

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

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

*September 27th, 2020*

# *The Order of Morning Worship*

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

September 27th, 2020

Ten-thirty

Welcome

Pastor Doug Warren

Prelude & Silent Prayer

❖ Call to Worship

Psalm 34

Pastor: I will bless the LORD at all times

**Congregation: His praise shall continually be in my mouth.**

Pastor: My soul makes its boast in the LORD; let the humble hear  
and be glad.

**Congregation: Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his  
name together.**

❖ Hymn of Exultation

Number 198

*Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates!*

# Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates!

198

*Lift up your heads, O you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Ps. 24:7*

1. Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates! Be - hold, the  
2. A help - er just he comes to thee, his char - iot  
3. O blest the land, the cit - y blest, where Christ the  
4. Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a

King of glo - ry waits; the King of kings is  
is hu - mil - i - ty, his king - ly crown is  
Rul - er is con - fessed! O hap - py hearts and  
tem - ple, set a - part from earth - ly use for

draw - ing near, the Sav - ior of the world is here.  
ho - li - ness, his scep - ter, pi - ty in dis - tress.  
hap - py homes to whom this King in tri - umph comes!  
heav'n's em - ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.

5. Redeemer, come! I open wide  
my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide!  
Let me thy inner presence feel;  
thy grace and love in me reveal.

6. So come, my Sovereign, enter in!  
Let new and nobler life begin!  
Thy Holy Spirit, guide us on,  
until the glorious crown be won.

## 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.

## 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.

## Scripture Reading

Psalms 24

- <sup>1</sup>The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof,  
the world and those who dwell therein,
- <sup>2</sup>for he has founded it upon the seas  
and established it upon the rivers.
- <sup>3</sup>Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD?  
And who shall stand in his holy place?
- <sup>4</sup>He who has clean hands and a pure heart,  
who does not lift up his soul to what is false  
and does not swear deceitfully.
- <sup>5</sup>He will receive blessing from the LORD

- and righteousness from the God of his salvation.
- <sup>6</sup> Such is the generation of those who seek him,  
who seek the face of the God of Jacob.
- <sup>7</sup> Lift up your heads, O gates!  
And be lifted up, O ancient doors,  
that the King of glory may come in.
- <sup>8</sup> Who is this King of glory?  
The LORD, strong and mighty,  
the LORD, mighty in battle!
- <sup>9</sup> Lift up your heads, O gates!  
And lift them up, O ancient doors,  
that the King of glory may come in.
- <sup>10</sup> Who is this King of glory?  
The LORD of hosts,  
he is the King of glory!

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

**Congregation: Thanks be to God.**

Pastoral Prayer

The Sermon

Pastor Doug Warren

*“King Jesus Conquers a Pagan Stronghold”*

Acts 11: 19 – 26

<sup>19</sup> Now those who were scattered because of the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except Jews. <sup>20</sup> But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who on coming to Antioch spoke to the Hellenists also, preaching the Lord Jesus. <sup>21</sup> And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number who believed turned to the Lord. <sup>22</sup> The report of this came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. <sup>23</sup> When he came and saw the grace of God, he was glad, and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast purpose, <sup>24</sup> for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord. <sup>25</sup> So Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, <sup>26</sup> and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the church and taught a great many people. And in Antioch the disciples were first called Christians.

*Thine Be the Glory**Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Cor. 15:57*

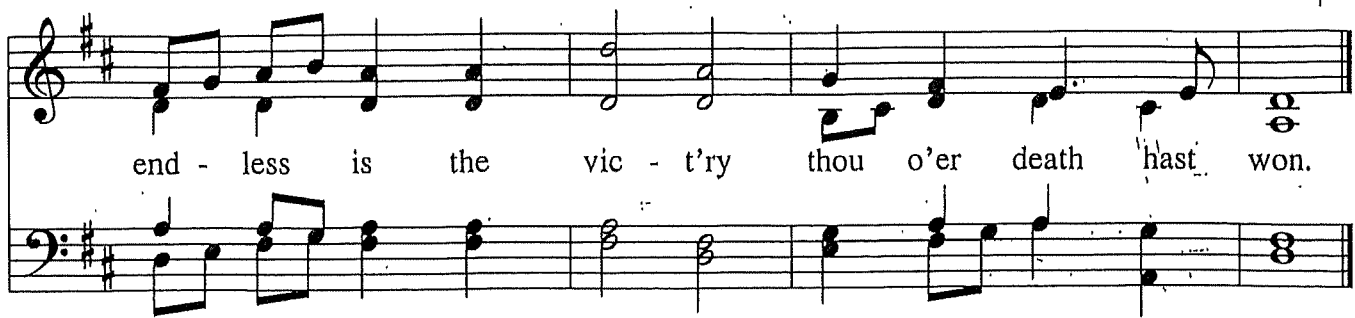
1. Thine be the glo - ry, ris - en, con - qu'ring Son; end - less is the  
 2. Lo! Je - sus meets us, ris - en from the tomb; lov - ing - ly he  
 3. No more we doubt thee, glo - rious Prince - of life; life is naught with -

vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won; an - gels in bright rai - ment  
 greets us, scat - ters fear and gloom; let the church with glad - ness,  
 out thee: aid us in our strife; make us more than con - qu'rors,

rolled the stone a - way, kept the fold - ed grave - clothes,  
 hymns of tri - umph sing, for her Lord now liv - eth,  
 thro' thy death - less love: bring us safe thro' Jor - dan

REFRAIN

where thy bod - y lay.  
 death hath lost its sting. Thine be the glo - ry, ris - en, con - qu'ring Son;  
 to thy home a - bove.



Edmond Budry, 1884  
Tr. by Richard B. Hoyle, 1923  
Text © 1923, World Student Christian Federation. Used by permission.

MACCABAEUS 10.11.11.11.ref.  
From George Frederick Handel, *Judas Maccabaeus*, 1747

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

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## Reception for Rick and Ann Chubbuck

There will be a reception today - 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.

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## 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>.

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## 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.

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## 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](mailto: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.

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## 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](mailto:fccwinfo@gmail.com) or 802 – 457 – 9818.

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## 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](mailto:brissonwccc@comcast.net). Please continue to pray for the many changes that must be put in place in order to open.

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## 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](mailto: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.

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## 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](mailto:fccwinfo@gmail.com) to register.

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## **King Jesus Conquers a Pagan Stronghold**

**1. Persecution Continues to Spread News of the King (19-21).**

**2. Jews & Gentiles Receive Word and Discipleship (22-25).**

**3. No Longer Jews & Gentiles, Now Christians (26).**

King Jesus continues expanding His Kingdom, now including Gentiles not only as an exception, but as a regular part of the Church. Evangelism and Discipleship begin in earnest in Antioch and the King deploys a team to establish the new church in grace and truth. It is such a radically different community that others begin referring to them as “partisans of Christ” or Christians. How are we demonstrating that same kind of allegiance to our King?

## First Peter 4: 12 – 19

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? And

“If the righteous is scarcely saved,  
what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?”

Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.

## Matthew 16: 15 – 19

He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter replied, “**You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.**” 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. 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. 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.”

## 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

The Kingdom of Jesus is expanding as our Lord faithfully keeps all His promises and extends His rule and reign throughout the whole earth. His followers are often mocked and hated. Nevertheless we continue to trust the goodness of our Master and declare His praises around the globe. This week let us explore how we can together praise our King.

*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 11:19-26; Matthew 16:15-19; First Peter 4:12-19.** DISCUSS, What's significant about the church being established in Antioch? How does King Jesus accomplish this? How are evangelism and discipleship central to the life of the Church? PRAY "Lord King, we praise You for Your promises to build Your Church and extend Your Kingdom throughout the earth. 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 11:19-26; Ephesians 2:11-22; Psalm 24:1-10.** DISCUSS, How has Jesus demonstrated His lordship over all the earth? Why is it important for His people to submit to Him as Savior and Lord? Where is it most difficult for you to submit? Why? How is discipleship in His Church critical to fighting that battle? PRAY, "Jesus, You are the King. We praise You and submit to Your rule!"

### Tuesday

READ **Acts 11:19-26; Ephesians 2:11-22; Psalm 24:1-10.** DISCUSS, What does it mean to no longer be alienated from the commonwealth of Israel? Why are Gentiles now no longer strangers to the covenant promises? PRAY, "Jesus, thank You for reconciling us to You and one another. Lord, help us to trust You together."

### **Wednesday**

READ **Acts 11:19-26; Romans 8:18-25; Psalm 102:1-28**. DISCUSS, How is God fulfilling what was longed for in this psalm? Why is waiting such a central aspect of following Christ together? How are you handling waiting? Who at FCCW is the Lord using to help you wait patiently? PRAY, “Lord, sustain us we pray. We long to see You in fullness.”

### **Thursday**

READ **Acts 11:19-26; Romans 8:18-25; Psalm 102:1-28**. DISCUSS, If Jesus is already King, why do we endure such hardship? How do you deal with this ache? How are you encouraging brothers and sisters in Christ? How are you reaching out to those who don't share our hope in Jesus?" PRAY, “Lord, Jesus, come quickly, Lord. Help us as we wait on You.”

### **Friday**

READ **Acts 11:19-26; Matthew 16:15-19; First Peter 4:12-19**. 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 through him [Christ] we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God ...”** Ephesians 2:18-19