

The _____
First Congregational Church
of Woodstock _____

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

October 11th, 2020

The Order of Morning Worship

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

October 11th, 2020

Ten-thirty

Welcome

Pastor Doug Warren

Prelude & Silent Prayer

❖ Call to Worship

Psalm 86

Pastor: We will praise you, O Lord our God, with our whole hearts; we will glorify your name forever; for you have delivered us from the power of death.

Congregation: Bring joy to your servants, O Lord, for to you we lift up our souls. There is none like you; no deeds can compare with yours.

Pastor: All the nations you have made will come and worship before you. They will bring glory to your name, for you alone are God.

Congregation: Teach us now your way, O Lord, and we will live in your truth. Give us undivided hearts that we may fear and praise your great name.

❖ Hymn of Exultation

Number 76

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

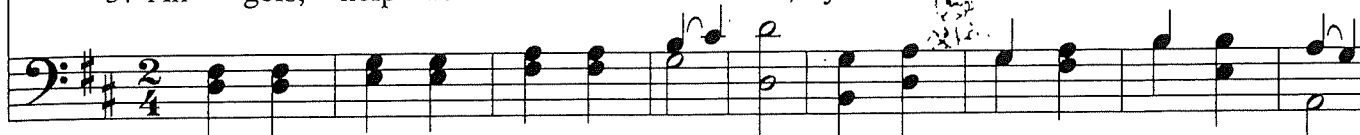
Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

76

*Praise the LORD, all his works everywhere in his dominion. Praise the LORD,
O my soul. Ps. 103:22*



1. Praise, my soul, the King of heav - en, to his feet your trib - ute bring;
2. Praise him for his grace and fa - vor to our fa - thers in dis - tress;
3. Fa - ther - like, he tends and spares us; well our fee - ble frame he knows;
4. Frail as sum - mer's flow'r we flour - ish, blows the wind and it is gone;
5. An - gels, help us to a - dore him; you be - hold him face to face;



- ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en, who, like me, his praise should sing?
 praise him, still the same for - ev - er, slow to chide and swift to bless;
 • in his hands he gent - ly bears us, res - cues us from all our foes;
 but while mor - tals rise and per - ish, God en - dures un - chang - ing on.
 sun and moon, bow down be - fore him, dwell - ers all in time and space,



- Praise him, praise him, praise him, praise him, praise the ev - er - last - ing King.
 praise him, praise him, praise him, praise him, glo - rious in his faith - ful - ness.
 • praise him, praise him, praise him, praise him, wide - ly as his mer - cy goes.
 Praise him, praise him, praise him, praise him, praise the High E - ter - nal One.
 praise him, praise him, praise him, praise him, praise with us the God of grace.



From Psalm 103
Henry F. Lyte, 1834; mod.

LAUDA ANIMA 8.7.8.7.8.7.
John Goss, 1869

Scriptural Call to Repentance

Psalm 46: 8 – 9

The nations rage, the kingdoms totter; He utters His voice, the earth melts. The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. Come, behold the works of the LORD, how he has brought desolations on the earth; he breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the chariots with fire.

Collective Confession

Holy Father, we long to have you change our hearts. We confess to You that we do not obey You as we should. We don't think Your thoughts, speak Your truth, or do the good that You command. We do not love our neighbors as You have loved us. We bend the truth to our own purposes. We harbor bitterness when we don't get our own way. We neglect and leave the oppressed with no defender. We break Your holy law and delight in what You have forbidden. Merciful Lord, we humbly ask that You would forgive us and change our hearts. Conform us to the image of Your Son. Holy Spirit, work in us we pray, that we might be like You.

Proclamation of Forgiveness

Psalm 130: 3, 7 – 8

If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand? O Israel, put your hope in the Lord, for with the Lord is unfailing love and with Him is full redemption. He Himself will redeem Israel from all their sins.

Scripture Reading

Ephesians 6: 10 – 20

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵ and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish

all the flaming darts of the evil one; ¹⁷ and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, ¹⁸ praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, ¹⁹ and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

Pastor: The grass withers, the flower fades,

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

Pastoral Prayer

The Sermon

Pastor Doug Warren

“Kingdoms in Conflict”

Acts 12: 1 – 11

About that time Herod the king laid violent hands on some who belonged to the church. ² He killed James the brother of John with the sword, ³ and when he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. This was during the days of Unleavened Bread. ⁴ And when he had seized him, he put him in prison, delivering him over to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending after the Passover to bring him out to the people. ⁵ So Peter was kept in prison, but earnest prayer for him was made to God by the church.

