



The _____
First Congregational Church
of Woodstock _____

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

May 1st, 2022

The Order of Morning Worship

May 1st, 2022

Ten-thirty

Welcome

Elder Gil Emery

Prelude & Silent Prayer

❖ Call to Worship Psalm 34 Congregation

Pastor: I will bless the LORD at all times

Congregation: His praise shall continually be in my mouth.

Pastor: My soul makes its boast in the LORD; let the humble hear and be glad.

Congregation: Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt His name together.

❖ Invocation Elder

❖ Hymn of Exultation #585 *Take My Life, and Let It Be* Congregation

Scriptural Call to Repentance Isaiah 55:6-7 Elder

Collective Confession Psalm 51 Congregation

Be gracious to us, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; according to the greatness of Your compassion blot out our transgressions. Wash us thoroughly from our iniquity, and cleanse us from our sin. For we know our transgressions, and our sin is ever before us. Against You, You only, we have sinned, and done what is evil in Your sight, So that You are justified when You speak, and blameless when You judge.

Silent Reflection and Confession

Proclamation of Forgiveness Colossians 2:13-14 Elder

Offering (collected from back to front) Congregation

❖ Affirmation of Faith *The Apostles' Creed* Congregation

Pastor: Christian, what do you believe concerning God, the Father?

Congregation: I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

Pastor: 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.

Pastor: 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	Romans 15:1-6	Elder
Pastor: The Word of the Lord.		
Congregation: Thanks be to God.		
Pastoral Prayer		
Elder		
❖ Hymn of Reflection	<i>Let Us Love and Sing and Wonder</i>	Congregation
The Sermon	Philippians 2:3-4	Pastor Doug Warren
<i>“Putting to Death Selfish Ambition”</i>		
❖ Hymn of Response #455	<i>And Can It Be</i>	Congregation
Communion		
Congregation		
❖ Communion Hymn	<i>Behold the Lamb</i>	Congregation
Benediction		
Romans 15:13		
Pastor		

Pastor: May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Thanks be to God. Amen.

¹ The term “catholic” is used here in its generic sense of the universal church, not to refer to a denomination.

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

Postlude

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

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

Leadership Training—May 14, 2022

Want to know why we do what we do in the worship service? Come join an explanation and discussion of the elements of worship, repetition, and spiritual formation as a community. Saturday, May 14th, 9:00 am-noon. Hope you can join us! To register, please email Kristen at fcwinfo@gmail.com.

Teachers Needed

WCCC is in need of **Teachers/Assistants**, and **Substitutes**. Please contact Ruth Brisson at rbrissonwccc@gmail.com or 410-925-7959, if you are interested in serving in any of these roles.



Mid Vermont Christian School

Educating for Impact

Calling missionaries to MVCS!

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

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

Music Director & Teacher (band & chorus teaching could be split into two part time positions), Elementary School Teacher, JSH Foreign Language Teacher,

JSH Mathematics Teacher and part-time High School Art.

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

Property Manager Position

FCCW is looking for a Property Manager. This part-time position requires the person or persons to work a flexible schedule, be able to handle a variety of tasks, and be a good steward of FCCW property. Please contact Karl Huck at 802-457-3072 or e-mail him at karlhuck@gmail.com for more details or to submit an application. Thank you.

Introduction to FCCW Workshop

Interested in knowing more about FCCW? Want to explore questions about the Bible in a small group? What does it mean to be a member? What opportunities are there to serve at FCCW? Consider attending the *Intro to FCCW Workshop* being offered Friday night, June 3 and Saturday morning, June 4. This two-part workshop will give insight into how FCCW functions and the importance of membership. Please contact Kristen at fccwinfo@gmail.com to register.

Session One—Worship

- a. Wired for Worship
- b. Gathered Worship

Session Two—Joyous Knowledge

- a. Knowing The Redeemer Within His Church
- b. Our Catholic Beliefs
- c. Our Historic Practices
- d. Our Evangelical Convictions
- e. Our Reformed Beliefs
- f. Our Congregational Heritage

Session Three—Radical Love for One Another

- a. Charity Born of Character
- b. Christian Sanctification
- c. Living Together with Differences

Session Four— Extending His Grace

- a. Two Parables and A Command
- b. You Can't Serve What You Ain't Cookin'
- c. What Does It Mean To Extend Christ's Grace?

