



The _____
First Congregational Church
of Woodstock _____

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

September 20th, 2020

The Order of Morning Worship

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

September 20th, 2020

Nine-thirty

Welcome

Pastor Doug Warren

Prelude & Silent Prayer

❖ Call to Worship

Psalm 19

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 181

We Come, O Christ, to You

We Come, O Christ, to You

I am the way and the truth and the life. John 14:6

1. We come, O Christ, to you, true Son of God - and man,
 2. You are the Way to God, your blood our ran - som paid;
 3. You are the liv - ing Truth! All wis - dom dwells in you,
 4. You on - ly are true Life, to know you is to live
 5. We wor - ship you, Lord Christ, our Sav - ior and our King,

by whom all things con - sist, in whom all life be - gan: in you a -
 in you we face our Judge and Mak - er un - a - fraid. Be - fore the
 • the Source of ev - ery skill, the one e - ter - nal TRUE! O great I
 the more a - bun - dant life that earth can nev - er give: O ris - en
 to you our youth and strength a - dor - ing - ly we bring: so fill

lone we live and move, and have our be - ing in your love.
 throne ab - solved we stand, your love has met your law's de - mand.
 • AM! In you we rest, sure an - swer to our ev - ery quest.
 Lord! We live in you: in us each day your life re - new!
 hearts, that all may view your life in us, and turn to you.

E. Margaret Clarkson, 1957, 1985

DARWALL 6.6.6.6.8.8.
 John Darwall, 1770

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Scriptural Call to Repentance

Habakkuk 2: 14, 18 – 20

For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea... “Of what value is an idol, since a man has carved it? Or an image that teaches lies? For he who makes it trusts in his own creation; he makes idols that cannot speak. Woe to him who says to wood, ‘Come to life!’ Or to lifeless stone, ‘Wake up!’ Can it give guidance? It is covered with gold and silver; there is no breath in it. But the LORD is in his holy temple; let all the earth be silent before him.”

Collective Confession

From Psalm 25

Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your goodness, O LORD! For your name's sake, O LORD, pardon my guilt, for it is great. Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and afflicted. The troubles of my heart are enlarged; bring me out of my distresses. Consider my affliction and my trouble, and forgive all my sins.

Proclamation of Forgiveness

Romans 8: 1

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Scripture Reading

Ephesians 4: 14 – 16

As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; but **speaking the truth in love**, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him who is the head, *even* Christ, from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

Pastor: The grass withers, the flower fades,

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

Pastoral Prayer

“Concerning Gentile Believers in Christ”

Acts 11: 1 – 18

Now the apostles and the brothers who were throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. ² So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcision party criticized him, saying, ³ “You went to uncircumcised men and ate with them.” ⁴ But Peter began and explained it to them in order: ⁵ “I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision, something like a great sheet descending, being let down from heaven by its four corners, and it came down to me. ⁶ Looking at it closely, I observed animals and beasts of prey and reptiles and birds of the air. ⁷ And I heard a voice saying to me, ‘Rise, Peter; kill and eat.’ ⁸ But I said, ‘By no means, Lord; for nothing common or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’ ⁹ But the voice answered a second time from heaven, ‘What God has made clean, do not call common.’ ¹⁰ This happened three times, and all was drawn up again into heaven. ¹¹ And behold, at that very moment three men arrived at the house in which we were, sent to me from Caesarea. ¹² And the Spirit told me to go with them, making no distinction. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. ¹³ And he told us how he had seen the angel stand in his house and say, ‘Send to Joppa and bring Simon who is called Peter; ¹⁴ he will declare to you a message by which you will be saved, you and all your household.’ ¹⁵ As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them just as on us at the beginning. ¹⁶ And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ ¹⁷ If then God gave the same gift to them as he gave to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God's way?” ¹⁸ When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, “Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life.”

We Are God's People

355

We are his people, the sheep of his pasture. Ps. 100:3

Unison

1. We are God's peo - ple, the cho - sen of the Lord, born of his
2. We are God's loved ones, the Bride of Christ our Lord, for we have
3. We are the Bod - y of which the Lord is - Head, called to o -
4. We are a tem - ple, the Spir - it's dwell - ing place, formed in great

Spir - it, es - tab - lished by his Word; our cor - ner - stone is
known it, the love of God out - poured; now let us learn how
bey him, now ris - en from the dead; he wills us be a
weak - ness, a cup to hold God's grace; we die a - lone, for

Christ a - lone, and strong in him we stand: O let us live trans -
to re - turn the gift of love once giv'n: O let us share each
fam - i - ly, di - verse yet tru - ly one: O let us give our
on its own each mem - ber los - es fire: yet joined in one the

par - ent - ly, and walk heart to heart and hand in hand.
joy and care, and live with a zeal that pleas - es heav'n.
gifts to God, and so shall his work on earth be done.
flame burns on to give warmth and light, and to in - spire.