⁶ Now when Herod was about to bring him out, on that very night, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries before the door were guarding the prison. ⁷ And behold, an angel of the Lord stood next to him, and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him, saying, “Get up quickly.” And the chains fell off his hands. ⁸ And the angel said to him, “Dress yourself and put on your sandals.” And he did so. And he said to him, “Wrap your cloak around you and follow me.” ⁹ And he went out and followed him. He did not know that what was being done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision. ¹⁰ When they had passed the first and the second guard, they came to the iron gate leading into the city. It opened for them of its own accord, and they went out and went along one street, and immediately the angel left him. ¹¹ When Peter came to himself, he said,

“Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hand of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting.”

❖ Hymn of Commitment

Number 455

And Can It Be That I Should Gain

While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Rom. 5:8

Chords: G, Am/C, D7, G, Am/C, D7

1. And can it be that I should gain an in - t'rest
 2. 'Tis mys - t'ry all! Th'Im - mor - tal dies; who can ex -
 3. He left his Fa - ther's throne a - bove (so free, so
 4. Long my im - pris - oned spir - it lay fast bound in
 5. No con - dem - na - tion now I dread; Je - sus, and

Chords: G, D/A, A7, D, G/D, D, G

in the Sav - ior's blood? Died he for me, who caused his
 plore his strange de - sign? In vain the first - born ser - aph
 in - fi - nite his grace!), hum - bled him - self (so great his
 sin and na - ture's night; thine eye dif - fused a quick - ning
 all in him, is mine! A - live in him, my liv - ing

Chords: D, C, G, G/D, D7, G, D, G

pain? For me, who him to death pur - sued? A - maz - ing love!
 tries to sound the depths of love di - vine. 'Tis mer - cy all!
 love!), and bled for all his cho - sen race. 'Tis mer - cy all,
 ray; I woke, the dun - geon flamed with light; my chains fell off,
 Head, and clothed in righ - teous - ness di - vine, bold I ap - proach

How can it be that thou, my God, shouldst
 Let earth adore, let angel minds in-
 im - mense and free; for, O my God, it
 my heart was free; I rose, went forth, and
 th'e - ter - nal throne, and claim the crown, through

die for me?
 quire no more. A - maz - ing love! How can it
 found out me. A - maz - ing love! How
 fol - lowed thee. A - maz - ing love! How
 Christ, my own.

be that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?
 can it be that thou, my God,

Charles Wesley, 1738
 Alt. 1990

SAGINA L.M.D.
 Thomas Campbell, 1825

Benediction

Jude 24 – 25

Pastor: To Him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before His glorious presence without fault and with great joy—to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forever more.

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 ~~

Deacons' Offering This Sunday

Our church receives many requests for help from not just within our church body but the community at large. The Deacons' have a great many opportunities to share God's love with folks in need, whether it is paying a bill for them or buying them a pair of glasses. This is a vital ministry that our church has to reach into our communities and share the gospel in a loving, gracious way. If you are in need or know someone who is, please contact Jerry Morton, the Deacons' Mercy Minister at 802-672-1793 or email at ejerrym@aol.com.

WCCC Teacher Introductions

The Woodstock Christian Childcare is a vital ministry of our church in the Upper Valley. The teachers who work there strive to share the Gospel in a manner that impacts not just the children but the entire family. Next Sunday, October 18, during the morning worship service you will get a chance to meet these wonderful teachers, to welcome them, to encourage them, and to pray for them.

Come be a part of this wonderful celebration. There will be a reception following the Morning Worship Service to get to know the Teachers and their families more intimately.

New Ladies Bible Study

Robyn Huck is currently putting together a new YouTube Ladies Bible titled "The Peace that Passes Understanding." Look for more details in the next week.

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>.

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.

Intro to FCCW Workshop

IT'S TOO LATE TO JOIN! 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 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.

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.

FREE DINNER TO GO – RESERVE A FREE MEAL

Loving Our Neighbors as Jesus Loves Us

We bring you this meal in the name of our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ who said, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” John 14:6

DINNER IS SERVED – Saturday, October 17, 2020

MENU – BBQ chicken, mashed potatoes, carrots, broccoli & dinner roll

RSVP BY OCTOBER 13 – Pick up your meals “curbside” on October 17th between 4 & 6 pm. Limited delivery available for those unable to pick up.

FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

1-6 meals per family

Saturday, October 17, 2020, 4-PM – 6PM

Curbside pickup at First Congregational Church of Woodstock, VT

36 Elm Street, Woodstock, VT

Go to <https://www.fccw.net/dinnertogo/> to order your Dinners To Go NOW! If you prefer, call 802-457-9818 or email fccwinfo@gmail.com to also reserve your meals.

There are also printed posters in the Narthex for you take and hang up in your communities as well as half sheet flyers to give to family and friends. To volunteer, please contact Keri Bristow at 603-359-3948 or email her at kerilynbristow@gmail.com.

Kingdoms in Conflict

- 1. The Battle Lines Are Drawn.**
- 2. These Are Two Very Different Kinds of Kingdoms.**
- 3. King Jesus Is Establishing His Kingdom on Earth.**

After establishing a gospel outpost for the Kingdom of Christ in Antioch (chapter 11) King Jesus shows us that He has not neglected His Church in Jerusalem. His power is far greater than earthly kings and He is able to frustrate their plans easily. We see Christ's Kingdom in stark contrast to the kingdoms of this world and are encouraged to trust our Lord and King with our lives.

Hebrews 1: 8 – 14

But of the Son (Jesus) he (God the Father) says,

“Your throne, O God, is forever and ever,
the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom.
You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;
therefore God, your God, has anointed you
with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.” (Ps 45:6-7)

And,

“You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning,
and the heavens are the work of your hands;
they will perish, but you remain;
they will all wear out like a garment,
like a robe you will roll them up,
like a garment they will be changed.

But you are the same,
and your years will have no end.” (Ps 102:25-27)

And to which of the angels has he ever said,

“Sit at my right hand
until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet”? (Ps 110:1)

Are they not all ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?

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

On which side of the battle are you? As Jesus fulfills His mandate for the good news of His Kingdom to spread from Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria, to the ends of the earth, His power is on display. No one can keep Him from doing what He has promised to do.

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 12:1-11; Philippians 3:20-21; Ephesians 6:10-20; Hebrews 1:8-14**. DISCUSS, How is King Jesus ruling and reigning in the Jerusalem church? How does His Kingdom differ from Herod's? What are the weapons of our warfare? PRAY "Lord King, we praise You as our King. We thank You for already winning the war against evil and death. Help us now to stand strong in Your truth and love. "

Sunday Evening

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

Monday

READ **Acts 12:1-11; Matt 26:47-56; Ephesians 6:10-20**. DISCUSS, What kind of weapon did His disciples use to try and protect Jesus? Why was this ridiculous? How do we often try similar tactics? What kinds of worldly weapons are we most tempted to use? PRAY, "Jesus, You are our King. We praise You and yield to Your authority. Teach us to be vigilant in the battle to which You have called us and to use the weapons You have given us."

Tuesday

READ **Acts 12:1-11; Hebrews 1:8-14; Psalm 45:1-17**. DISCUSS, What difference does it make that Jesus is the enthroned King of Kings? Why is that important for us to remember in our daily lives? Have you publicly confessed your allegiance to King Jesus? PRAY, "Jesus, thank You for protecting us and ruling over Your Kingdom expansion with grace and truth. Teach us to be faithful ambassadors of Your Kingdom."

Wednesday

READ **Acts 12:1-11; Hebrews 1:8-14; Psalm 102:1-28**. DISCUSS, This Psalm starts in agony and ends in remembering God's sovereignty. Why is that? Can you relate? Remember that while God delivered Peter, James was killed. How do we rest in Christ? PRAY, "Lord, we don't understand Your ways, but we trust You. And we don't. Help us. Teach us to trust You fully."

Thursday

READ **Acts 12:1-11; Hebrews 1:8-14; Psalm 110:1-7**. DISCUSS, King Jesus will one day definitively put down all other rulers and be shown to be the only King. How are you waiting on that day? What is your confidence on this earth? PRAY, "Lord, Jesus, come quickly, Lord. Help us as we wait on You."

Friday

READ **Acts 12:1-11; Philippians 3:20-21; Ephesians 6:10-20; Hebrews 1:8-14**. DISCUSS, How has God been teaching you from these passages this week? REJOICE if God has been generous to you in faith in Christ! PRAY for renewal and revival across our land.

Saturday

PREPARE today for the worship service tomorrow. *Both live-stream & in-person services are available.*

READ **Acts 12:1-30**. Invite others to join you for either the *live-stream or in-person service* tomorrow. Ask Jesus to help us love our neighbors well.

Philippians 3: 20 – 21

"But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself."