



The _____
First Congregational Church
of Woodstock _____

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

September 17th, 2023

and was made man; 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 catholic² 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.

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|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| ❖ Creedal Song #735 | <i>Gloria Patri</i> | Congregation |
| ❖ Scripture Reading | Deuteronomy 26:16-19 | Pastor |
| ❖ Hymn of Reflection #528 | <i>My Faith Looks Up to Thee</i> | Congregation |
| The Sermon | Exodus 20:3 | Pastor |
| | <i>“Exclusive Devotion to Yahweh”</i> | |
| ❖ Hymn of Response #2 | <i>O Worship the King</i> | Congregation |
| ❖ Benediction | Numbers 6:24-26 | Pastor |

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

Postlude

~~ Organist: Jonathan Denham ~~

~~ Please ensure cell phones are off ~~

Prelude: Praise to the Lord (Young)

Offertory: Foundation (Held)

Postlude: Pastorella and Fanfare: II. Fanfare (Cooman)

² The term “catholic” here means universal and does not mean any particular denomination.

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## Save the Date!

**Friday, September 22** — 5:00-7:00 pm “Back to School” Dogs & S’mores

**Sunday, October 8** — 3:00-5:00 pm Jerri Cole Memorial Service

**Sunday, October 29** — Missionary Visit with the Klassens (stay tuned for details!)

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“Back to School” Dogs & S’mores

You're invited to our Back to School Dogs & S'mores Event! Come by the front lawn at First Congregational Church of Woodstock for FREE grilled hot dogs, and DIY s'mores. We'll be there Friday, September 22, 2023 from 5pm-7pm. This event is open to the public, and free for all ages. Invite your friends!

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

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Jerri Cole Memorial Service

There will be a memorial service for Jerri Cole on Sunday, October 8th, at 3:00 pm, with a reception following. Please join us in thanking God for Jerri’s life and ministry.

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## Adult Sunday School

Adult Sunday School begins at **9:00 AM**, with a special 12 lesson study “Who is the Holy Spirit?” from Ligonier Ministries. In this video-based lecture series, Dr. Sinclair Ferguson will deepen our understanding of this Person of the Holy Trinity in such a way that we may come to know, not only the mighty works that He has done, but also how we may have fellowship with Him as He continues to work in the lives of God’s children. The nature and character of the Holy Spirit is wonderful to behold; please join with us, for this amazing study is sure to be of great benefit to the Christian.

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We are still hoping to run a Sunday School program for teens - please contact Robyn Huck at robynhuck@gmail.com if you're interested in helping out!

Tuesday Morning Ladies' Bible Study

The Ladies' Bible Study meets in person at 10:00 am at the Thompson Senior Center and via Zoom. Contact Bonnie Atwood at (802) 457-4120 or bonhope2@gmail.com for more information.

The September Prayer Letter is available on the back table.

Join the WCCC Teaching Team!

Are you looking for rewarding work with young children, part or full time? Woodstock Christian Child Care (WCCC) has immediate openings for part-time or full-time Trainees, Teacher Assistants, or Teachers for our full-day program for ages 6 weeks to PreK, and our After School Program for PreK to Grade 2. This is a great opportunity for college students interested in ECE, nursing, or human services to gain experience. WCCC has been serving children and families in the area for 29 years. If you are 18 years old or older, enjoy children, or would like to explore a career in early childhood education, please contact the WCCC Executive Director Ruth Brisson at rbrissonwccc@gmail.com. Thank you!

Exclusive Devotion to Yahweh

“You shall have no other gods before me.”

1. It Is Our Duty to *Delight Exclusively in Yahweh* as Our God.

A. What Does This Require?

B. What Does This Forbid?

2. There Is No One As Captivatingly Desirable as Yahweh.

3. It Requires Faith to Believe in a Beauty We Cannot See.

CONCLUSION: How do we know what it means to love God faithfully? He tells us in His Word by what He *requires* and by what He *forbids*. He also woos us to Himself revealing His beauty, majesty, and matchless wonder. But not only are there countless competing suiters for the affection we owe only to Yahweh, the Deceiver constantly bombards us with false accusations about God. We must trust *what God has said as true* and give Him all the praise He is due.

Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 104. What are the *duties required* in the first commandment?

A. The duties required in the first commandment are, (1) the *knowing* and *acknowledging* of God to be the *only true God*, and *our God*; (2) and to *worship* and *glorify* him accordingly, by thinking, meditating, remembering, highly esteeming, honoring, adoring, choosing, loving, desiring, fearing of him; (3) *believing* him; (4) *trusting*, hoping, delighting, rejoicing in him; (5) *being zealous* for him; (6) *calling* upon him; (7) *giving all praise* and thanks, and yielding all obedience and submission to him with the whole man; (8) being careful in all things to *please him*, and sorrowful when in anything he is offended; (9) and *walking humbly* with him.

