



The _____
First Congregational Church
of Woodstock _____

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

October 24th, 2021

The Order of Morning Worship

October 24th, 2021

Ten-thirty

Welcome

Pastor Doug Warren

Prelude & Silent Prayer

- ❖ Call to Worship Psalm 67 and 1 Chronicles 16 Congregation
- Pastor: Let the peoples praise You, O God; let all the peoples praise You. Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for You rule the peoples justly and guide the nations of the earth. Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let them say among the nations, "The LORD reigns!" Give thanks to the LORD,
- Congregation: He is good; His love endures forever.**

- ❖ Hymn of Exultation #500 *Rock of Ages, Cleft For Me* Congregation

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me

500

That rock was Christ. 1 Cor. 10:4

A
Unison *Bm⁷* *A*

1. Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my -
 2. Not the la - bors of my hands can ful - fil thy
 3. Noth - ing in my hand I bring, sim - ply to thy
 4. While I draw this fleet - ing breath, when mine eye - lids

self in thee; let the wa - ter and the blood, from thy riv - en
 law's de-mands; could my zeal no res - pite know, could my tears for -
 cross I cling; na - ked, come to thee for dress; help - less, look to
 close in death, when I soar to worlds un-known, see thee on thy

side which flowed, be of sin the dou - ble cure, cleanse me from its
 ev - er flow, all for sin could not a - tone; thou must save, and
 thee for grace; foul, I to the Foun-tain fly; wash me, Sav - ior,
 judg - ment throne, Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my -

Bm⁷ *E⁷* *C#m⁷* *F#m* *Bm⁷* *E⁷* *C#m⁷* *F#m*
Bm⁷ *E⁷* *C#m⁷* *F#m* *Bm* *A* *D* *C#m⁷* *F#m*

Bm⁷ *D/E* *E⁷* *A* *E* *D/E* *A* *Fine*

guilt and pow'r.
 thou a - lone.
 or I die.
 self in thee.

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

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 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.

Silent Reflection and Confession

Proclamation of Forgiveness

Jeremiah 33: 8

Pastor

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.

Offering

(collected from back to front)

Congregation

❖ Affirmation of Faith

*The Heidelberg Catechism*¹

Congregation

Pastor: What is your only comfort in life and in death?

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

¹ 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).

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

Holy Holy Holy is the Lord of Hosts

Congregation

Holy Holy Holy Is The Lord Of Hosts

Words and Music by
Nolene Prince

$\text{♩} = 72$

CHORUS

C Am Dm⁷ G⁷ C F Dm⁷ G

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.

5 C Am Dm⁷ G⁷ C F Dm⁷ G⁷

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts. The

9 C C⁷ F D D⁷ G

whole earth is full of His glo - ry, the whole earth is full of His glo - ry, the

13 E E⁷ Am F Dm⁷ G C

whole earth is full of His glo - ry, Ho - ly is the Lord. Fine

❖ Scripture Reading

First Peter 3:13-17

Pastor

¹³ Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? ¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, ¹⁵ but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶ having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷ For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

Pastor: The grass withers, the flower fades,

Congregation: but the Word of our God will stand forever.

Pastoral Prayer

Pastor

❖ Hymn of Reflection #478

I Love to Tell the Story

Congregation

I Love to Tell the Story

Let me tell you what he has done for me. Ps. 66:16

1. I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove,
 2. I love to tell the sto - ry; more won - der - ful - it seems
 3. I love to tell the sto - ry; 'tis pleas - ant to re - peat
 4. I love to tell the sto - ry; for those who know it best

of Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love.
 than all the gold - en fan - cies of all our gold - en dreams.
 what seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet.
 seem hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing to hear - it, like the rest.

I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know 'tis true;
 I love to tell the sto - ry, it did so - much for me;
 I love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard
 And when, in scenes of glo - ry, I sing the new, new song,

it sat - is - fies my long - ings as noth - ing else can do.
 and that is just the rea - son I tell it now to thee.
 the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly Word.
 'twill be the old, old sto - ry, that I have loved so long.

REFRAIN

I love to tell the sto - ry, 'twill be my theme in glo - ry

to tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love.

“Paul’s Evangelist Testimony”

Acts 26: 9 – 29

⁹“I myself was convinced that I ought to do many things in opposing the name of Jesus of Nazareth. ¹⁰ And I did so in Jerusalem. I not only locked up many of the saints in prison after receiving authority from the chief priests, but when they were put to death I cast my vote against them. ¹¹ And I punished them often in all the synagogues and tried to make them blaspheme, and in raging fury against them I persecuted them even to foreign cities.

