



The _____
First Congregational Church
of Woodstock _____

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

March 21st, 2021

The Order of Morning Worship

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

March 21st, 2021

Ten-thirty

Welcome

Pastor Doug Warren

Easter Offering Announcement

Dave Christensen

Prelude & Silent Prayer

❖ Call to Worship

Isaiah 19

Pastor: The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim
the work of His hands.

**Congregation: Day after day they pour forth speech; night after
night they acknowledge His glory.**

Pastor: There is no land or nation where their voice is not heard.

**Congregation: Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to
the ends of the world.**

❖ Hymn of Exultation

Number 53

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

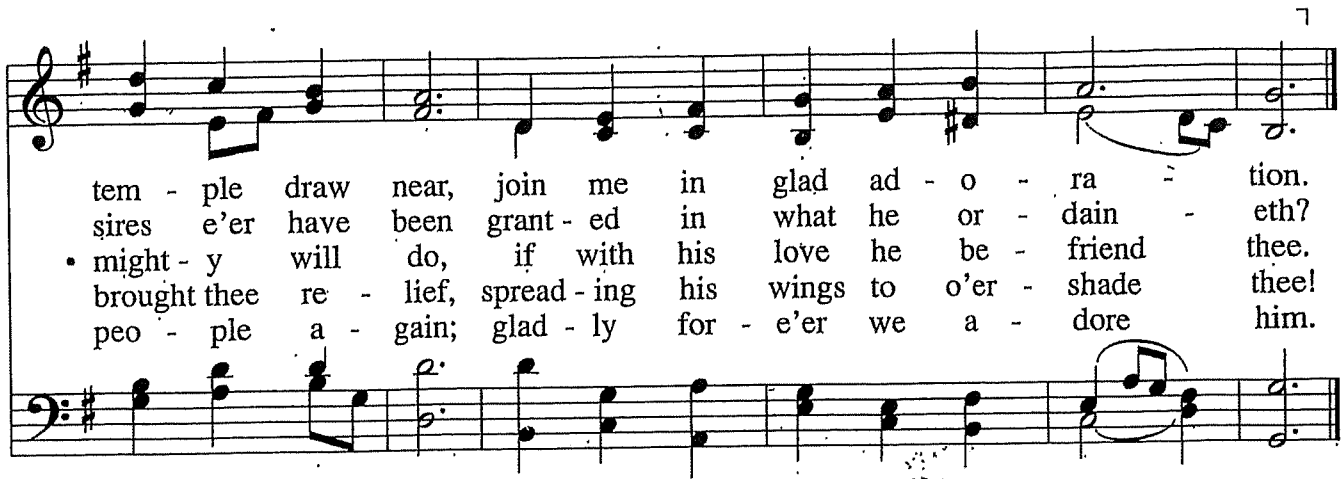
Praise the LORD, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits. Ps. 103:1, 2

1. Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -
 2. Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so won - drous - ly
 3. Praise to the Lord, who doth pros - per thy work and de -
 4. Praise to the Lord, who with mar - yel - ous wis - dom hath
 5. Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a -

a - tion! O my soul, praise him, for he is thy
 reign - eth, shel - ters thee un - der his wings, yea, so
 • fend thee! Sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy here
 made thee, decked thee with health, and with lov - ing hand
 dore him! All that hath life and breath, come now with

health and sal - va - tion! All ye who hear, now to his
 gent - ly sus - tain - eth! Hast thou not seen how thy de -
 • dai - ly at - tend thee; pon - der a - new what the Al -
 guid - ed and stayed thee. How oft in grief hath not he
 prais - es be - fore him! Let the a - men sound from his

7



tem - ple draw near, join me in glad ad - o - ra - tion.
sires e'er have been grant - ed in what he or - dain - eth?
• might - y will do, if with his love he be - friend thee.
brought thee re - lief, spread - ing his wings to o'er - shade thee!
peo - ple a - gain; glad - ly for - e'er we a - dore him.

