



The _____
First Congregational Church
of Woodstock _____

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

August 16th, 2020

The Order of Morning Worship

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

August 16th , 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

Number 7

From All That Dwell below the Skies

From All That Dwell below the Skies

Praise the LORD, all you nations; extol him, all you peoples. Ps. 117:1

1. From all that dwell be - low the skies let the Cre -
2. In ev - ery land be - gin the song; to ev - ery
3. E - ter - nal are your mer - cies, Lord; e - ter - nal

a - tor's praise a - rise; let the Re - deem - er's name be
land the strains be - long. In cheer - ful sound all voic - es
truth at - tends your word. Your praise shall sound from shore to

sung through ev - ery land, by ev - ery tongue.
raise and fill the world with joy - ful praise.
shore till suns shall rise and set no more.

Based on Psalm 117
Isaac Watts, 1719; mod.

DUKE STREET L.M.
John Hatton, 1793

¹²I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, ¹³so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. ¹⁴And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

¹⁵Some indeed preach Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from good will. ¹⁶The latter do it out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. ¹⁷The former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but thinking to afflict me in my imprisonment. ¹⁸What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice.

Yes, and I will rejoice, ¹⁹for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, ²⁰as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death.

Pastor: The grass withers, the flower fades,

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

Pastoral Prayer

The Sermon

Pastor Doug Warren

“Follow Up on the Coast”

Acts 9: 32 – 43

³²Now as Peter went here and there among them all, he came down also to the saints who lived at Lydda. ³³There he found a man named Aeneas, bedridden for eight years, who was paralyzed. ³⁴And Peter said to him, “Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you; rise and make your bed.” And immediately he rose. ³⁵And all the residents of Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord.

³⁶Now there was in Joppa a disciple named Tabitha, which, translated, means Dorcas. She was full of good works and acts of charity. ³⁷In those days she became ill and died, and when they had washed her, they

laid her in an upper room. ³⁸ Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, hearing that Peter was there, sent two men to him, urging him, "Please come to us without delay." ³⁹ So Peter rose and went with them. And when he arrived, they took him to the upper room. All the widows stood beside him weeping and showing tunics and other garments that Dorcas made while she was with them. ⁴⁰ But Peter put them all outside, and knelt down and prayed; and turning to the body he said, "Tabitha, arise." And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up. ⁴¹ And he gave her his hand and raised her up. Then, calling the saints and widows, he presented her alive. ⁴² And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. ⁴³ And he stayed in Joppa for many days with one Simon, a tanner.

❖ Hymn of Commitment

Number 580

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

¹⁴The 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.

Postlude

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

The flowers are given in loving memory of Jim
Stockwell, dear friend and brother in Christ,
by the Amato's and the Bristow's.

Substitutes Needed

The Woodstock Christian Childcare is planning to reopen the end of August. Staff has been busily reorganizing and preparing. They are in need of more substitute teachers. If you would like more information, please contact Ruth Brisson at 410 – 925 – 7959 or email her at brissonwccc@comcast.net. Please continue to pray for the many changes that must be put in place in order to open.

Leadership Training

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN. Calling all men willing to consider serving as a Deacon or Elder! We will be holding three more officer training sessions in the next few months. Please plan on participating if you are able. It is necessary for current and potential officers and helpful for just about anyone wanting to walk more closely with Jesus.

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| August 22 | Godly Character |
| September 12 | Loving the Congregation with Servant Leadership |
| October 10 | Pastoral Care |

All four sessions will be held at FCCW on Saturdays from 9-noon. Please RSVP to fccwinfo@gmail.com.

Young Adult Fellowship Group

Pastor Doug has formed a Young Adult Fellowship Group to grow the faith of our High School Students and Young Adults in our congregation and community. On Tuesdays the group meets at 8:00 am for Bible Study at the Church. On Sundays, the group meets at 7:30 pm for a time of Praise and Fellowship at the Church. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Doug at 802-457-1304 or email him at PastorDougW@gmail.com. Young Adults invite your friends to a time of learning, praise and worship, and fellowship. Appropriate social distancing and protocols are being taken.

Follow Up on the Coast

1. The Gospel Continues to Expand with Power.
2. These Supernatural Signs Demonstrate Christ's Promises.
3. God Continues to Call People to Faith and Repentance.