Session Five— Belonging to His Community

- a. Understanding the Church
 - b. The Church as a Worshipping Community
 - c. The Church as a Worshipping Community
 - d. The Biblical Concept of Church Membership
 - e. Membership & Stewardship
 - f. Summary
-

Putting to Death Selfish Ambition

1. We All Have the Same Disease—Selfish Ambition.

2. Christ Came to Heal Us from Our Inordinate Love of Self.

3. We Are Responsible Now for Continuing the Treatment.

CONCLUSION: We receive in this passage an absolute and categorical command to cease and desist all selfishness. But we cannot. At least we cannot stop our universal human nature apart from the resurrection power of Christ. And that is what we have in this gospel partnership together—the power of life over death. And so we are instructed to counter the symptoms of our human disease with the cure of Jesus—sacrificial selflessness. We are to “overcome evil with good.” This is the only way to kill selfishness. And while Christ alone is able to finally cure us in glory, we are now responsible for joyfully cooperating with His treatment by putting our self-aggrandizement to death and caring for others as He has so beautifully cared for us.

Romans 15:1-6

We who are strong have an *obligation to bear with the failings of the weak*, and *not* to please ourselves. ² Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up. ³ For Christ did not please himself, but as it is written, “The reproaches of those who reproached you fell on me.” ⁴ For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. ⁵ May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you *to live in such harmony with one another*, in accord with Christ Jesus, ⁶ that *together* you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Galatians 6:1-2

Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should *restore him in a spirit of gentleness*. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. *Bear one another's burdens*, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

1 Corinthians 9:19-23

¹⁹ For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. ²⁰ To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. ²¹ To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. ²² To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. *I have become all things to all people*, that by all means I might save some. ²³ I do it all *for the sake of the gospel*, that I may share with them in its blessings.

Romans 12:9-10

⁹ Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. ¹⁰ *Love one another with brotherly affection*. Outdo one another in showing honor.

1 Peter 5:1-5

So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: ² shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but *willingly*, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but *eagerly*; ³ not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. ⁴ And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. ⁵ Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. *Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another*, for “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

Taking Gathered Worship Home

Too often we treat sin like an annoyance rather than the deadly threat that it truly is. Our text this week says, “Do *nothing* from selfish ambition or conceit” Notice it does *not* say, “Try to avoid it” or “I wouldn’t advise it.” We are commanded to *run* the other way when our selfish preoccupation comes calling. The Scripture here is warning us of a life or death battle that we need to take seriously.

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 **Philippians 2:3-4; Romans 15:1-6; Galatians 6:1-2; 1 Corinthians 9:19-22; Romans 12:9-10; Matthew 25:31-46; 1 Peter 5:1-5.** DISCUSS Why must we put selfish ambition to death? How are we to do it? What is the role of Christ’s death? PRAY “Lord, help us to understand the mortal conflict raging within us. Enable us by Your Spirit to put sin to death and live in You.”

Sunday Evening

The *Young Adults’ Fellowship* meets tonight at **6pm** in FCCW’s library.

Monday

READ **Philippians 2:3-4; Romans 15:1-6.** DISCUSS Why are we responsible for one another? How are we to demonstrate loving care for one another? Why? SERVE by caring for someone in Christ’s name! MEDITATE on **Deuteronomy 30:19-20.** PRAY, “Jesus, You served us sacrificially. Help us to serve others with the same love and compassion with which You have served us.”

Tuesday

READ **Philippians 2:3-4; Galatians 6:1-2; 1 Corinthians 9:19-22.** DISCUSS What does it mean to “bear one another’s burdens” in Galatians? How does that relate to “becoming all things to all people”? SERVE someone by showing interest in their interests. MEDITATE on **Deuteronomy 30:19-20.** PRAY, “Lord, show us how to trust in You every day by Your grace.”

Wednesday

READ **Philippians 2:3-4; Romans 12:9-10; Matthew 25:31-46.** DISCUSS Notice how genuine love is contrasted with evil. Why is lack of love evil? How important does Matthew see caring for others? Why? SERVE Feed, clothe, care for someone today in Christ's name. MEDITATE on **Deuteronomy 30:19-20.** PRAY, "Lord, enable us to love others as You love us."

Thursday

READ **Philippians 2:3-4; 1Peter 5:1-5; Romans 15:1-6** DISCUSS What is the relationship between humility and caring for others? Why? SERVE Listen patiently to someone who may be lonely. MEDITATE on **Deuteronomy 30:19-20.** PRAY, Lord, we long to love in the power of the resurrection. Help us to put sin to death and to live in resurrection life."

Friday

READ **Philippians 2:3-4; Romans 15:1-6; Galatians 6:1-2; 1Corinthians 9:19-22; Romans 12:9-10; Matthew 25:31-46; 1Peter 5:1-6.** DISCUSS, How has God been teaching you from these passages this week? DELIGHT in Christ, knowing that we will be like Him one day! MEDITATE on **Deuteronomy 30:19-20.** PRAY for unity and joyful care for one another at FCCW.

Saturday

PREPARE today for the worship service tomorrow which is *available both in-person and via live-stream.* READ **Philippians 2:1-30; Matthew 18:1-4.** Invite others to join you tomorrow for the service. Ask Jesus to gather us together joyfully to praise Him.

Deuteronomy 30:19-20

"I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them."