Based on Psalm 103
Joachim Neander, 1680
Tr. by Catherine Winkworth, 1863; alt. 1990

LOBE DEN HERREN 14.14.4.7.8.
Stralsund Gesangbuch, 1665
Arr. in *Praxis Pietatis Melica*, 1668

Scriptural Call to Repentance

Habakkuk 2: 14, 18 – 20

For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea... “Of what value is an idol, since a man has carved it? Or an image that teaches lies? For he who makes it trusts in his own creation; he makes idols that cannot speak. Woe to him who says to wood, ‘Come to life!’ Or to lifeless stone, ‘Wake up!’ Can it give guidance? It is covered with gold and silver; there is no breath in it. But the LORD is in his holy temple; let all the earth be silent before him.”

Collective Confession

Psalm 25

Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your goodness, O LORD! For your name's sake, O LORD, pardon my guilt, for it is great. Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and afflicted. The troubles of my heart are enlarged; bring me out of my distresses. Consider my affliction and my trouble, and forgive all my sins.

Proclamation of Forgiveness

Romans 8: 1

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Scripture Reading

2 Corinthians 4: 5 – 12

⁵ For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your bond-servants for Jesus' sake. ⁶ For God, who said, “Light shall shine

out of darkness,” is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

⁷ But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves; ⁸ *we are* afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; ⁹ persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; ¹⁰ always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. ¹¹ For we who live are constantly being delivered over to death for Jesus’ sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. ¹² So death works in us, but life in you.

Pastor: The grass withers, the flower fades,

Congregation: but the Word of our God will stand forever.

Pastoral Prayer

❖ Hymn of Reflection

Number 198

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates!

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates!

198

Lift up your heads, O you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Ps. 24:7

1. Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates! Be - hold, the
 2. A help - er just he comes to thee, his char - iot
 3. O blest the land, the cit - y blest, where Christ the
 4. Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a

King of glo - ry waits; the King of kings is
 is hu - mil - i - ty, his king - ly crown is
 Rul - er is con - fessed! O hap - py hearts and
 tem - ple, set a - part from earth - ly use for

draw - ing near, the Sav - ior of the world is here.
 ho - li - ness, his scep - ter, pi - ty in dis - tress.
 hap - py homes to whom this King in tri - umph comes!
 heav'n's em - ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.

5. Redeemer, come! I open wide
 my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide!
 Let me thy inner presence feel;
 thy grace and love in me reveal.

6. So come, my Sovereign, enter in!
 Let new and nobler life begin!
 Thy Holy Spirit, guide us on,
 until the glorious crown be won.

“*The Jailer and His Household*”


Acts 16: 25 – 40

²⁵ But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God, and the prisoners were listening to them; ²⁶ and suddenly there came a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison house were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone’s chains were unfastened. ²⁷ When the jailer awoke and saw the prison doors opened, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. ²⁸ But Paul cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Do not harm yourself, for we are all here!” ²⁹ And he called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas, ³⁰ and after he brought them out, he said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”


³¹ They said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.” ³² And they spoke the word of the Lord to him together with all who were in his house. ³³ And he took them that *very* hour of the night and washed their wounds, and immediately he was baptized, he and all his *household*. ³⁴ And he brought them into his house and set food before them, and rejoiced greatly, having believed in God with his whole household.

³⁵ Now when day came, the chief magistrates sent their policemen, saying, “Release those men.” ³⁶ And the jailer reported these words to Paul, *saying*, “The chief magistrates have sent to release you. Therefore come out now and go in peace.” ³⁷ But Paul said to them, “They have beaten us in public without trial, men who are Romans, and have thrown us into prison; and now are they sending us away secretly? No indeed! But let them come themselves and bring us out.” ³⁸ The policemen reported these words to the chief magistrates. They were afraid when they heard that they were Romans, ³⁹ and they came and appealed to them, and when they had brought them out, they kept begging them to leave the city. ⁴⁰ They went out of the prison and entered *the house of Lydia*, and when they saw the brethren, they encouraged them and departed.