¹²“In this connection I journeyed to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests. ¹³ At midday, O king, I saw on the way a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, that shone around me and those who journeyed with me. ¹⁴ And when we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew language, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.’ ¹⁵ And I said, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ And the Lord said, ‘I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. ¹⁶ But rise and stand upon your feet, for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you as a servant and witness to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you, ¹⁷ delivering you from your people and from the Gentiles—to whom I am sending you ¹⁸ to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.’

¹⁹“Therefore, O King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, ²⁰ but declared first to those in Damascus, then in Jerusalem and throughout all the region of Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds in keeping with their repentance. ²¹ For this reason the Jews seized me in the temple and tried to kill me. ²² To this day I have had the help that comes from God, and so I stand here testifying both to small and great, saying nothing but what the prophets and Moses said would come to pass: ²³ that the Christ must suffer and that, by being the first to rise from the dead, he would proclaim light both to our people and to the Gentiles.”

²⁴ And as he was saying these things in his defense, Festus said with a loud voice, “Paul, you are out of your mind; your great learning is driving you

out of your mind.”²⁵ But Paul said, “I am not out of my mind, most excellent Festus, but I am speaking true and rational words.”²⁶ For the king knows about these things, and to him I speak boldly. For I am persuaded that none of these things has escaped his notice, for this has not been done in a corner.²⁷ King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know that you believe.”²⁸ And Agrippa said to Paul, “In a short time would you persuade me to be a Christian?”²⁹ And Paul said, “Whether short or long, I would to God that not only you but also all who hear me this day might become such as I am—except for these chains.”

❖ Hymn of Response #498

*Jesus! What a Friend
for Sinners!*

Congregation

Jesus! What a Friend for Sinners!

498

A friend of ... "sinners." Matt. 11:19

1. Je - sus! what a Friend for sin - ners! Je - sus! lov - er of my soul;
 2. Je - sus! what a strength in weak - ness! Let me hide my - self in him;
 3. Je - sus! what a help in sor - row! While the bil - lows o'er me roll,
 4. Je - sus! what a guide and keep - er! While the tem - pest still is high,
 5. Je - sus! I do now re - ceive him, more than all in him I find;

friends may fail me, foes as - sail me, he, my Sav - ior, makes me whole.
 tempt - ed, tried, and some - times fail - ing, he, my strength, my vic - t'ry wins.
 • e - ven when my heart is break - ing, he, my com - fort, helps my soul.
 storms a - bout me, night o'er - takes me, he, my pi - lot, hears my cry.
 he hath grant - ed me for - give - ness, I am his, and he is mine.

REFRAIN

Hal - le - lu - jah! what a Sav - ior! Hal - le - lu - jah! what a Friend!

Sav - ing, help - ing, keep - ing, lov - ing, he is with me to the end.

Benediction

John 14: 27

Pastor

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 ~~

Missionary Visit Next Sunday

Brig & Chris Judy will be visiting us next Sunday, October 31. They will be speaking at Adult Sunday School and will share a brief Missions Moment in the morning service. FCCW has partnered in ministry with the Judys for more than 35 years and we are excited to hear from them in person!

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

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting will be held Thursday, November 11th, 7:00-9:00 pm.

Women's Ministry Survey

Ladies, if you haven't yet filled out a Women's Ministry survey they are available on the back table. Please take a few minutes to let us know how our FCCW Women's Ministry can best serve you. Return completed surveys to Annie Denham. Thank you!

FCCW Library is Online!

The library committee is pleased to announce the new online access to the FCCW library catalog. You will find the link at the bottom of the library page on the church website <https://fccw.net/church-library/>

The service can be used on a smartphone or computer.

Type in a name or topic.

Presently the online catalog can only tell you if we own an item- it will not tell you if the item has been checked out. You will have to come to the library to check the shelf.

Click on “grid” to see a screen showing of all the items we have that match you search. The “list” choice gives a one item at a time view.

You will have to cut and paste a subject heading from a particular item into the search box if you want to find out if we have other items that share the subject.

When you do check out an item, please include the year in the date column of the card at the back of the item. A calendar is found at the checkout area. Please also include either a phone number or email address in the appropriate column of the card. You will see a basket in which to leave the completed card.

