call to Repentance Habakkuk 2:14, 18-20 Pastor

Prayer of Collective Confession from Psalm 25 Congregation

Remember Your mercy, O LORD, and Your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. Remember not the sins of our youth or our transgressions; according to Your steadfast love remember us, for the sake of Your goodness, O LORD! 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. The troubles of our hearts are enlarged; bring us out of our distresses. Consider our affliction and our trouble, and forgive all our sins.

Silent Reflection and Confession

Proclamation of Forgiveness Romans 8:1 Pastor

Pastoral Prayer Pastor

Offering (collected from back to front) Congregation

Testimony of Faith

❖ Creedal Song *Barocha* Congregation

❖ Scripture Reading Exodus 6:1-9 Pastor

❖ Hymn of Reflection #600 *He Leadeth Me* Congregation

The Sermon Mark 1:1-20 Pastor

"His Kingdom Is Now"

❖ Hymn of Response #501 *Just As I Am* 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: Fanfare (Cooman)
Offertory: (Adult and Teen Challenge)
Postlude: Fugue in D Major (J. S. Bach)*

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**Covered Dish Lunch Today**

Join us for a covered dish lunch after the service today as we enjoy a time of fellowship with the Teen Challenge women.

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Young Adult Fellowship Group will meet tonight at 6 pm

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**Save the Date!**

**Today! 12:00** — Covered dish lunch with the Teen Challenge Women

**Sunday, February 25, 12:30-1:30 pm** — Q & A with Pastor Doug

**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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Q & A with Pastor Doug

Next Sunday, February 25, there will be a Question and Answer time with Pastor Doug. He will give an update about the classes he is taking through The Master's Seminary and will answer questions about the classes and their content.

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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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## Deacons' Fund

The Deacons' Fund enables the deacons to minister to and provide assistance to people in need, both within our congregation as well as in the broader community. While the deacons never provide money, they do help with things like, but not limited to, gas and grocery cards, rental assistance, auto repairs, and help with medical bills. Due to increased need the Deacons' Fund balance is extremely low. We are asking for your prayers for wisdom and stewardship as well as your consideration of making a donation to the Deacons' Fund to allow us to continue to meet the growing need in our community. Your assistance is greatly appreciated!

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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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Nursery Staff Position

We are looking to hire someone 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. For more information or to apply, please contact Karl Huck at karlhuck@gmail.com. Thank you.

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The February Prayer Letter is available on the back table.

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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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## Exodus 6:1-9

But the LORD said to Moses, “Now you shall see what I will do to Pharaoh; for with a strong hand he will send them out, and with a strong hand he will drive them out of his land.”<sup>2</sup> God spoke to Moses and said to him, “I am the LORD .<sup>3</sup> I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as God Almighty, but by my name the LORD I did not make myself known to them.<sup>4</sup> I also established my covenant with them to give them the land of Canaan, the land in which they lived as sojourners.<sup>5</sup> Moreover, I have heard the groaning of the people of Israel whom the Egyptians hold as slaves, and I have remembered my covenant.<sup>6</sup> Say therefore to the people of Israel, ‘I am the LORD , and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from slavery to them, and *I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great acts of judgment.*<sup>7</sup> I will take you to be my people, and I will be your God, and you shall know that I am the LORD your God, who has brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.<sup>8</sup> I will bring you into the land that I swore to give to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. I will give it to you for a possession. I am the LORD .’”<sup>9</sup> Moses spoke thus to the people of Israel, but they did not listen to Moses, because of their broken spirit and harsh slavery.

## Amos 4:1-3

“Hear this word, you cows of Bashan, who are on the mountain of Samaria, who oppress the poor, who crush the needy,

who say to your husbands, ‘Bring, that we may drink!’

<sup>2</sup> The *Lord God has sworn* by his holiness that, behold, *the days are coming upon you*, when *they shall take you away with hooks*, even the last of you with *fishhooks*.

<sup>3</sup> And you shall go out through the breaches, each one straight ahead; and you shall be cast out into Harmon,” declares the LORD .

## Hebrews 3:1-11

Therefore, holy brothers, you who share in a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession,<sup>2</sup> who was faithful to him who appointed him, just as Moses also was faithful in all God’s house.<sup>3</sup> For Jesus has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses—as much more glory as the builder of a house has more honor than the house itself.<sup>4</sup> (For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.)<sup>5</sup> Now Moses was faithful in all God's house as a servant, to testify to the things that were to be spoken later,<sup>6</sup> *but Christ is faithful over God's house as a son*. And we are his house, if indeed we hold fast our confidence and our boasting in our hope.

<sup>7</sup> Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says, “Today, if you hear his voice,

<sup>8</sup> do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, *on the day of testing in the wilderness*,

<sup>9</sup> where your fathers put me to the test and saw my works for *forty years*.

<sup>10</sup> Therefore I was provoked with that generation, and said,

‘They always go astray in their heart; they have not known my ways.’

<sup>11</sup> As I swore in my wrath, ‘They shall not enter my rest.’”

# Taking Gathered Worship Home

The Good News is that the King of Justice and Mercy has come as He promised. He has brought both deliverance for the captive and defeat for the captor. Jesus is the fulfillment of the Gospel of God.

*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 **Mark 1:12-20; Exodus 6:1-9; Hebrews 3:1-4; Amos 4:1-3; 1 Corinthians 15:42-49; Psalm 21:1-13.** DISCUSS What do these actions of Jesus reveal about who He is? Why is His identity so significant? What time is it now that this One has arrived doing these things? How are you responding? SERVE someone in need. MEDITATE on **1 Corinthians 15:56-58.** PRAY “Father God, You know exactly what time it is and what is appropriate at each hour. Thank You for the mercy You have lavished on us, Your people.”

## Sunday Evening

Young Adult Fellowship meets at **6pm** in the church library (back door).

## Monday

READ **Mark 1:12-20; Exodus 6:1-9; Psalm 21:1-13.** DISCUSS When God delivered Israel what did that mean for Egypt? How does the King’s coming bring both deliverance and damnation? SERVE by putting someone else’s interests *above your own!* MEDITATE on **1 Corinthians 15:56-58.** PRAY, “Jesus, Thank You for faithfully coming as You promised. Thank You for *mercy when we deserve judgment.*”

## Tuesday

READ **Mark 1:12-20; Hebrews 3:1-4; 4:5-6; Psalm 21:1-13.** DISCUSS Who failed the test in the wilderness? Who passed it? SERVE by considering someone else’s needs *above your own!* MEDITATE on **1 Corinthians 15:56-58.** PRAY, “Lord Jesus, thank You for conquering where we had failed. We praise and adore You, Jesus!”



### Wednesday

READ **Mark 1:12-20; Amos 4:1-3; Psalm 21:1-13**. DISCUSS How is the imagery for fishing used in the Bible? SERVE by *caring about someone else* more than yourself! MEDITATE on **1 Corinthians 15:56-58**. PRAY, “Holy Spirit, thank You for giving us eyes to see and ears to hear the wonder of the gospel of the Kingdom of God!”

### Thursday

READ **Mark 1:12-20; 1 Corinthians 15:42-49; Psalm 21:1-13**. DISCUSS Who is the last Adam? How has He rescued us? SERVE by putting someone else’s interests *above your own!* MEDITATE on **1 Corinthians 15:56-58**. PRAY, “Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we praise You for Your work in our salvation!”

### Friday

READ **Mark 1:12-20; Exodus 6:1-9; Hebrews 3:1-4; Amos 4:1-3; 1 Corinthians 15:42-49; Psalm 21:1-13**. DISCUSS, What has the Holy Spirit been teaching you this week through these passages? MEDITATE on **1 Corinthians 15:56-58**. PRAY that we at FCCW would *be transformed together by God’s Word through Mark*.

### 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*.

## Meditate on this—1 Corinthians 15:56-58

“The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But *thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ*. Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that *in the Lord* your labor is not in vain.”