



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

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

*October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023*

# *The Order of Morning Worship*

October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023

Ten-thirty

Welcome

Pastor Doug Warren

Prelude & Silent Prayer

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|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------|
| ❖ Call to Worship             | Psalm 67 and 1 Chronicles 16     | Pastor       |
| ❖ Hymn of Exultation #125     | <i>Let All Things Now Living</i> | Congregation |
| Scriptural Call to Repentance | 1 John 1:8-9                     | Pastor       |
| Collective Confession         | Luther's Prayer                  | Congregation |

**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 shortcomings 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.**

Silent Reflection and Confession

Proclamation of Forgiveness	Jeremiah 33:8	Pastor
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Pastoral Prayer		Pastor
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Offering	(collected from back to front)	Congregation
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Affirmation of Faith	<i>The Heidelberg Catechism</i> <sup>1</sup>	Congregation
Pastor: What is your only comfort in life and in death?		

<sup>1</sup> Catechisms are a question and answer format used for teaching in the church. The Heidelberg Catechism was written in 1563 and approved by the Church at the Synod of Dort (1618-1619).

**Congregation:** That I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, in life and in death—to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ.

He has fully paid for all my sins with His precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven: in fact, all things must work together for my salvation.

Because I belong to Him, Christ, by His Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for Him.

Pastor: What must you know to live and die in the joy of this comfort?

**Congregation:** Three things: first, how great my sin and misery are; second, how I am set free from all my sins and misery; third, how I am to thank God for such deliverance.

❖ Creedal Song	<i>Holy Holy Holy is the Lord of Hosts</i>	Congregation
❖ Scripture Reading	Hebrews 12:18-24	Pastor
❖ Hymn of Reflection	<i>God, Be Merciful to Me</i>	Congregation
The Sermon	Exodus 20:13 <i>“Stewards of Life”</i>	Pastor
❖ Hymn of Response #585	<i>Take My Life and Let It Be</i>	Congregation
❖ Benediction	John 14:27	Pastor

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

Postlude

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

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## Save the Date!

**Saturday, October 28** — 5:00 pm Covered dish dinner with visiting missionaries Herb & Heather)

**Saturday, November 4** — 9:30 am-12:30 pm COT food drive

**Thursday, November 9** — 7:00 pm-9:00 pm Annual Meeting

**Friday, December 8-Saturday, December 9** — Wassail Weekend

Friday, 4:30 & 5:30 pm — FCCW Building & History Tours

Friday, 5:00 pm — Organ Concert

Saturday, 11:00 am-2:00 pm — Hot Wassail and DIY s'mores on the lawn

Saturday, 2:00 pm — Wassail Parade Watch Party

Saturday, 3:00 pm — The Ten of NYC Concert

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## Volunteers Needed!

COT Food drive at FCCW Sat., Nov. 4th from 9:30am-12:30pm. We need 4-5 volunteers to assist during drop off and one person to take donated food to the Woodstock food shelf. Contact Keri Bristow at [kerilynbristow@gmail.com](mailto:kerilynbristow@gmail.com) to volunteer.

COT will host Wassail drinks and s'mores on the FCCW front lawn Sat Dec 9th from 11am-2pm. We will need set up and clean up volunteers. Contact Keri Bristow to volunteer: [kerilynbristow@gmail.com](mailto:kerilynbristow@gmail.com)

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## Weekly Gathering Opportunities

**Sundays, 6:00 pm** — Young Adult Fellowship Group in the library

**Tuesdays, 7:00 am** — Middle School & High School Bible Study—meet at Maplefields to grab breakfast, then on to the church for study, discussion, and prayer.

**Tuesdays, 10:00 am** — Ladies' Bible Study meets in person at the Thompson Senior Center and via ZOOM, please contact Bonnie Atwood at (802) 457-4120 or email [bonhope2@gmail.com](mailto:bonhope2@gmail.com).

**Tuesdays, 6:00 pm** — Prayer Meeting, in person in the library and via ZOOM

**Wednesdays, 6:15 am** — Men's Bible Study, in person in the library and via ZOOM, please contact Dick Atwood at (802) 457-4120 or email [rbatwood1@gmail.com](mailto:rbatwood1@gmail.com).

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There will be no Young Adult Fellowship Group tonight.  
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## 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](mailto:rbrissonwccc@gmail.com). Thank you!

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## **Stewards of Life**

“You shall not murder.”

1. **God Prohibits *Wrongful Taking of Human Life.***

2. **God Holds Us Responsible *for the Lives of Our Neighbors.***

3. **Christ Was Murdered to Give Us Eternal Life.**

CONCLUSION: God alone is the Giver of Human Life. He has made us uniquely in His image and sustains us with life and health for all the days that He has ordained for us. This means that taking human life wrongly is an assault not just on a human being, but directly on the One we represent. Knowing this, we should be advocates for one another, cultivating and encouraging human life. Christ's vicarious death for us is the source of our eternal life in His resurrection. Let us rejoice and encourage one another to live the abundant life He has acquired for us!

## Westminster Larger Catechism

**Q. 135.** What are the **duties** required in the sixth commandment?

**A.** The duties required in the sixth commandment are, all careful studies, and lawful endeavors, to *preserve the life of ourselves and others* by resisting all thoughts and purposes, subduing all passions, and avoiding all occasions, temptations, and practices, which tend to the unjust taking away the life of any; by just defense thereof against violence, patient bearing of the hand of God, quietness of mind, cheerfulness of spirit; a sober use of meat, drink, physic, sleep, labor, and recreation; by charitable thoughts, love, compassion, meekness, gentleness, kindness; peaceable, mild, and courteous speeches and behavior: forbearance, readiness to be reconciled, patient bearing and forgiving of injuries, and requiting good for evil; comforting and succoring the distressed, and protecting and defending the innocent.

