



The _____
First Congregational Church
of Woodstock _____

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

May 10th, 2020

The Order of Morning Worship

For assistance as we “gather” remotely for the live streaming worship service.

May 10th, 2020

Ten-thirty

Welcome

Pastor Doug Warren

Prelude & Silent Prayer

❖ Call to Worship

Nicene Creed, Page 846

Pastor Doug Warren

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only – begotten Son of God,
begotten of his Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father;
by whom all things were made;
who for us and for our salvation
came down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary,
and was made human;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered and was buried;
and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,
and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the
dead;
Whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son;
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified;
who spoke by the prophets;
and we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church;
we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins;
and we look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

❖ Hymn of Exultation

God, the Lord, a King Remaineth (v. 1, 3, 5)

Number 64

God, the Lord, a King Remaineth

The LORD reigns, He is robed in majesty; the LORD is robed in majesty and is armed with strength. Ps. 93:1

Capo 1: (A) (A) (D) (A) (F#m) (E7) (A)

1. God, the Lord, a King re-main-eth; robed in his own glo-rious light;
 2. In her ev - er - last - ing sta - tion earth is poised, to swerve no more:
 3. Lord, the wa - ter - floods have lift - ed, o - cean floods have lift their roar;
 4. With all tones of wa - ters blend - ing, glo - rious is the break - ing deep;
 5. Lord, the words thy lips are tell - ing are the per - fect ver - i - ty:

(A) (F#m) (C#m) (F#m) (C#m) (F#m) (E) (B7) (E)

God hath robed him and he reign - eth; he hath gird - ed him with might.
 thou hast laid thy throne's foun - da - tion from all time where thought can soar.
 • now they pause where they have drift - ed, now they burst up - on the shore.
 glo - rious, beau - teous with - out end - ing, God who reigns on heav'n's high steep.
 of thine high e - ter - nal dwell - ing ho - li - ness shall in - mate be.

(E) (A7) (D) (Bm) (C#m) (Bm) (F#m) (E) (A) 7

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! God is King in depth and height.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, thou art for - ev - er - more.
 • Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! For the o - cean's sound - ing store.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Songs of o - cean nev - er sleep.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Pure is all that lives with thee.

¹⁴ But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere. ¹⁵ For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, ¹⁶ to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life. Who is sufficient for these things? ¹⁷ For we are not, like so many, peddlers of God's word, but as men of sincerity, as commissioned by God, in the sight of God we speak in Christ.

Pastor: The grass withers, the flowers fade,

Congregation: But the word of our God will stand forever.

Pastoral Prayer

Pastor Doug Warren

Children's Message

Pastor Doug Warren

The Sermon

"The Stench of Death & Aroma of Life"

Pastor Doug Warren

Acts 5: 27 – 42

²⁷ And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest questioned them, ²⁸ saying, "We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you intend to bring this man's blood upon us." ²⁹ But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men. ³⁰ The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. ³¹ God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³² And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him."

³³ When they heard this, they were enraged and wanted to kill them. ³⁴ But a Pharisee in the council named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law held in honor by all the people, stood up and gave orders to put the men outside for a little while. ³⁵ And he said to them, "Men of Israel, take care what you are about to do with these men. ³⁶ For before these days Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody, and a number of men, about four hundred, joined him. He was killed, and all who followed him were dispersed and came to nothing. ³⁷ After him Judas the Galilean rose up in the days of the census and drew away some of the people after him. He too perished, and all who followed him were scattered. ³⁸ So in the present case I tell you, keep away from these men and let them alone, for if this plan or this undertaking is of man, it will fail; ³⁹ but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You might even be found opposing God!" So they took his advice, ⁴⁰ and when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. ⁴¹ Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they

were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. ⁴² And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus.

❖ Hymn of Commitment

Rejoice, All Ye Believers

Number 320

Rejoice, All Ye Believers

Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him! Matt. 25:6

1. Re - joice, all ye be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
 2. See that your lamps are burn - ing; re - plen - ish them with oil;
 3. Ye saints, who here in pa - tience your cross and suf - f'rings bore,
 4. Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;

the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near:
 and wait for your sal - va - tion, the end of earth - ly toil.
 shall live and reign for - ev - er, when sor - row is no more:
 a - rise, thou sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.

the Bride - groom is a - ris - ing, and soon he draw - eth nigh;
 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the Bride - groom near;
 a - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb ye shall be - hold,
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see

up, pray, and watch, and wres - tle: at mid - night comes the cry.
 go meet him as he com - eth, with al - le - lu - ias clear.
 in tri - umph cast be - fore him your di - a - dems of gold.
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion that brings us un - to thee.