Bryan Jeffery Leech, 1976

SYMPHONY 11.11.8.6.8.9.
From Johannes Brahms, *Symphony No. 1 in C Minor*, 1876
Arr. by Fred Bock, 1976

Benediction

2 Corinthians 13: 14

Pastor: The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

Congregation: Thanks be to God. Amen.

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

Postlude

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

Adult Sunday School Resumes Today

This Sunday, September 20, following church we will have Adult Sunday School at 11:00 am. Next Sunday, September 27 we will return to our school year schedule. Adult Sunday School will begin at 9:00 am with a time of Praise and Worship followed by Sunday School until 10:00 am. Church will begin at 10:30 am. Both Adult Sunday School and Church may be attend in person or watched live via our Livestream options: www.fccw.net/livestream/ or <https://www.facebook.com/fccwoodstock/> or <https://www.sermonaudio.com/player/webcast/fccwoodstock/>.

Sunday School Collection

The Sunday School offering goes towards supporting Joram Serwanga and Habibah Komugave in Uganda. Our support helps provide food, clothing, and school fees for the children. There is a box on the table behind the last pews to drop your Sunday School offering into. You can also give online at <http://www.fccw.net/donate>.

Reception for Rick and Ann Chubbuck

There will be a reception next Sunday, Sept 27, after church to thank Rick and Ann Chubbuck for their friendship and service with us. They will be moving from this area to serve the Lord in other places. There will be a basket for cards and notes.

Ladies Bathrooms

Beginning Monday August 31, the Ladies Bathroom off the Billings Room will no longer be available during the week. Due to the rigid COVID sanitation regulations for childcare centers, those bathrooms will be closed to public use during the week and ONLY available on Saturday and until 2:00 pm on Sunday. Please do not use the Ladies Bathroom off the Billings Room in the evenings or after 2:00 pm on Sunday. The bathrooms downstairs in the Sunday School Classrooms are available during the week, evenings, and weekends. Thank you for helping WCCC to follow the state mandated protocols.

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.

Do You Need IT Help?

In order to assist folks in the use of the church's computer network for Zoom (and similar) meetings, Michael Byrne has offered, on a trial basis, to serve as the FCCW help desk. If you are having trouble with the FCCW computer system or have a question for Michael, please email michael@clickthruvt.com with the subject "FCCW HELP DESK".

Please remember he already has a full time job so we can only promise he will try to respond within 24 hours.

First Responders Needed

The AED device in the hallway between the Sanctuary and the Billings Room has recently been updated and re-certified. We are currently looking for folks who are certified in the use of it or are interested in GETTING certified, to be designated as the church's "first responders" in the case of a cardiac event.

If you are interested, please contact Terri at fccwinfo@gmail.com or 802 – 457 – 9818.

Tuesday Morning Ladies Bible Study

The Tuesday morning ladies Bible study has resumed meeting at 10:00 am. For more details, please contact Bonnie Atwood at 802 – 457 – 4120 or email her at bonhope2@gmail.com.

Young Adult Fellowship Group

Pastor Doug disciples a Young Adult Fellowship Group to grow the faith of the 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 6:00 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.

Intro to FCCW Workshop

What kind of congregation is the First Congregational Church of Woodstock? Want to understand FCCW's Statement of Faith? What does it mean to be a member? What opportunities are there to serve at FCCW? Looking for the answers to these questions and more. Consider attending the Intro to FCCW Workshop. For both members and those seeking to learn more about FCCW, this five part workshop will give an insight into how FCCW functions, the importance of membership, and what are the next steps are to being an active, involved member at FCCW. It will be offered on consecutive Thursdays in October from 6:30 to 8:00 pm.

Below is an outline of the topics to be discussed at the Intro to FCCW Workshop:

- Session One—Worship
- Session Two—Joyous Knowledge
- Session Three—Radical Love for One Another
- Session Four— Extending His Grace
- Session Five— Belonging to His Community

Please contact Terri at fccwinfo@gmail.com to register.

Concerning Gentile Believers in Christ

1. **The Complaint:** You Shared Fellowship with Gentiles (1-3).
2. **Peter's Explanation:** God Sent Me and Validated It (4-16).
3. **Conclusion:** Gratitude to God for His Mercy (17-18).