**Q. 136.** What are the **sins forbidden** in the sixth commandment?

**A.** The sins forbidden in the sixth commandment are, all taking away the life of ourselves, or of others, except in case of public justice, lawful war, or necessary defense; the neglecting or withdrawing the lawful and necessary means of preservation of life; sinful anger, hatred, envy, desire of revenge; all excessive passions, distracting cares; immoderate use of meat, drink, labor, and recreations; provoking words; oppression, quarreling, striking, wounding, and *whatsoever else tends to the destruction of the life of any*.

Bible passages listed with catechism: Genesis 37:21-22; Deuteronomy 22:8; Judges 8:1-3; 1Samuel 14:45; 19:4-5; 22:13-14; 24:12; 26:9-11; 2Samuel 2:22; 1Kings 18:4; Job 31:19-20; Psalm 37:8-11; 82:4; 127:2; Proverbs 1:10-11, 15-16; 15:1; 16:26; 17:22; 24:11-12; 25:16, 27; 31:8-9; Ecclesiastes 3:4, 11; 5:12; Isaiah 38:21; Jeremiah 26:15-16; Matthew 4:6-7; 5:24; 25:35-36; Luke 10:33-34; Acts 23:12, 16-16, 21, 27; Romans 12:17-21; 13:10; Ephesians 4:2,26-27, 32; 5:28-29; Colossians 3:12-13; 1Thessalonians 4:11; 5:14;; 2Thessalonians 3:10, 12; 1Timothy 5:23; James 3:17; 5:7-11; Hebrews 12:9; 1Peter3:3-4, 8-11

# Taking Gathered Worship Home

Murder is disdain not only for those we would unlawfully kill, but *also for God who has created and is sustaining the object of our wrath.* Murderers presume to take the role that only God deserves *as the Lord of Vengeance.* So too do we who slay others in our thoughts, words, and deeds. It is not enough to refrain from unjust killing. *We must love others as Christ has modeled for us.*

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

## Sunday Morning

**READ Exodus 20:13; Genesis 4:8-16; Hebrews 12:18-24; Matthew 5:21-26; 18:15-20; First John 4:13-21; Psalm 119:65-80.** DISCUSS What does God's prohibition against murder include? Why are we responsible for our neighbors' lives? How are you trusting Christ to love others as we should? MEDITATE on **First John 4:7-8** with WLC #135-6. PRAY "Giver of Life, free us from our hatred and bitterness. Enable us to love others as You have loved us!"

## Sunday Evening

There will be *no Young Adult Fellowship tonight.*

## Monday

**READ Exodus 20:13; Genesis 4:8-16; Isaiah 26:20-21; Hebrews 12:18-24; Psalm 119: 65-80.** DISCUSS What does the Bible mean that the blood cries out? If Abel's blood cried for justice, for what does Christ's blood cry? SERVE by taking time to help someone! MEDITATE on **First John 4:7-8** with WLC #135-6. PRAY, "Giver of Life, we have not loved as we should. Forgive us by the blood of Christ!"

## Tuesday

**READ Exodus 20:13; Matthew 23:29-36; Revelation 6:9-11; Hebrews 12:18-24; Psalm 119: 65-80.** DISCUSS How does Christ's blood cry out for forgiveness? Has Christ's shed blood covered you? How do you know? MEDITATE on **First John 4:7-8** with WLC #135-6. PRAY, "Giver of Life, You alone are the Living God. Enable us to encourage and cultivate life instead of death."



### Wednesday

READ **Exodus 20:13; Matthew 5:21-26; 18:15-20; Psalm 119:65-80.** DISCUSS Who is responsible to initiate reconciliation between two parties? Why do we need both these passages in Matthew to answer that? MEDITATE on **First John 4:7-8** with WLC #135-6. PRAY, “Giver of Life, enable us to forgive and receive forgiveness with one another.”

### Thursday

READ **Exodus 20:13; First John 4:13-21; Psalm 119:65-80.** DISCUSS What is the relationship between loving God and loving one another? Why? SERVE by putting someone else’s interests *above your own!* MEDITATE on **First John 4:7-8** with WLC #135-6. PRAY, “Giver of Life, enable us to honor Your established authorities even as Christ did Pilate as governor. Teach us to trust You in all of life because of Jesus.”

### Friday

READ **Exodus 20:13; Genesis 4:8-16; Hebrews 12:18-24; Matthew 5:21-26; 18:15-20; First John 4:13-21; Psalm 119:65-80.** DISCUSS What has God been teaching you this week? SERVE by *caring for someone in need!* MEDITATE on **First John 4:7-8** with WLC #135-6. PRAY that we at FCCW would *honor Christ together.*

### Saturday

PREPARE today for *gathered Sunday worship tomorrow.* READ **Exodus 20:1-21.** *Invite others to join you tomorrow for the worship service @ 10:30 am.* PRAY, “Giver of Life, gather us together tomorrow *to praise Your holy name and to delight in Your goodness.*”

## 1 John 4:7-8

“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God,  
and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.  
Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.”