²⁴Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, ²⁵to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

The Congregation may be seated after the Benediction for silent prayer

❖ Hymn of Anticipation *God Be with You Till We Meet Again (v. 1)* Number 385

I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up. Acts 20:32

Unison

1. God be with you till we meet a - gain;

Harmony

by his coun - sels guide, up - hold you, with his sheep se -

Unison

cure - ly fold you: God be with you till we meet a - gain.

Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1880

Tune from the *English Hymnal* by permission of Oxford University Press.

RANDOLPH Irreg.
Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

Postlude

~~ Organist: Anne Hablitzel ~~

Deacons' Offering

This month's Deacons' offering will be the Pastor Emeritus Collection. Twice a year, in May and November, the Pastor Emeritus offering is taken for Doris Johnston. David and Doris faithfully served this church for 24 years. The Pastor Emeritus Collection helps off-set unexpected expenses that Doris might incur in her retirement. This month's collection will take place on Sunday, May 17.

Tithing

Your tithe may be given at <https://www.fccw.net/donate/>. This is a very safe and secure way for you to be able to give to the church.

If you are uncomfortable with online giving and prefer to mail your tithe, please don't hesitate to continue to mail your checks to FCCW, ATTN: Treasurer, 36 Elm Street, Woodstock, VT 05091.

Testimonies Requested

The Elders believe that the congregation would be blessed to hear the testimonies of God's people as another way to encourage and sustain everyone during this season of trial and perseverance. To that end we would invite you to send your testimony of praise to Terri who will collect them and periodically publish for everyone to read.

The prophet Jeremiah declared in Chapter 51:10 that we should "announce everything that God has done" and the book of 1 Chronicles 16: 8, 9 that "we should proclaim God's greatness." Psalm 9:11 implores believers to "tell the world about God's unforgettable deeds." Certainly we have much to tell and so much to be grateful for. God bless you all as we travel this road in faith and adoration to the Lord's greatness and provision for his people.

The Elders

Please Fill Out Elder's Questionnaire

If you have not filled out the Elders' questionnaire, please do so and return to me via email or snail mail (FCCW, 36 Elm Street, Woodstock, VT 05091). The questionnaire is on the next page. Please fill out a questionnaire for each person in your household. Every person has different health needs, contact information, and concerns. Thank you for helping the leadership stay connected with the needs of the body.

Elders' Questionnaire

If you have not sent the answers to the questions below via email, please answer the questions and return via email or snail mail.

From the Elders:

With the Coronavirus outbreak we want to make sure that everyone at First Congregational Church of Woodstock is receiving loving care physically and spiritually.

Name: _____

- Do you have any symptoms such as a cough or fever?
- Do you have any complicating health concerns such as respiratory issues or a compromised immune system?
- Are you under medical quarantine or social isolation?
- Do you have enough food and medicine for the next month?
- Are you under a doctor's care?
- What is the most concerning part of this current outbreak for you?
- What needs do you have?
- How can the Elders best pray for you?
- Do you have access to FaceTime, Skype, Zoom, or some other means of video conferencing? If so, what is your contact information?
- What Bible verse or passage has been the most helpful for you in the past week?

Additionally,

- Are you available to help drive people to the doctor?
- Would you be able to transport groceries or other essentials to those homebound?
- What time of the day/week are you most available?

By Christ's Grace,

Pastor Doug

The Stench of Death and Aroma of Life

1. The Gospel Enrages Those Opposed to Christ.
2. We Are Witnesses to Humanity's Treason.
3. Jesus Is the Christ—the Promised King of All.

We should not be surprised when those opposed to Christ react vehemently against us. Our very existence points out their culpability. Indeed we are just as guilty as they are. Our testimony to Christ's grace galls them because they refuse to bow before our King. Pray that God would soften their hearts. Speak the truth in love. Serve Christ the King!

2 Peter 1:16-18 ¹⁶ For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty. ¹⁷ For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, such an utterance as this was made to Him by the Majestic Glory, "This is My beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased"— ¹⁸ and we ourselves heard this utterance made from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.

First Peter 4: 12 – 19

¹² Beloved, **do not be surprised** at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; ¹³ *but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that* also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation. ¹⁴ If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. ¹⁵ Make sure that none of you suffers as a murderer, or thief, or evildoer, or a troublesome meddler; ¹⁶ but if *anyone suffers* as a Christian, he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God in this name. ¹⁷ For *it is* time for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if *it begins* with us first, what *will be* the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? ¹⁸ And if it is with difficulty that the righteous is saved, what will become of the godless man and the sinner? ¹⁹ Therefore, those also who suffer according to the will of God shall entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right.

Taken from *The Westminster Shorter Catechism*.

Question #27: Wherein did Christ's humiliation consist?

Answer: Christ's humiliation consisted in his being born, and that in a low condition, made under the law, undergoing the miseries of this life, the wrath of God, and the cursed death of the cross; in being buried, and continuing under the power of death for a time.

Question #28: Wherein consisted Christ's exaltation?

Answer: Christ's exaltation consisted in his rising again from the dead on the third day, in ascending up into heaven, in sitting at the right hand of God the Father, and in coming to judge the world at the last day.

Acts—Series Overview

The Expansion of the Gospel Witness with Power

Acts records God's faithful accomplishment of all that He promised in taking the gospel to the nations. It lays the groundwork for all that will take place as His Church awaits His return. Just as Jesus lived and spoke as the Father commanded, we now are called to do in the power of His Holy Spirit. While Jesus did this perfectly, we will strive imperfectly, constantly in need of the Holy Spirit's direction, power, and correction. Nevertheless, our faithful God will work even through our failing efforts and His gospel witness through us will prevail and penetrate every nation, tribe, & territory. For the praise of our King!

Taking Gathered Worship Home

What is that stench?¹ Have you ever been hit by an odor so foul that you couldn't see straight? That's what is going on with the opponents of Christ. The mercy of Christ lavished on the Apostles and their followers engages the religious establishment and shows us how the world is likely to respond to us if we are declaring the coming King.

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 5:27-42; 2Corinthians 2:14-17; 1Peter 4:12-19. DISCUSS, How does the crucifixion of Jesus expose our guilt and culpability? What is the natural reaction to this stench of death? What is the only way for that to become an aroma of life? What does it mean that Jesus is the Christ? Have you surrendered yourself to His rule as your King? PRAY for God to convict of us of our sin and to flee from any other source of refuge. Ask Him to make us delight in Him alone.

Sunday Evening

In lieu of the evening worship service tonight, please set apart some time to pray for God to bring repentance and renewal to us at FCCW and throughout His Church.

Monday

READ Acts 5:27-42; John 1:35-42; 2Corinthians 2:14-17. DISCUSS, What difference does it make if Jesus is the Christ? How did John's disciples know to expect the Messiah? Why did John call Him the "Lamb of God"? PRAY, "Lord Jesus, teach us how to worship You as the Christ. Empower us to proclaim You in word and deed."

Tuesday

READ Acts 5:27-42; John 4:25-26; 40-42; Mark 14:61-62; 2Peter 1:16-18. DISCUSS, How did Jesus respond to the woman's claim that He was the Messiah? What did her neighbors say? PRAY, "Jesus, You are the King of All, the promised Messiah, Savior of the World. Enable us to worship You as we should and to give You faithful service as our Lord."

Wednesday

READ Acts 5:17-26; Luke 9:18-23; 2Corinthians 2:14-17. DISCUSS, Jesus is the Christ of God. How is that affecting your life today? Be specific. What sin do you need to repent from? Confess your sin specifically. Delight in the forgiveness you have in Christ. PRAY, "Lord, You have promised to build Your Church. Teach us to trust You as we take up our cross and follow You."

Thursday

READ Acts 5: 5:27-42; Matthew 21:4-9; Zechariah 9:9; 1Peter 4:12-19. DISCUSS, What does it mean that Jesus is the King? How is He ruling and reigning now? Is God or his plan hindered because of difficulties? PRAY, "Lord, teach us to trust You and to see Your wisdom as so much greater than our own."

Friday

READ Acts 5:17-26; 1Peter 4:12-19; 2Corinthians 2:14-17. How has God been teaching you from these passages this week? REJOICE if Christ has counted you as part of His own! PRAY for renewal in the Church and revival in our land.

Saturday

PREPARE today for the gathered worship service tomorrow.

READ Acts 6:1-15; 1Tim 3:8-13. Invite others to watch the *live-stream service* with you tomorrow. Pray for Christ to grant us boldness in following Him.

Second Corinthians 2: 14 – 17

¹⁴But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place. ¹⁵For we are a **fragrance of Christ to God** among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing; ¹⁶to the one **an aroma from death to death**, to the other **an aroma from life to life**. And who is adequate for these things? ¹⁷For we are not like many, peddling the word of God, but as from sincerity, but as from God, we speak in Christ in the sight of God.