Peter returned to Jerusalem rejoicing in the Holy Spirit's work through his ministry in ushering in Gentiles into the family of God. Yet when he arrived he received criticism instead of shared celebration. By God's grace Peter was able to respond humbly to the detractors and answered their critiques by careful explanation of both God's direct command and the Holy Spirit's confirmation. As a result the entire gathering of Christ-followers in Jerusalem was able to rejoice together at the mercy of God revealed through the addition of the Gentiles to the family of God.

Isaiah 30: 15 – 22

¹⁵ For thus said the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel,
“In returning and rest you shall be saved;
in quietness and in trust shall be your strength.”

But you were unwilling, ¹⁶ and you said,

“No! We will flee upon horses”;
therefore you shall flee away;

and, “We will ride upon swift steeds”;

therefore your pursuers shall be swift.

¹⁷ A thousand shall flee at the threat of one;
at the threat of five you shall flee,
till you are left

like a flagstaff on the top of a mountain,
like a signal on a hill.

¹⁸ Therefore the LORD waits to be gracious to you,
and therefore he exalts himself to show mercy to you.

For the LORD is a God of justice;

blessed are all those who wait for him.

¹⁹ For a people shall dwell in Zion, in Jerusalem; you shall weep no more. He will surely be gracious to you at the sound of your cry. As soon as he hears it, he answers you. ²⁰ And though the Lord give you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, yet your Teacher will not hide himself anymore, but your eyes shall see your Teacher. ²¹ And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, “This is the way, walk in it,” when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left. ²² Then you will defile your carved idols overlaid with silver and your gold-plated metal images. You will scatter them as unclean things. You will say to them, “Be gone!”

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

Criticism. No one likes getting it. But being totally accepted by God through Christ frees us to hear other people's concerns and respond with grace and truth rather than becoming defensive. Peter shows us in this week's passage and points us to what God alone is able to work in us—repentance unto life.

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 11:1-18; Isaiah 30:15-22; Ephesians 4:14-16**. DISCUSS, What's significant about the Gentiles receiving the Word? Why did the Holy Spirit fall upon them? What did that signify? Why were they baptized instead of circumcised? Why do the Jewish believers praise God for granting them repentance to life? PRAY "Lord King, we praise You for Your mercy. Thank You for extending Your grace to us and enfolding us fully in Your loving family. "

Sunday Evening

Young Adults' Fellowship at **6:00** tonight in the FCCW library.

Monday

READ **Acts 11:1-18; Romans 6:3-11; Psalm 51:1-19**. DISCUSS, What does repentance unto life mean? Why does Scripture talk about it in such bold terms as life and death? How much do you hate your sin? What are you doing to trust Christ in dealing with your sin? PRAY, "Jesus, You're worthy of all praise, glory, & honor. Make us joyfully give it all to You!"

Tuesday

READ **Acts 11:1-18; Second Corinthians 5:16-21**. DISCUSS, How are repentance and reconciliation related? How are they at work in you (us)? How are you praising God for the repentance He has granted you (us)? PRAY, "Jesus, thank You for revealing our sin to us. Thank You for enabling us to hate it and turn to You for life. We love You and ask that You would embolden us to love You more."

Wednesday

READ **Acts 11:1-18; Colossians 3:5-11; Joel 2:12-14**. DISCUSS, How are we to deal with our sin? What does it mean to treat our “old self” as dead? How do we return to the Lord with all our heart? How did God work this in Cornelius and his household? PRAY, “Lord, forgive us for our rebellion against You. Thank You for your mercy and grace.”

Thursday

READ **Acts 11:1-18; Romans 8:12-17**; DISCUSS, How did the Holy Spirit “testify” in both of these passages? What is the significance in each? How is He testifying concerning you? How? PRAY, “Lord, thank You for giving us Your Holy Spirit and for His work in our lives. Make us bold as witnesses for You.”

Friday

READ **Acts 11:1-18; Isaiah 30:15-22; Ephesians 4:14-16**. DISCUSS, How has God been teaching you from these passages this week? REJOICE if God has granted you the gift of faith in Christ! PRAY for renewal and revival across our land.

Saturday

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

READ **Acts 11:1-30**. Invite others to join you for either the *live-stream or in-person service* tomorrow. Ask Jesus to help us love our neighbors well.

“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 6:23

“There is no sin so small, but it deserves damnation; so there is no sin so great, that it can bring damnation upon those who truly repent.” WCF 15.

“For the sorrow that is according to *the will of God* produces a repentance without regret, *leading to salvation*, but the sorrow of the world produces death.” Second Corinthians 7:10