



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

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

*June 21st, 2020*

# *The Order of Morning Worship*

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

June 21st, 2020

Nine-thirty

Welcome

Pastor Doug Warren

Prelude & Silent Prayer

❖ Call to Worship                      Psalm 19: 1 – 4

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

*Jesus Shall Reign*

Number 441

## Jesus Shall Reign

*He will rule from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth. Ps. 72:8*

Chords: F D A<sup>7</sup> D G C<sup>#dim</sup> D A E<sup>7</sup> A 7 D

1. Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does his suc -  
 2. To him shall end - less prayer be made, and prais - es  
 3. Peo - ple and realms of ev - ery tongue dwell on his  
 4. Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns; the pris - 'ner  
 5. Let ev - ery crea - ture rise and bring pe - cu - liar

Chords: G D Em D A D A<sup>7</sup> D G D A<sup>7</sup> D

ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from shore to  
 throng to crown his head; his name, like sweet per - fume, shall  
 • love with sweet - est song; and in - fant voic - es shall pro -  
 leaps to lose his chains, the wea - ry find e - ter - nal  
 hon - ors to our King; an - gels de - scend with songs a -

Chords: A F D G C<sup>#dim</sup> D Em<sup>7</sup> D Em D A<sup>7</sup> D 7

shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.  
 rise with ev - ery morn - ing sac - ri - fice.  
 • claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.  
 rest, and all the sons of want are blest.  
 gain, and earth re - peat the loud a - men!

## Scripture Reading

### Revelation 9: 6 – 11

<sup>6</sup> And in those days people will seek death and will not find it. They will long to die, but death will flee from them.

<sup>7</sup> In appearance the locusts were like horses prepared for battle: on their heads were what looked like crowns of gold; their faces were like human faces, <sup>8</sup> their hair like women's hair, and their teeth like lions' teeth; <sup>9</sup> they had breastplates like breastplates of iron, and the noise of their wings was like the noise of many chariots with horses rushing into battle. <sup>10</sup> They have tails and stings like scorpions, and their power to hurt people for five months is in their tails. <sup>11</sup> They have as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit. His name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in Greek he is called Apollyon.

Pastor: The grass withers, the flowers fade,

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

Pastoral Prayer

Children's Message

The Sermon

*"The Stoning of Stephen"*

Pastor Doug Warren

### Acts 7: 54 – 60

<sup>54</sup> Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. <sup>55</sup> But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. <sup>56</sup> And he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." <sup>57</sup> But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. <sup>58</sup> Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. <sup>59</sup> And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." <sup>60</sup> And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

## Lead On, O King Eternal

*I am the LORD your God ... who directs you in the way you should go. Is. 48:17*

1. Lead on, O King e - ter - nal, the day of march has come;  
 2. Lead on, O King e - ter - nal, till sin's fierce war shall cease,  
 3. Lead on, O King e - ter - nal: we - fol - low, not with fears;

hence - forth in fields of con - quest thy tents shall be our home:  
 and ho - li - ness shall whis - per the sweet a - men of peace;  
 for glad - ness breaks like morn - ing where - e'er thy face ap - pears;

through days of prep - a - ra - tion thy grace has made us strong,  
 for not with swords loud clash - ing, nor roll of stir - ring drums,  
 thy cross is lift - ed o'er us; we jour - ney in its light:

and now, O King e - ter - nal, we lift our bat - tle song.  
 but deeds of love and mer - cy, the heav'n - ly king - dom comes.  
 the crown a - waits the con - quest; lead on, O God of might.

Benediction

2 Corinthians 13: 14

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

The Congregation may be seated after the Benediction for silent prayer

❖ Hymn of Anticipation

Number 385

*God Be with You Till We Meet Again (v. 1)*

*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 ~~  
~~ Please ensure cell phones are off ~~

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## Tithing

Online Giving is now available. Please go to <https://www.fccw.net/donate/> and choose the fund you would like to give to. 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, 36 Elm Street, Woodstock, VT 05091.

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## Morning Worship Services

Even though our Sunday morning services have returned to meeting in person, we will continue to offer our services streamed live through our website: [fccw.net](http://fccw.net) and Facebook. Below are the links for the live stream of the Sunday Morning Worship Service:

1. Live Stream: [fccw.net/livestream](http://fccw.net/livestream), click on the arrow to start the Live Stream.

2. Live Stream via Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/First-Congregational-Church-of-Woodstock-Vermont-1514061492225108>

3. Live Stream via YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWwcbQa26ywlnXKwd9KSgEA/videos>

The Order of Worship, Sermon Notes and Taking Gathered Worship home are available on [fccw.net/livestream](http://fccw.net/livestream). If you have any questions, concerns, or prayer requests, please don't hesitate to call (802) 457-9818 or email [fccwinfo@gmail.com](mailto:fccwinfo@gmail.com).