Christ is building His Church. He secured all that was needed in His life, death, and resurrection. Now He has poured out His Holy Spirit on His people, empowering them to be His witnesses to Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. And that is what is unfolding throughout Acts. Peter here takes it another step in its certain progress to gather men and women from every tribe, tongue and nation on the planet. Praise be to Christ!

Matthew 24: 14 – 31

¹⁴ This gospel of the kingdom **shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come ...**³⁰ And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory. ³¹ And He will send forth His angels with a great trumpet and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.

Philippians 1: 12 – 20

¹² Now I want you to know, brethren, that my circumstances have turned out for **the greater progress of the gospel**,¹³ so that my imprisonment in *the cause of Christ* has become well known throughout the whole praetorian guard and to everyone else,¹⁴ and that most of the brethren, trusting in the Lord because of my imprisonment, have far more courage to speak the word of God without fear. ¹⁵ Some, to be sure, are preaching Christ even from envy and strife, but some also from good will; ¹⁶ the latter *do it* out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel; ¹⁷ the former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition rather than from pure motives, thinking to cause me distress in my imprisonment. ¹⁸ What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed; and in this I rejoice.

Yes, and I will rejoice,¹⁹ for I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayers and the provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,²⁰ according to my earnest expectation and hope, that I will not be put to shame in anything, but *that* with all boldness, Christ will even now, as always, be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.

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

It's unstoppable. Even though every evil power in the universe has fought against it, the gospel cannot be thwarted. Jesus said even the gates of hell cannot defeat it or withstand it. There is no power that can resist the gospel's certain march forward, for it is obeying its Master's bidding.

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 9:32-43; 4:23-31; Matthew 24:14; Revelation 5:6-14.** DISCUSS, How do all these passages demonstrate the progress of the gospel? How are you participating in it? PRAY "Lord King, You are extending Your Kingdom throughout the globe. Make us joyfully obedient."

Sunday Evening

*Attend **the Young Adults' Fellowship** tonight at 7:30. If you are not able, please pray for those able to participate.*

Monday

READ **Acts 9:32-43; 4:23-31; Philippians 1:12-20** DISCUSS, How is the passage in chapter nine an answer to the prayer in chapter four? What is Peter doing? What is God doing? How certain is the progress of the gospel? PRAY, "Lord God, thank You for Your faithfulness in building Your Church. Teach us to trust You always."

Tuesday

READ **Acts 9:32-35; John 5:1-9; 14:8-14** DISCUSS, Compare and contrast these healings. What is the significance of Peter following Jesus' ministry? How did Jesus promise that they would do similar miracles? Why? PRAY, "Jesus, thank You for demonstrating Your power and authority directly in Your earthly ministry and then through the apostles to verify that You had given them Your authority on earth. Teach us to believe Your Word that You have given us through them."

Wednesday

READ **Acts 9:36-42; Mark 5:35-43; John 14:8-14**. DISCUSS, How did Jesus prepare Peter for this? Do you realize that according to Jesus, bringing someone to spiritual life in Him is a greater miracle than resurrecting a physical corpse? Are you born again? Are you praying for your neighbors to be born again? PRAY, “Lord, You are the only One able to give new life. You enabled Peter to raise Tabitha. Please give life to our neighbors, coworkers, friends, and family.”

Thursday

READ **Acts 9:32-43; Matthew 16:18**. DISCUSS, How certain is it that the Gospel will go to all the nations? How does your life demonstrate you believe that? PRAY, “Lord, You went to the cross for us. Help us take up our cross and follow You joyfully.”

Friday

READ **Acts 9:32-43; 4:23-31; Matthew 24:14; Revelation 5:6-14**. DISCUSS, How has God been teaching you from these passages this week? REJOICE if you have the privilege of being Christ’s beloved! 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 10:1-48; Matthew 28:16-20**. 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.

Acts 4: 29 – 31

²⁹ And now, Lord, take note of their threats, and grant that Your bond-servants may speak Your word with all confidence, ³⁰ **while You extend Your hand to heal, and signs and wonders take place through the name of Your holy servant Jesus.** ³¹ And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and *began* to speak the word of God with boldness.