Crown Him with Many Crowns

On his head are many crowns. Rev. 19:12



1. Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on - his throne;
 2. Crown him the Lord of love; be - hold his hands and side,
 3. Crown him the Lord of peace; whose pow'r a scep - ter sways
 4. Crown him the Lord of years, the Po - ten - tate of time;



hark! how the heav'n - ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own:
 rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau - ty glo - ri - fied:
 from pole to pole, that wars may cease, ab - sorbed in prayer and praise:
 Cre - a - tor of the roll - ing spheres, in - ef - fa - bly sub - lime:



a - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
 no an - gel in the sky can ful - ly bear that sight,
 his reign shall know no end; and round his pierc - ed feet
 all hail, Re - deem - er, hail! for thou hast died for me:



and hail him as thy match - less King through all e - ter - ni - ty.
 but down - ward bends his burn - ing eye at mys - ter - ies so bright.
 fair flow'rs of par - a - dise ex - tend their fra - grance ev - er sweet.
 thy praise shall nev - er, nev - er fail through - out e - ter - ni - ty.

Benediction

2 Corinthians 13: 14

Pastor: The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

Congregation: Thanks be to God. Amen.

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

Postlude

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

The flowers in the front of the church were given in
loving memory of David B. Johnston by Doris Johnston.

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 to reserve your seat.

If you have any question, please contact Terri at fccwinfo@gmail.com or call 802-457-9818.

No Sunday School Easter Sunday, April 4

Last Day to Order 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.

Easter Offering Recipient

Galmi Hospital, in Niger, will be the recipient of our Easter sacrificial offering this year. Matt and Tara Megill, missionaries supported by us, are serving in Niger. Matt is the director of HIV & TB Programs and when asked about their needs, turned the focus to the hospital itself.

Galmi Hospital was built in 1950, outside the town of Galmi in south central Niger. The hospital began with one doctor but quickly expanded to a 56-bed facility. Today the hospital has 180 beds, three operating theatres, an HIV clinic, malnutrition center and an outpatient program that handles over 250 cases per day. Most of the doctors are missionaries but the nursing and medical support roles are covered by Nigeriens. This site will continue to be needed as a hospital for many years to come. Niger is one of the poorest and least developed countries in the world. According to the 2020 UN Human Development Index, Niger ranks 189th out of 189 countries. Many of the existing health facilities are cost prohibitive for the average Nigerien.

Galmi Hospital is often the only hospital that people can afford to use. Although government-run hospitals are subsidized for the care they provide, patients incur the cost of all medicines and/or materials. These must be purchased at private pharmacies which are beyond the means of the majority of Nigeriens. Galmi Hospital provides a comprehensive care for set fees that are within reason. Galmi Hospital also provides free care through our benevolent fund to people who would be rejected from government care, despite the severity of their condition due to their inability to pay. Galmi Hospital draws patients from across Niger. In this largely Muslim nation, only 0.3% of the population is Christian, and so this hospital with its evangelists and Christian proclamation represents a strategic

Gospel center for the nation. Every patient who visits the outpatient department will have the opportunity to hear the Gospel by means of the Jesus Film in the waiting room as well as their interaction with Christian doctors who are encouraged to take time with patients to share their faith and pray with them.

The ministry goals and vision for this project is to redevelop hospital facilities for the provision of high-quality medical care and to manage the redevelopment in ways that will not interrupt the provision of services. Also, the goal is to continue to shine the light of Jesus Christ in Niger through the provision of high-quality medical care.

The project has been ongoing, but there is still work to do on the construction of a new medical ward. Please pray about your part in this special opportunity to be a light in the land of Niger. All of our gifts will be an encouragement to Matt and the other doctors and medical staff serving there.

The online giving will be available from March 21st to April 18th. Go to fccw.net/donate to give electronically. Checks and cash may be given via the mail or the offering box on the table at church from April 1 to April 18th. Please put cash in an envelope and label Easter offering. Please make checks payable to FCCW and write on the memo line Easter Offering.

To learn more about Galmi Hospital go to <https://galmi.org/>



Mid Vermont Christian School

Educating for Impact

We are seeking qualified and enthusiastic individuals
who have a passion for Christian education!

MVCS has full-time and part-time positions available:

Junior/Senior High Science and Elementary School Teacher,

Part-time Art and Foreign Language, Administrative Assistant, Bookkeeper.

Please inquire through the school office ~ mvcs@mvcs.info or 802-295-6800.

Young Adult Fellowship Group tonight at 6 pm.

The Jailer and His Household

1. Paul & Silas Jailed for Jailer and His Household (25-30).

2. Jailer & Family Set Apart for God's Purposes (31-34).

3. Jesus Is the Lord of All Nations (35-40).

CONCLUSION: The jailer had just been following orders, even though they were vile and unjust orders; it wasn't his fault. Then an earthquake struck and he would be blamed for the prisoners' escape. But something totally unexpected happened. He heard the Word of the Lord and found deliverance for himself and his family. Then at his kitchen table, sometime past midnight, the grace and mercy of Jesus were on full display. The King took this family as His own and through them ministered to others. Come and praise the Lord God Almighty!

Acts 2: 38 – 41

And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For *the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off*, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

Acts 11: 12 – 14

And the Spirit told me to go with them, making no distinction. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man’s house. And he told us how he had seen the angel stand in his house and say, ‘Send to Joppa and bring Simon who is called Peter; *he will declare to you a message by which you will be saved, you and all your household.*’

Acts 28: 28 – 31

Therefore let it be known to you that *this salvation* of God has been sent to the Gentiles; they will listen.” He lived there two whole years at his own expense, and welcomed all who came to him, proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the *Lord Jesus Christ* with all boldness and without hindrance.

Philippians 2: 9 – 11

Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that **Jesus Christ is Lord**, to the glory of God the Father.

Second Corinthians 4: 5 – 12

For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but *Jesus Christ as Lord*, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus’ sake. For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus’ sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you.

Taking Gathered Worship Home

We are introduced to this Philippian Jailer without a name. He simply follows orders. He puts Paul & Silas in the inner cell with their bloody backs unwashed and their feet locked in stocks. Yet when God supernaturally unlocks the unjust bonds of our missionary friends, it is not to free them, but to rescue the Jailer and his family.

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 16:25-40; 2Corinthians 4:5-12; Philippians 2:9-11**. DISCUSS, What does it mean that Jesus is the Lord? Have you confessed that He is? Have you submitted yourself to His rule and reign over all of your life? PRAY “Jesus, You are Lord of all. Please help us to submit to You in every aspect of our lives, individually, in our families, and together as a congregation at FCCW.”

Sunday Evening

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

Monday

READ **Acts 16:25-40; 2Corinthians 4:5-12.**; DISCUSS, What specifically about Jesus should we be proclaiming? Why? For our own sake? How can we do this when we are so weak? MEDITATE on **Romans 10:9**. PRAY, “Lord, You give us the incredible privilege of telling others about Your Kingdom. Embolden us to do so.”

Tuesday

READ **Acts 10:2; 11:12-14; 16:15; 31-34; 18:8**. DISCUSS, Compare and contrast these four households. What is their initial position regarding the God of the Bible? Where are they officially identified? What happens? What is their reaction? Whose reaction is specifically mentioned in each? MEDITATE on **Romans 10:9**. PRAY, “Jesus, thank You for drawing us to believe that You are Lord of all. Thank You for Your work in and through our families/households.”

Wednesday

READ **Acts 2:38-41; 11:12-14; 16:31-34; 28:28-31**. DISCUSS, For whom is the promise of salvation given? Why? What should we do if we believe Jesus is the Lord? *How are we identified as part of His people?* MEDITATE on **Romans 10:9**. PRAY, “Jesus, thank You for your promised deliverance from evil. Work in and through our families we pray. ”

Thursday

READ **Acts 16:25-40; Philippians 2:9-11**. DISCUSS, What does it mean to confess Jesus as Lord? How does this address our identity as rebels against God? How does God change the Jailer’s loyalties? What does that mean for his family? MEDITATE on **Romans 10:9**. PRAY, “Lord, enable us to walk in Your ways. Guide us in Your truth.”

Friday

READ **Acts 16:25-40; 2Corinthians 4:5-12; Philippians 2:9-11**. DISCUSS, How has God been teaching you from these passages this week? MEDITATE on **Romans 10:9**. 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 **Luke 16:1-17; Malachi 3:6-12**. Invite others to join you tomorrow for either the *live-stream or in-person service*. Ask Jesus to help us love our neighbors well.

Romans 10: 9

“If you confess with your mouth that **Jesus is Lord** and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”