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## Hymn Sing – June 28

Following the morning worship service next Sunday, June 28, there will be a hymn sing. Consider staying after the morning worship service to enjoy some additional singing.

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## **The Stoning of Stephen**

1. Stephen Witnesses to Christ and They Kill Him for It.

2. Saul Is Introduced as an Enemy of Christ.

3. Jesus Receives Stephen in Glory.

We are told of Stephen's death as a witness (martyr) to Christ. He has an extraordinary experience as the heavens open up and he is able to see Christ's glorious welcome. Jesus stands to advocate for Stephen just as He has promised to do for all those who stand for Him before men (Matthew 10:32). While we may not physically see this at our death, it is the certain hope of all who claim Jesus as our Savior. What is your hope?



## Second Corinthians 5:1 – 10

<sup>1</sup>For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. <sup>2</sup>For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, <sup>3</sup>if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. <sup>4</sup>For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. <sup>5</sup>He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

<sup>6</sup>So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, <sup>7</sup>for we walk by faith, not by sight. <sup>8</sup>Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be **away from the body and at home with the Lord**. <sup>9</sup>So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. <sup>10</sup>For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

### 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**

If you keep that up, someone might kill you. What?! Talking about Jesus. Oh, usually folks are ok with talk about Jesus, but not as the Lord of all Creation. Not as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. If you believe that, you're a nut. And someone might just shut you up.

*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 7:54-60; Second Corinthians 5:1-10; Revelation 6:9-11.** DISCUSS, How does Stephen's death challenge us? Encourage us? Convict us? Comfort us? Do you have a welcoming advocate in Jesus? How? **PRAY** for Him to enable us to live as Christ's holy instruments in the fallen world in which we live awaiting His return.

### **Sunday Evening**

*In lieu of the evening worship service tonight, please set apart some time to pray for God to bring revival here at FCCW and around the globe.*

### **Monday**

**READ Acts 7:54-60; Luke 24:13-20; John 15:12-17.** DISCUSS, What are the similarities and differences between the trials and murders of Jesus and Stephen? How should we expect the world to respond to our witness for Christ? How will our love likely be repaid? Why? **PRAY**, "Lord Jesus, give us boldness to proclaim Your resurrection and to hope in nothing less."

### **Tuesday**

**READ Acts 7:54-60; Matthew 10:24-39; Colossians 2:13-15.** DISCUSS, How did Jesus forgive us our sins? How will He serve as our advocate in the final judgment? Why should that encourage us? How are you (we) living in the reality of that knowledge? **PRAY**, "Lord Jesus, You are holy, righteous, and perfect. You tell us that You have canceled the charge of our legal debt. You have taken our condemnation on Yourself. How can we ever thank You enough? Make us obedient!"

### Wednesday

READ **Acts 7:54-60; Luke 23:33-46**. DISCUSS, What does Stephen say as they are about to kill Him? How does this follow Christ's words? Why would Stephen quote Jesus? How are you (we) following Christ's example? PRAY, "Lord, You have both given us a righteous example and Your Holy Spirit within us to live holy lives. Help us to in ways worthy of Your calling."

### Thursday

READ **Acts 1:8; 7:54-60; Matthew 10:16-25**. DISCUSS, How can we witness? Where do we get the needed boldness to faithfully witness to Christ's resurrection? What's hardest for you? How are you taking that to Christ in prayer? PRAY, "Lord, we need You. Teach us what we need to know. Enflame our hearts with love for You and our neighbors. Move our hands and feet in Your service."

### Friday

READ **Acts 7:54-60; Second Corinthians 5:1-10; Revelation 6:9-11**. DISCUSS, How has God been teaching you from these passages this week? REJOICE if Christ has honored you to witness for Him! PRAY for renewal and revival across our land.

### Saturday

PREPARE today for the worship service tomorrow. *There will be both the live-stream and in-person services available.*

READ **Acts 8:1-40; Genesis 23:1-20**. Invite others to join you for either the *live-stream or in-person service* tomorrow. Ask Jesus to help us in the transition back to gathered worship in the building.

## Revelation 6: 9 – 11

When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the witness they had borne. They cried out with a loud voice, "O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" Then they were each given a white robe and told to rest a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brothers should be complete, who were to be killed as they themselves had been.