



The _____
First Congregational Church
of Woodstock _____

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

May 23rd, 2021

The Order of Morning Worship

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

May 23rd, 2021

Ten-thirty

Welcome

Pastor Doug Warren

Prelude & Silent Prayer

❖ Call to Worship

Psalm 67 and 1 Chronicles 16

Pastor: Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

Congregation: Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you rule the peoples justly and guide the nations of the earth.

Pastor: Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let them say among the nations, "The LORD reigns!"

Congregation: Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.

❖ Hymn of Exultation

Number 64

God, the Lord, a King Remaineth

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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)

1. God, the Lord, a King re-main-eth; robed in his own glo-ri-ous 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-ri-ous is the break-ing deep;
 5. Lord, the words thy lips are tell-ing are the per-fect ver-i-ty:

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-ri-ous, beau-teous with-out end-ing, God who reigns on heav'ns high steep.
 of thine high e-ter-nal dwell-ing ho-li-ness shall in-mate be.

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.

Scriptural Call to Repentance

1 John 1: 8 – 9

God's Word warns us, "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us." It also provides the wonderful truth found only in Christ saying, "If we confess our sins, He who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness." In humility and faith let us confess our sin to God.

Collective Confession

Luther's Prayer

O Lord, merciful and mighty, we unworthy sinners, come to You in humble repentance and confess how we have transgressed Your holy Law. We are guilty of sins of omission and commission, evil thoughts, improper words, and wrong deeds. Forgive our iniquity and short-comings for the sake of the suffering and death of our Savior Jesus Christ. Let His obedience cover our disobedience, let His righteousness atone for our unrighteousness. Great God and Helper, You alone can forgive. With all our hearts we thank You for Your boundless mercy. Grant us grace with which we might accept Your gift of forgiveness with true faith and look upon the word of pardon as a message coming from You, assuring us and consoling our hearts before You. Let us treasure Your forgiveness and freely extend it to others by the power of Your resurrection. We pray in the name of our Redeemer, Jesus Christ.

Silent Reflection and Confession

Proclamation of Forgiveness

Jeremiah 33: 8

I will cleanse them from all the guilt of their sin against me, and I will forgive all the guilt of their sin and rebellion against me.

Teen Challenge Choir

Pastoral Prayer

The Sermon

Pastor Doug Warren

"The Beginning of the Mission in Corinth"

Acts 18: 1 – 11

After these things he left Athens and went to Corinth.² And he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, having recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to

leave Rome. He came to them, ³ and because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them and they were working, for by trade they were tent-makers. ⁴ And he was reasoning in the synagogue every Sabbath and trying to persuade Jews and Greeks.

⁵ But when Silas and Timothy came down from Macedonia, Paul *began* devoting himself completely to the word, solemnly testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ. ⁶ But when they resisted and blasphemed, he shook out his garments and said to them, “Your blood *be* on your own heads! I am clean. From now on I will go to the Gentiles.” ⁷ Then he left there and went to the house of a man named Titius Justus, a worshiper of God, whose house was next to the synagogue. ⁸ Crispus, the leader of the synagogue, believed in the Lord with all his household, and many of the Corinthians when they heard were believing and being baptized. ⁹ And the Lord said to Paul in the night by a vision, “Do not be afraid *any longer*, but go on speaking and do not be silent; ¹⁰ for I am with you, and no man will attack you in order to harm you, for I have many people in this city.” ¹¹ And he settled *there* a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.

❖ Hymn of Response

Number 75

O Father, You Are Sovereign

O Father, You Are Sovereign

The LORD Almighty has purposed, and who can thwart him? His hand is stretched out, and who can turn it back? Is. 14:27

1. O Fa - ther, you are sov - ereign in all the worlds you made;
 2. O Fa - ther, you are sov - ereign in all af - fairs of man;
 3. O Fa - ther, you are sov - ereign, the Lord of hu - man pain,
 4. O Fa - ther, you are sov - ereign! We see you dim - ly now,

your might - y word was spo - ken and light and life o - beyed.
 no pow'rs of death or dark - ness can thwart your per - fect plan.
 trans - mut - ing earth - ly sor - rows to gold of heav'n - ly gain.
 but soon be - fore your tri - umph earth's ev - ery knee shall bow.

Your voice com - mands the sea - sons and bounds the o - cean's shore,
 All chance and change tran - scend - ing, su - preme in time and space,
 All e - vil o - ver - rul - ing, as none but Con - qu'ror could,
 With this glad hope be - fore us our faith springs up a - new:

sets stars with - in their cours - es and stills the tem - pest's roar.
 you hold your trust - ing chil - dren se - cure in your em - brace.
 your love pur - sues its pur - pose—our souls' e - ter - nal good.
 our sov - ereign Lord and Sav - ior, we trust and wor - ship you!

Benediction

John 14: 27

Pastor: Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives, do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.

Congregation: Thanks be to God. Amen.

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

Postlude

~~ Organist: Anne Hablitzel ~~
~~ Please ensure cell phones are off ~~

Teen Challenge Choir

Today, May 23

The Teen Challenge Choir will be singing and giving testimony during our Adult Sunday School Class at 9:15 am and singing during our Morning Worship Service. Their men's home encourages men to advance in life and become pillars in their families and communities. Their women's home, with its loving and caring environment, helps residents in their journeys of restoration with their children and families. Finally, their transition and outreach center in Rutland is serving and partnering with the community at large. To learn more about Teen Challenge go to <https://tcvermont.org/#landing>. Check out their displays in the Billings Room.

Young Adult Fellowship Group tonight at 6 pm.

Leadership Training Sessions 2021

Our training for prospective elder and deacon candidates will be open to any men who would like to grow in their own walk with the Lord. This year these sessions will be held on the second Saturday of the month starting in March and running through October. Each one will run from 9:00 am until noon and will be available both in person and via Zoom. We will be studying Biblical Budgeting on June 12. Hope to see you there!

To register, please email Terri at fccwinfo@gmail.com.

Congratulations Graduates

It's Spring and time for graduation! We, at FCCW, are happy to have several graduates in our midst. They have worked hard, and we want to honor them and their accomplishments. Let's shower them with congratulations by sending them a card, a note, or a message to let them know that we are celebrating with them. The graduates are listed below. Addresses may be found in the Membership list.

Law School - Steven Bauer

College - Abby Kaija, Lauren Kaija, Karis Warren

High School - Ashley Carroll, Colby Warren

~ From The Deaconesses

Newsletter Submissions

It will soon be time to start working on the June Newsletter. If you, your board or committee would like something in the newsletter, please send it to me by May 25. Thanks.

Stay the Course

Teen Challenge Spring Gala

When: June 4 at 6:00 pm

Where: Rutland Country Club

To purchase tickets, go to <https://tcvermont.org/fundraising-events/stay-the-course-spring-gala/> or call 802 – 635 – 7807.

Posters are in the Narthex. Feel free to share it with your family, friends, and neighbors.



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.

The Beginning of the Mission in Corinth

1. The Missionaries Stayed Longer than Usual in Corinth.

2. God Still Uses Faithful Households for Kingdom Purposes.

3. King Jesus Continues to Gather and Deploy His People.

CONCLUSION: King Jesus continues to spread His Kingdom throughout the world through the proclamation of His reign and submission to His Word. While His gospel remains the same, its application differs from city to city. In Corinth Paul uses his skills not only in preaching but also in tentmaking. The Lord makes use of His people in Corinth to moderate opposition to the gospel and permit Paul and His missionary band to stay more than a year, evangelizing and discipling new converts to Christ. Even with the many differences in how the King goes about establishing His Kingdom on earth, He continues to use godly households for His purposes.

Matthew 16: 13 – 20

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴ And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵ He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶ Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” ²⁰ Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

Ephesians 4: 7 – 16

⁷ But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ’s gift. ⁸ Therefore it says,

“When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men.”

⁹ (In saying, “He ascended,” what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth? ¹⁰ He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) ¹¹ And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, ¹⁴ so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. ¹⁵ Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

Taking Gathered Worship Home

King Jesus is establishing His Kingdom on earth just as He promised. He is able to do so not only through defeating the kingdoms of this earth, conquering the spiritual kingdom of evil, but also through overcoming our discouragement, weakness and fear. He does this through His powerful, miraculous Word. Take up and read!

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 18:1-11; Matthew 16:13-20; Ephesians 4:7-16**. DISCUSS, How does King Jesus build His Church? How certain is it that He will be successful? Why? What did you learn this morning about how He went about building His Church in Corinth? How was it the same as how He did so in other places? How was it different? PRAY “Lord Jesus, You alone are the King. Thank You for building Your Kingdom. Thank You for the privilege You give us to be a part.”

Sunday Evening

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

Monday

READ **Acts 18:1-11; Psalm 133:1-3; John 17:20-23**. DISCUSS, God provided Paul with co-laborers in Aquila & Priscilla after all three had been displaced with hardships. How does God's provision of brothers and sisters help us in growing more like Christ? MEDITATE on **Psalm 133:1-3**. PRAY “Sovereign King, thank You for the gift You give us in the fellowship of the saints.”

Tuesday

READ **Acts 18:1-11; 10:1-2; 16:15, 31-14; 2Chronicles 31:11-19**. DISCUSS: How does God use households among His people for evangelism and discipleship? How are you encouraging your household to faithfully serve King Jesus? MEDITATE on **Psalm 133:1-3**. PRAY “Lord, forgive us for ways that we presume upon the riches of Your kindness. Teach us instead to repent.”

Wednesday

READ **Acts 18:1-11; 1Kings 19:14-18; John 21:14-18**. DISCUSS, God often is gathering and or deploying His people without our awareness. Elijah thought that he was alone, yet God had 7,000 saints in that place. When do you feel most alone? What is something you need to repent from today? MEDITATE on **Psalm 133:1-3**. PRAY “King Jesus, teach us to trust in You. Forgive us for the ways we doubt Your goodness and/or power.

Thursday

READ **Acts 18:1-11; 1Peter 5:6-11; Philippians 4:6-13** DISCUSS, What do you when you are discouraged? How does God’s sovereignty comfort you? Why can we trust Him? MEDITATE on **Psalm 133:1-3**. PRAY “Jesus, You are King of all things and you care for us! We praise You.”

Friday

READ **Acts 18:1-11; Romans 1:18-23; Ephesians 1:15-23**. DISCUSS, How has God been teaching you from these passages this week? MEDITATE on **Psalm 133:1-3**. PRAY “Lord King, we worship Your name, Jesus, for You alone reign supreme. Thank You for loving us and building Your Church through us.”

Saturday

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

READ **Acts 18:1-28**. Invite others to join you tomorrow for the *live-stream or in-person service*. Ask Jesus to help us love our neighbors well.

Psalm 133: 1 – 3

Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!
It is like the precious oil on the head, running down on the beard,
on the beard of Aaron, running down on the collar of his robes!
It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion!
For there the Lord has commanded the blessing, life forevermore.