Questions? fccwoodstocklibrary@gmail.com

The October newsletter is on the table in the narthex.

Teachers Needed

WCCC is in need of **Teachers/Assistants**, and **Substitutes**. Please contact Ruth Brisson at rbrissonwccc@gmail.com or 410-925-7959, if you are interested in serving in any of these roles.

Paul's Evangelist Testimony

1. Paul Tells Agrippa His Story Praying for His Conversion (9).

2. His Story Is All About Jesus (9-29).

3. Paul Calls Agrippa to Follow Jesus as He Is Doing (9).

CONCLUSION: Paul shares his story with Agrippa to convert him to Christianity. Personal testimony to God's amazing grace applied to our life is one of our most powerful tools of evangelism. How has God worked in your life to bring you to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ, our risen Lord? With whom can you share that story today? How can we together prepare to better share our stories with those whom God has brought into our lives? Praise the Lord for His wondrous mercy!

Colossians 4:2-6

Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. ³ At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison— ⁴ that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak. ⁵ Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. ⁶ Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

First Corinthians 15:1-6

Now I would remind you, brothers, of *the gospel I preached to you*, which you received, in which you stand, ² and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. ³ For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: *that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures*, ⁴ *that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures*, ⁵ *and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve*. ⁶ *Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep.*

First Peter 1:1-9

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, *he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead*, ⁴ to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷ so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ⁸ Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, ⁹ obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Taking Gathered Worship Home

Are you trying to convert me?! Have you ever had someone ask you that? Paul did. King Agrippa asked Paul, “...*would you persuade me to be a Christian?*” Paul confessed that was exactly what he was praying God would do—*save him just as He had saved Paul*. As we read and study this week, pray that God would make us faithful witnesses to Christ.

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 26:9-29; First Peter 1:1-9; 3:13-17; Colossians 4:2-6; First Corinthians 15:1-6; Joshua 1:6-9**. DISCUSS How does Paul share his story with Agrippa? Why? How would God have you share your story? MEDITATE on **First Peter 3:13-17**. PRAY “Lord Jesus, *You alone are my Savior*. Help me to tell everyone!”

Sunday Evening

Come join the *Young Adults' Fellowship* tonight at 6pm. Pray for them!

Monday

READ **Acts 26:9-29; First Peter 1:1-9; Romans 3:21-26**. DISCUSS Our story, for everyone of us in Christ, is that Jesus in His great mercy “has caused us to be born again to a living hope.” None of us deserved it because “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” That is why our story is relevant to every other human being on the planet. If Jesus could save even us, He can certainly save our neighbor! MEDITATE on **First Peter 3:15**. PRAY “Lord Jesus, thank You for Your gift of salvation. Use us to proclaim Your glory.”

Tuesday

READ **Acts 26:9-29; First Peter 3:13-17; Second Timothy 2:24-26**. DISCUSS How are you preparing to give a reason for the hope within you? How does Paul instruct Timothy regarding how to do this? With whom can you share this hope? MEDITATE on **First Peter 3:15**.

Wednesday

READ **Acts 26:1-32; Colossians 4:2-6; First Corinthians 11:1.** DISCUSS Notice Paul's pattern of asking for them to *pray* for him and then encouraging them to *do* what he is doing. How does this follow Jesus' example? How are you doing likewise? MEDITATE on **First Peter 3:13-17.** PRAY "Lord, embolden us to testify to Your mercy wherever You send us."

Thursday

READ **Acts 26:9-29; First Corinthians 15:1-6; Joshua 1:6-9.** DISCUSS What is the gospel message? How does Paul proclaim it? How are we to be strong and courageous? How are you most tempted by fear? MEDITATE on **First Peter 3:13-17.** PRAY "Jesus, help us to trust You in life and death with courage."

Friday

READ **Acts 26:9-29; First Peter 1:1-9; 3:13-17; Colossians 4:2-6; First Corinthians 15:1-6; Joshua 1:6-9.** DISCUSS What have you been learning from these passages this week? REPENT of ways that you refuse to testify to Christ. MEDITATE on **First Peter 3:13-17.** PRAY for FCCW.

Saturday

PREPARE today for the worship service tomorrow. READ **Acts 27:1-28:31.** Invite others to join you for either the *in-person or live-stream service* tomorrow. Ask Jesus to empower us with His life.

First Peter 3:13-17

"Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, *always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,* having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil."