



The _____
First Congregational Church
of Woodstock _____

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

November 19th, 2023

The Order of Morning Worship

November 19th, 2023

Ten-thirty

Welcome

Pastor Doug Warren

Prelude & Silent Prayer

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| ❖ Call to Worship | Psalm 122:1-4 | Pastor |
| ❖ Hymn of Exultation #98 | <i>Now Thank We All Our God</i> | Congregation |
| Scriptural Call to Repentance | Matthew 5:13-16 | |

Prayer of Collective Confession based on Ezra 10:2-3 Congregation

We have broken faith with our God and have disobeyed His holy commands, but even now there is hope for God's People in spite of our sin. Therefore let us make a covenant with our God to flee from sin, according to the counsel of my lord and of those who tremble at the commandment of our God, and let it be done according to the Law.

Silent Reflection and Confession

Proclamation of Forgiveness	Psalm 32:1-2	Pastor
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Pastoral Prayer

Pastor

Offering	(collected from back to front)	Congregation
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❖ Scripture Reading	Second Peter 3:9-14	Pastor
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❖ Hymn of Reflection #528	<i>Thou I May Speak With Bravest Fire</i>	Congregation
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The Sermon

Exodus 20:17

Pastor

“Redeeming the Desires of Our Hearts”

❖ Hymn of Response #535	<i>O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus</i>	Congregation
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❖ Benediction	Numbers 6:24-26	Pastor
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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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**Save the Date!**

**Today! Sunday, November 19** — Thanksgiving Fellowship Meal at 2:00 pm,  
followed by a special Worship Service

**Sunday, November 19** — Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes due

**Saturday, November 25** — Barbara Condict Memorial Service at 11:00 am

**Sunday, November 26** — Sue Houlberg Memorial Service at 2:00 pm

**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

**Sunday, December 24** — 5:00 pm Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

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Thanksgiving Fellowship Dinner—Today!

All are welcome to join in fellowship with church friends and family for a Thanksgiving meal this afternoon at 2:00 pm. Turkeys, gravy and cranberry sauce will be supplied via the elders and we ask each family to bring a traditional side dish to share. Potatoes, stuffing, vegetables, salads, desserts, whatever you enjoy. If you aren't able to bring anything, please come anyway—there will be plenty of food! The meal will be followed by a special Thanksgiving worship service at 3:30 pm.

We will need helpers to set up tables and chairs after Sunday School, kitchen helpers after the church service to set tables and work in the kitchen, table clearers and dishwashers after the meal, and breakdown of the tables and chairs and resetting the Billings Room, so please jump on in if you are able to help in any way!

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Operation Christmas Child

Shoeboxes are due today! You may drop them off in the church library.

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There will be no Young Adult Fellowship Group this week.

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Memorial Services

There will be two memorial services next weekend. Barbara Condict's service will be on Saturday, November 25 at 11:00 am and Sue Houltberg's service will be Sunday, November 26 at 2:00 pm. Please join us in thanking God for the lives and ministries of these two saints.

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## Wassail Weekend

We could still use a few more volunteers to help with our Wassail drinks and s'mores on the FCCW front lawn on Saturday, Dec 9th from 11am-2pm.

Help is needed with set-up, serving, and clean-up, so please contact Keri Bristow at [kerilynbristow@gmail.com](mailto:kerilynbristow@gmail.com) or (603) 359-3948 if you'd like to be a part of this fun outreach!



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## Christmas Poinsettias

Poinsettias always add to the festive color of Christmas and can be given as a memorial to a loved one and taken home after the Christmas Eve Service. To order a 6" red or white Poinsettia, contact Christine Morton or Alison Briggs before December 14, 2023. The cost for each Poinsettia will be \$10. Please remember to make your check out to FCCW.

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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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## **Redeeming the Desires of Our Hearts**

*You shall not covet* your neighbor's house;  
*you shall not covet* your neighbor's wife,  
or his male servant, or his female servant,  
or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's."

**1. God Calls His People to Rejoice in One Another's Blessing.**

**2. He Knows How Our Deceitful Hearts Work.**

**3. Christ Will Have Our Undivided Hearts' Longing.**

**CONCLUSION:** God calls His people to holy living with Himself and one another. All sin begins with the heart's supreme affection being misdirected to something other than God and thus being manifested in something less than love for neighbor. This final word from God prohibiting coveting our neighbor's household, points us to Christ, Lover of Our Soul, who has died to cleanse us from our greedy longings and redeem the desires of our heart to Him above all else. Let us joyfully desire Him alone.

## Westminster Larger Catechism

**Q.** 147. What are the *duties required* in the tenth commandment?

**A.** The *duties required* in the tenth commandment are, such a full contentment with our own condition, and such a charitable frame of the whole soul toward our neighbor, as that all our inward motions and affections touching him, tend unto, and further all that good which is his.

Heb. 13:5; 1 Tim. 6:6; Job 31:29; Rom. 12:15; Ps. 122:7-9; 1 Tim. 1:5; Esther 10:3; 1 Cor. 13:4-7.

**Q.** 148. What are the *sins forbidden* in the tenth commandment?

**A.** The *sins forbidden* in the tenth commandment are, discontentment with our own estate; envying, and grieving at the good of our neighbor, together with all inordinate motions and affections to anything that is his.

1 Kings 21:4; Esther 5:13; 1 Cor. 10:10; Gal. 5:26; Jas. 3:14, 16; Ps. 112:9-10; Neh. 2:10; Rom. 7:7-8; Rom. 13:9; Col. 3:5; Deut. 5:21.

**Q.** 149. Is any man *able perfectly to keep* the commandments of God?

**A.** No man is able, either of himself, or by any grace received in this life, perfectly to keep the commandments of God; but doth daily break them in thought, word, and deed.

Jas. 3:2; John 15:5; Rom. 8:3; Ecc. 7:20; 1 John 1:8, 10; Gal. 5:17; Rom. 7:18-19; Gen. 6:5; Gen. 8:21; Rom. 3:9-19; Jas. 3:2-13.

“The tenth commandment tells us *not to desire anything contrary to God’s will*. Broadly, it teaches us that all sin begins in the desires of the heart.”

—John Frame

# Taking Gathered Worship Home

All our desires are to be properly ordered according to our greatest desire for God Himself. If He is not the apex of our needs and wants, our whole range of affections and longings is out of whack!

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

## Sunday Morning

READ **Exodus 19:1-6; 20:17; Second Peter 3:9-14; Ezekiel 36:22-32; John 14:1-3; Jeremiah 31:1-40; Romans 5:1-11; Psalm 119:129-144.** DISCUSS What was God redeeming His people to be? Why then is it important how they think, speak, and act? What role do their hearts play in that? MEDITATE on **Luke 1:57-58** and *Westminster Larger Catechism* #147-9. PRAY “*Lover of Our Souls, enliven our hearts to see that You are all that we need!*”

## Sunday Evening

The **Young Adult Fellowship** will not meet tonight.

## Monday

READ **Exodus 19:1-6; 20:17; Second Peter 3:9-14; Psalm 119:129-144.** DISCUSS How is the hope of the New Heavens and New Earth to direct us in how we are to live now? SERVE Demonstrate love for God through reaching out to someone in need! MEDITATE on **Luke 1:57-58** and *Westminster Larger Catechism* #147-9. PRAY “*Lover of Our Souls, continue Your work of transforming our hearts to desire You more than all else!*”

## Tuesday

READ **Exodus 20:17; Ezekiel 36:22-32; John 14:1-3; Psalm 119:129-144.** DISCUSS What did God promise in Ezekiel? How has Christ already done that? What has He still yet to do according to John? How are you living in light of that? SERVE Live out the faithfulness of Christ by demonstrating care to someone in His name. MEDITATE on **Luke 1:57-58** and *Westminster Larger Catechism* #147-9. PRAY “*Lover of Our Souls, strip away every greedy longing our hearts possess!*”



### Wednesday

READ **Exodus 20:17; Jeremiah 31:1-40; Romans 5:1-11; Psalm 119:129-144**. DISCUSS How has God promised to change our hearts? How are you growing in your affection for Christ? How is this affecting your care for your neighbors' welfare? MEDITATE on **Luke 1:57-58** and *Westminster Larger Catechism* #147-9. PRAY "Lover of Our Souls, enlarge our desires to rightly cherish You above all and joyfully care for our neighbors!"

### Thursday

READ **Exodus 20:17; Ephesians 2:19-22; First Timothy 3:14-16; Psalm 119:129-144**. DISCUSS How are we a part of the Household of God? How are we to live as members of His household? What part does coveting have? SERVE Demonstrate contentment by putting someone else's interests *above your own!* MEDITATE on **Luke 1:57-58** and *Westminster Larger Catechism* #147-9. PRAY "Lover of Our Souls, thank You for adopting us into Your household!"

### Friday

READ **Exodus 19:1-6; 20:17; Second Peter 3:9-14; Ezekiel 36:22-32; John 14:1-3; Jeremiah 31:1-40; Romans 5:1-11; Psalm 119:129-144**. DISCUSS What has God been teaching you this week? SERVE by *caring for someone in need!* MEDITATE on **Luke 1:57-58** and *Westminster Larger Catechism* #147-9. PRAY especially for those grieving for loved ones this weekend.

### 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.*

## Luke 1:57-58

Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and *she bore a son*.  
And her *neighbors* and relatives heard that the Lord had shown  
great mercy to her, and *they rejoiced with her*.