



The \_\_\_\_\_  
First Congregational Church  
of Woodstock \_\_\_\_\_

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

*March 14th, 2021*

# *The Order of Morning Worship*

*For assistance as we “gather” remotely and in-person to worship together.*

March 14th, 2021

Ten-thirty

Welcome

Pastor Doug Warren

Easter Offering Announcement

Tom Emery

Prelude & Silent Prayer

❖ Call to Worship

Isaiah 86

Pastor: We will praise you, O Lord our God, with our whole hearts; we will glorify your name forever; for you have delivered us from the power of death.

**Congregation: Bring joy to your servants, O Lord, for to you we lift up our souls. There is none like you; no deeds can compare with yours.**

Pastor: All the nations you have made will come and worship before you. They will bring glory to your name, for you alone are God.

**Congregation: Teach us now your way, O Lord, and we will live in your truth. Give us undivided hearts that we may fear and praise your great name.**

❖ Hymn of Exultation

Number 457

*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

# Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

457

Samuel ... named it Ebenezer, saying, "Thus far has the LORD helped us." 1 Sam. 7:12

Γ D A<sup>7</sup> D A G D A<sup>7</sup> D

1. Come, thou fount of ev - 'ry bless - ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
 2. Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer; hith - er by thy help - I'm come;  
 3. O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con - strained to be;

A<sup>7</sup> D A D G D A<sup>7</sup> D

streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.  
 and I hope, by thy good plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.  
 let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan - d'ring heart to thee.

A<sup>7</sup> D G D A<sup>7</sup> D G D

Teach me some me - lo - dious son - net, sung by flam - ing tongues a - bove;  
 Je - sus sought me when a strang - er, wan - d'ring from the fold of God:  
 Prone to wan - der—Lord, I feel it—prone to leave the God I love:

A<sup>7</sup> D A Γ D G D A<sup>7</sup> D Γ

praise the mount! I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un - chang - ing love.  
 he, to res - cue me from dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.  
 here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts a - bove.

## Scriptural Call to Repentance

Psalm 46: 8 – 9

The nations rage, the kingdoms totter; He utters His voice, the earth melts. The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. Come, behold the works of the LORD, how he has brought desolations on the earth; he breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the chariots with fire.

## Collective Confession

Holy Father, we long to have you change our hearts. We confess to You that we do not obey You as we should. We don't think Your thoughts, speak Your truth, or do the good that You command. We do not love our neighbors as You have loved us. We bend the truth to our own purposes. We harbor bitterness when we don't get our own way. We neglect and leave the oppressed with no defender. We break Your holy law and delight in what You have forbidden. Merciful Lord, we humbly ask that You would forgive us and change our hearts. Conform us to the image of Your Son. Holy Spirit, work in us we pray, that we might be like You.

## Proclamation of Forgiveness

Psalm 130: 3, 7 – 8

If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand? O Israel, put your hope in the Lord, for with the Lord is unfailing love and with Him is full redemption. He Himself will redeem Israel from all their sins.

## Scripture Reading

Luke 16: 10 – 15

<sup>10</sup> “He who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much; and he who is unrighteous in a very little thing is unrighteous also in much. <sup>11</sup> Therefore if you have not been faithful in the *use of* unrighteous wealth, who will entrust the true *riches* to you? <sup>12</sup> And if you have not been faithful in *the use of* that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own? <sup>13</sup> No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

<sup>14</sup> Now the Pharisees, who were lovers of money, were listening to all these things and were scoffing at Him. <sup>15</sup> And He said to them, “You are those who justify yourselves in the sight of men, but God knows your hearts; for that which is highly esteemed among men is detestable in the sight of God.

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.  
**Congregation: Thanks be to God.**

Pastoral Prayer

❖ Hymn of Reflection

*I Need Thee Every Hour*

Number 674

## I Need Thee Every Hour

Hear, O LORD, and answer me, for I am poor and needy. Ps. 86:1

Capo 1: (G)

1. I need thee ev - 'ry hour, most gra - cious Lord;  
 2. I need thee ev - 'ry hour; stay thou near - by;  
 3. I need thee ev - 'ry hour, in joy or pain;  
 4. I need thee ev - 'ry hour; teach me thy will,  
 5. I need thee ev - 'ry hour, Most Ho - ly One;

no ten - der voice like thine can peace af - ford.  
 temp - ta - tions lose their pow'r when thou art nigh.  
 • come quick - ly, and a - bide, or life is vain.  
 and thy rich prom - is - es in me ful - fil.  
 O make me thine in - deed, thou bless - ed Son.

REFRAIN

I need thee, O I need thee, ev - 'ry hour I need thee;

O bless me now, my Sav - ior, I come to thee.

## *“The Greedy Cannot Stand God”*

### Acts 16: 16 – 24

<sup>16</sup>It happened that as we were going to the place of prayer, a slave-girl having a spirit of divination met us, who was bringing her masters much profit by fortune-telling. <sup>17</sup>Following after Paul and us, she kept crying out, saying, “These men are bond-servants of the Most High God, who are proclaiming to you the way of salvation.” <sup>18</sup>She continued doing this for many days. But Paul was greatly annoyed, and turned and said to the spirit, “I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her!” And it came out at that very moment.

<sup>19</sup>But when her masters saw that their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the market place before the authorities, <sup>20</sup>and when they had brought them to the chief magistrates, they said, “These men are throwing our city into confusion, being Jews, <sup>21</sup>and are proclaiming customs which it is not lawful for us to accept or to observe, being Romans.”

<sup>22</sup>The crowd rose up together against them, and the chief magistrates tore their robes off them and proceeded to order *them* to be beaten with rods. <sup>23</sup>When they had struck them with many blows, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to guard them securely; <sup>24</sup>and he, having received such a command, threw them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.

❖ Hymn of Response

Number 691

*It Is Well with My Soul*

## It Is Well with My Soul

*The peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts  
and your minds in Christ Jesus. Phil. 4:7*

1. When peace, like a riv - er, at - tend - eth my way, when sor - rows like  
2. Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, let this blest as -  
3. My sin— O the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought!—my sin, not in  
4. O Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight, the clouds be rolled

sea bil - lows roll; what - ev - er my lot, thou hast taught me to say,  
sur - ance con - trol, that Christ has re - gard - ed my help - less es - tate,  
part, but the whole, is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more;  
back as a scroll, the trump shall re - sound and the Lord shall de - scend,

REFRAIN  
"It is well, it is well with my soul."  
and has shed his own blood for my soul. It is well  
praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! It is well  
"E - ven so"— it is well with my soul.

with my soul; it is well, it is well with my soul.  
with my soul;



Benediction

Jude 24 – 25

Pastor: To Him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before His glorious presence without fault and with great joy—to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forever more.

**Congregation: Thanks be to God. Amen.**

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

Postlude

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*~~ Organist: Jonathan Denham ~~  
~~ Please ensure cell phones are off ~~*

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## Deacons' Offering – Today, March 14

In the month of March, the regular Deacons' offering that will be collected on the second Sunday, March 14, will go towards funding the works of the Community Outreach Team. If you have questions about what the Community Outreach Team will be embarking on for 2021, please speak to a member of the Community Outreach Team – Ruth Brisson, Jeff DeDell, Jennifer Barnes, Hayley Bauer, Keri Bristow, Brenda Byrne, Sheryl Hoehner, or Lisa Kaija.

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## Easter Flowers

Easter plants and flowers always bring beauty to Easter Services. If you would like to share a flowering plant for the Easter service in memory of a loved one and then take it home after to enjoy, please call Carol Powell at 457-3833. Please place your order by March 21, 2021.

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Young Adult Fellowship Group tonight at 6 pm.

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## Easter Services

Thursday, April 1 at 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Observance

Sunday, April 4 – He Is Risen!

7:00 am Sunrise Service on Mount Tom

10:30 am Morning Worship Celebration

Reservations will be required for all services. Please go to [fccw.net/Easter](http://fccw.net/Easter) to reserve your seat.

If you have any question, please contact Terri at [fccwinfo@gmail.com](mailto:fccwinfo@gmail.com) or call 802-457-9818.

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## Drive By Food Drive

The Community Outreach Team needs your help to collect food and then deliver to the Woodstock and Reading Food Bank on Saturday, March 20. We will begin setting up at 9:30 am and hope to deliver the food shortly after 12:00 pm. Come for an hour, come for the whole event! Families are welcome to help. As food is delivered, we will sort it and put on a special sticker. Then we will load it into vehicles and deliver it. Please email or call Keri Bristow to let us know if you can help that day! ([kerilynbristow@gmail.com](mailto:kerilynbristow@gmail.com) or 603-359-3948.)

## Posters Available in the Narthex.

Feel free to share the poster with your friends, family, and on social media.

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## **The Greedy Cannot Stand God**

**1. Paul Is Harassed Many Days By a Demon-Possessed Girl.**

**2. Casting Out Her Demon Costs Her Masters Much Gain.**

**3. The Missionaries Are Beaten with Many Blows.**

**CONCLUSION:** We saw last week how God worked in Lydia and her whole household changed their loyalty to Jesus through receiving baptism into His name. In this passage we see a very different household using slavery for great gain and that responds to the good news of Jesus with violence rather than humility. This contrast helps us to understand the true nature of Christ's Kingdom and the spiritual forces that stand opposed to it. Let us trust Christ with everything and experience the freedom of truly serving Him entirely.

## Luke 16: 10 – 15

“One who is **faithful** in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful in that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own? **No servant can serve two masters**, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.”

The Pharisees, who were **lovers of money**, heard all these things, and they ridiculed him. And he said to them, “You are those who justify yourselves before men, but *God knows your hearts*. For what is exalted among men is an abomination in the sight of God.

## Psalms 10: 1 – 18

Why, O Lord, do you stand far away? Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble?  
In arrogance the wicked hotly pursue the poor;

let them be caught in the schemes that they have devised.

For the wicked boasts of the desires of his soul,

and the one greedy for gain curses and renounces the Lord.

In the pride of his face the wicked does not seek him; all his thoughts are, “*There is no God.*”

His ways prosper at all times; your judgments are on high, out of his sight;  
as for all his foes, he puffs at them.

He says in his heart, “I shall not be moved;

throughout all generations I shall not meet adversity.”

His mouth is filled with cursing and deceit and oppression;

under his tongue are mischief and iniquity.

He sits in ambush in the villages; in hiding places he murders the innocent.

His eyes stealthily watch for the helpless; he lurks in ambush like a lion in his thicket;  
he lurks that he may seize the poor; he seizes the poor when he draws him into his net.

The helpless are crushed, sink down, and fall by his might.

He says in his heart, “God has forgotten, he has hidden his face, he will never see it.”

Arise, O Lord; O God, lift up your hand; forget not the afflicted.

Why does the wicked renounce God and say in his heart, “*You will not call to account?*”

But you do see, for you note mischief and vexation,

that you may take it into your hands; to you the helpless commits himself;

you have been the helper of the fatherless.

Break the arm of the wicked and evildoer; call his wickedness to account till you find none.

The Lord is king forever and ever; the nations perish from his land.

O Lord, you hear the desire of the afflicted; you will strengthen their heart; you will  
incline your ear to do justice to the fatherless and the oppressed,

so that man who is of the earth may strike terror no more.

# Taking Gathered Worship Home

Lydia's trust in Jesus leads her to offer generous hospitality to the missionaries. Here the masters of the slave girl are driven by greed to oppose the gospel and those who bring it just like the demon who brings them much gain.

*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 **Acts 16:16-24; First Timothy 6:6-10; Luke 16:10-15**. DISCUSS, What contrasts do you see between Lydia's faithful household and the slave masters here? How do they each respond to the gospel? PRAY "Jesus, Thank You for being enough for us. You have shown us through Your *faithfulness* that we can trust You totally!"

## Sunday Evening

**Young Adults Fellowship** at **6:00** pm. *Please come to FCCW's Library!*

## Monday

READ **Acts 16:16-24; Gen 14:17-24; Isaiah 14:12-23**. DISCUSS, Over what does the Most High reign? "Day Star" is a title of Satan. How does Satan's envy of God's possessions drive him to rebellion? Contentment is the fruit of trust in Christ. How are you nurturing contentment in your heart? MEDITATE on **First Timothy 6:6-10**. PRAY, "Lord, You are the God Most High. Everything is Yours as it *should* be. Forgive us for wanting more than You have ordained for us."

## Tuesday

READ **Acts 16:16-24; 19:23-28; Esther 3:7-11**. DISCUSS, Both here in Philippi and later in Ephesus greed is concealed by invoking civic pride and blaming the Jews. How are racism and patriotism used to stir up the crowd? MEDITATE on **First Timothy 6:6-10**. PRAY, "Jesus, thank You that You are the Lord of all peoples and Your Kingdom is above every nation. Teach us to act accordingly always."

### Wednesday

READ **Acts 16:16-24; Matthew 6:19-24; Luke 4:31-37**. DISCUSS, How did the demons in this passage react? Why? How do people typically take a threat to their livelihood? How *should* faith in Christ change this? MEDITATE on **First Timothy 6:6-10**. PRAY, “Jesus, equip us for this spiritual battle!”

### Thursday

READ **Acts 16:16-24; Psalm 10:1-18**. DISCUSS, This passage in Acts ends with Paul and Silas in prison. They could certainly relate to Psalm 10. How can we know that “the Lord is King forever” in the midst of His people being beaten and imprisoned? How is our faith in Christ emboldening us now? MEDITATE on **First Timothy 6:6-10**. PRAY, “Lord, enable us to walk in Your ways. Guide us in Your truth.”

### Friday

READ **Acts 16:16-24; First Timothy 6:6-10; Luke 16:10-15**. DISCUSS, How has God been teaching you from these passages this week? MEDITATE on **First Timothy 6:6-10**. PRAY for faithfulness at FCCW and revival throughout the area.

### Saturday

PREPARE today for the worship service tomorrow. *Both live-stream & in-person services are available.*

READ **Acts 15:40-16:40**. Invite others to join you tomorrow for either the *live-stream or in-person service*. Ask Jesus to help us love our neighbors well.

## First Timothy 6: 6 – 10

But godliness with contentment is great gain, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.