Q. 105. What are the *sins forbidden* in the first commandment?

A. The sins forbidden in the first commandment are (1) *atheism*, in denying, or not having a God; (2) *idolatry*, in having or worshiping more gods than one, or any with, or instead of the true God; (3) the not having and avouching him for God, and our God; (4) the *omission* or *neglect* of anything due to him, required in this commandment; (5) *ignorance*, forgetfulness, misapprehensions, false opinions, unworthy and wicked thoughts of him; (6) bold and curious *searching into his secrets*; (7) all *profaneness*, hatred of God; (8) *self-love*, self-seeking, and all other inordinate and immoderate setting of our mind, will, or affections upon other things, and taking them off from him in whole or in part; (9) *vain credulity*, unbelief, heresy, misbelief, distrust, despair, incorrigibleness, and insensibleness under judgments; (10) *hardness of heart*; pride; presumption; carnal security; tempting of God; (11) using *unlawful means*, and *trusting* in lawful means; (12) *carnal delights* and joys; (13) corrupt, blind, and *indiscreet zeal*; (14) *lukewarmness*, and deadness in the things of God; (15) *estranging ourselves*, and apostatizing from God; (16) *praying*, or giving any religious worship, *to saints, angels, or any other creatures*; (17) all compacts and *consulting with the devil*, and hearkening to his suggestions; (18) *making men the lords* of our faith and conscience; (19) *slighting* and despising God and his commands; (20) *resisting* and grieving of his Spirit, discontent and impatience at his dispensations, charging him foolishly for the evils he inflicts on us; (21) and *ascribing* the praise of any good we either are, have, or can do, to fortune, idols, ourselves, or any other creature.

Taking Gathered Worship Home

Exclusivity is at the heart of God's commitment to His people. It is the prime directive, the essential core. Going steady doesn't mean anything, if it is not exclusive. There is not only *no room at all for playing the field with other gods*, but God is due ALL worship, praise, devotion, and adoration.

Please use the devotional material below each day this week to praise Christ.

Sunday Morning

READ **Exodus 20:1-21; Psalm 14:1; 81:1-16; 29:1-11; First Thessalonians 1:2-9; Deuteronomy 26:16-19; Matthew 4:10; Isaiah 45:22-25; Philippians 2:4-11.** DISCUSS What does it mean to be exclusive with God? What does it mean for Him to be exclusively ours? MEDITATE on **Exodus 20:3.** Use WLC #104-5 as an aid. PRAY "Yahweh, You alone are God. Teach us to honor You exclusively as God."

Sunday Evening

Young Adult Fellowship meets at **6pm** in the church library.

Monday

READ **Exodus 20:1-21; 6:2-8; Psalm 14:1; First Thessalonians 1:2-9; Deuteronomy 26:16-19.** DISCUSS We all know that there is a god. If we follow Christ, we have turned from idols to serve Him alone. Why? Why is it necessary to serve Christ only if we are to serve Him at all? SERVE by taking time to help someone! MEDITATE on **Exodus 20:3.** Use WLC #104-5 as an aid. PRAY, "Yahweh, we long to be done with giving others the praise only You deserve. Give us hearts united to adore You alone."

Tuesday

READ **Exodus 20:1-21; Psalm 81:1-16; Deuteronomy 26:16-19; Matthew 4:10.** DISCUSS Why is listening to God imperative to worshipping Him? MEDITATE on **Exodus 20:3.** Use WLC #104-5 as an aid. PRAY, "Yahweh, You are *our* God. There is no one but You. Teach us to live out that reality. Make us faithful to You as You are faithful to us. Receive our worship in Christ. Make us loyal and joyful in our adoration of You as our only God."

Wednesday

READ **Exodus 20:1-21; Psalm 29:1-11; Matthew 4:10; Isaiah 45:22-25.** DISCUSS What do you find most alluring about God? When/How are you most likely to forget that? MEDITATE on **Exodus 20:3.** Use WLC #104-5 as an aid. PRAY, “Yahweh, God of the covenant, You are full of majesty. You alone can forgive. Heal us of our idolatrous hearts. Make us faithful!”

Thursday

READ **Exodus 20:1-21; Psalm 14:1; Isaiah 45:22-25; Philippians 2:4-11.** DISCUSS How does Jesus fulfill all of this first word/teaching? How do you need to repent for ways you have not done what you should/done what you should not? SERVE by putting someone else’s interests *above your own!* MEDITATE on **Exodus 20:3.** Use WLC #104-5 as an aid. PRAY, “Jesus, You are worthy of all praise, honor, and devotion. Help us to joyfully and exclusively give all of it to You.”

Friday

READ **Exodus 20:1-21; Psalm 14:1; 81:1-16; 29:1-11; First Thessalonians 1:2-9; Deuteronomy 26:16-19; Matthew 4:10; Isaiah 45:22-25; Philippians 2:4-11.** DISCUSS What has God been teaching you this week? SERVE by *caring for someone in need!* MEDITATE on MEDITATE on **Exodus 20:3.** Use WLC #104-5 as an aid. PRAY that we at FCCW would *trust Christ together.*

Saturday

PREPARE today for *gathered Sunday worship tomorrow.* CONSIDER Why has God called us to gather with God’s people tomorrow? READ **Exodus 20:1-21.** *Invite others to join you tomorrow for the worship service @ 10:30 am.* PRAY, “Lord, gather us together *to delight in You.*”

Exodus 20:3

“You shall have no other gods before me.”