



The _____
First Congregational Church
of Woodstock _____

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

January 24th, 2021

The Order of Morning Worship

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

January 24th, 2021

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

O Church Arise

O Church Arise

Words and Music by
Keith Getty and Stuart Townend

♩ = 58

VERSE

A^{7sus} D G/B A/C#

1. O Church, a - rise, and put your ar - mour on; Hear the
 2. Our call to war, to love the cap - tive soul, but to
 3. Come see the cross, where love and mer - cy meet, as the
 4. So Spir - it, come, put strength in ev - 'ry stride, give

3 D/F# G A^{sus} A D A^{7sus} D G/B A/C#

call of Christ our Cap - tain. For now the weak can say that they are strong, in the
 rage a - gainst the cap - tor; And with the sword that makes the wound - ed whole, we will
 Son of God is strick - en; Then see His foes lie crushed be - neath His feet, for the
 grace for ev - 'ry hur - dle; That we may run with faith, to win the prize of a

7 D/F# G A^{sus} A D D/F# G D/F# A D/F#

strength that God has giv - en. With shield of faith and belt of truth, we'll stand a -
 fight with faith and val - our. When faced with trials on ev - 'ry side, we know the
 Con - quer - or has ris - en. And as the stone is rolled a - way and Christ e -
 serv - ant, good and faith - ful. As saints of old still line the way, re - tell - ing

11 G D/F# Bm A A7^{sus} D

-gainst the dev - il's lies; An ar - my bold, whose bat - tle
 out - come is se - cure. And Christ will have the prize for
 -merg - es from the grave, this vic - t'ry march con - tin - ues
 tri - umphs of His grace, we hear their calls, and hun - ger

14 G/B A/C# D/F# G A^{sus} A D D^{sus} D

cry is Love, reach - ing out to those in dark - ness.
 which He died, an in - her - it - ance of na - tions.
 till the day ev - 'ry eye and heart shall see Him.
 for the day when, with Christ, we stand in glo - ry.

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

Psalm 19: 1 – 14

¹The heavens tell of the glory of God;
And their expanse declares the work of His hands.
²Day to day pours forth speech,
And night to night reveals knowledge.
³There is no speech, nor are there words;
Their voice is not heard.
⁴Their line has gone out into all the earth,
And their words to the end of the world.
In them He has placed a tent for the sun,
⁵Which is like a groom coming out of his chamber;
It rejoices like a strong person to run his course.
⁶Its rising is from one end of the heavens,
And its circuit to the other end of them;
And there is nothing hidden from its heat.
⁷The Law of the LORD is perfect, restoring the soul;
The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.
⁸The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart;
The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes.
⁹The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever;
The judgments of the LORD are true; they are righteous altogether.
¹⁰They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much pure gold;
Sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.
¹¹Moreover, Your servant is warned by them;
In keeping them there is great reward.
¹²Who can discern *his* errors? Acquit me of hidden *faults*.
¹³Also keep Your servant back from presumptuous *sins*;
Let them not rule over me;
Then I will be innocent,

And I will be blameless of great wrongdoing.

¹⁴ May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
Be acceptable in Your sight,
LORD, my rock and my Redeemer.

Pastor: The grass withers, the flower fades,

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

Pastoral Prayer

❖ Hymn of Reflection

Number 338

Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart

Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart

338

Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Gal. 5:25

Capo 3: ♭ (G) (D⁷) (G) (C) (Am⁷) (G) 7 (Em) (F#)

1. Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart; wean it from
 2. I ask no dream, no proph - et ec - sta - sies, no - sud - den
 3. Hast thou not bid us love thee, God and King? All, all thine
 4. Teach me to feel that thou art al - ways nigh; teach me the
 5. Teach me to love thee as thine an - gels love, one ho - ly

(Bm) (E⁷) (D/A) (A⁷) (D) (D⁷) (C)

earth, through all its puls - es move; stoop to my weak - ness,
 rend - ing of the veil of clay, no an - gel vis - i -
 • own, soul, heart, and strength and mind. I see thy cross — there
 strug - gles of the soul to bear, to check the ris - ing
 pas - sion fill - ing all my frame; the bap - tism of the

(D⁷) ♭ (G) (C) (G) (D⁷) (G) 7

might - y as thou art, and make me love thee as I ought to love.
 tant, no o - p'ning skies; but take the dim - ness of my soul a - way.
 • teach my heart to cling: O let me seek thee, and O let me find.
 doubt, the reb - el sigh; teach me the pa - tience of un - an - swered prayer.
 heav'n - de - scend - ed Dove, my heart an al - tar, and thy love the flame.

“*Old Habits (Like Idolatry) Die Hard*”

Acts 14: 8 – 18

⁸In Lystra a man was sitting whose feet were incapacitated. *He had been* disabled from his mother’s womb, and had never walked. ⁹This man was listening to Paul as he spoke. *Paul* looked at him intently and saw that he had faith to be made well, ¹⁰and he said with a loud voice, “Stand upright on your feet!” And *the man* leaped up and *began* to walk. ¹¹When the crowds saw what Paul had done, they raised their voice, saying in the Lycaonian language, “The gods have become like men and have come down to us!” ¹²And they *began* calling Barnabas, Zeus, and Paul, Hermes, since he was the chief speaker. ¹³Moreover, the priest of Zeus, whose *temple* was just outside the city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates, and wanted to offer sacrifice with the crowds. ¹⁴But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard *about it*, they tore their robes and rushed out into the crowd, crying out ¹⁵and saying, “Men, why are you doing these things? We are also men, of the same nature as you, preaching the gospel to you, to turn from these useless things to a living God, who MADE THE HEAVEN AND THE EARTH AND THE SEA, AND EVERYTHING THAT IS IN THEM. ¹⁶In past generations He permitted all the nations to go their own ways; ¹⁷yet He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good and gave you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness.” ¹⁸And *even by* saying these things, *only with* difficulty did they restrain the crowds from offering sacrifices to them.

❖ Hymn of Response

Number 457

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

457

Samuel ... named it Ebenezer, saying, "Thus far has the LORD helped us." 1 Sam. 7:12

Γ D A⁷ D A G D A⁷ D

1. Come, thou fount of ev - 'ry bless - ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
 2. Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer; hith - er by thy help - I'm come;
 3. O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con - strained to be;

A⁷ D A D G D A⁷ D

streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.
 and I hope, by thy good plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.
 let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan - d'ring heart to thee.

A⁷ D G D A⁷ D G D

Teach me some me - lo - dious son - net, sung by flam - ing tongues a - bove;
 Je - sus sought me when a strang - er, wan - d'ring from the fold of God:
 Prone to wan - der - Lord, I feel it - prone to leave the God I love:

A⁷ D A Γ D G D A⁷ D Γ

praise the mount! I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un - chang - ing love.
 he, to res - cue me from dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.
 here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts a - bove.

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 ~~

Young Adult Fellowship Group tonight at 6:00 pm.

Newsletter Submissions Due January 25

Intro to FCCW Workshop

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 being offered Friday night, February 19 and Saturday morning, February 20. This two-part workshop will give an insight into how FCCW functions and the importance of membership. Please contact Terri at fccwinfo@gmail.com to register.

Session One—Worship

- a. Wired for Worship
- b. Gathered Worship

Session Two—Joyous Knowledge

- a. Knowing The Redeemer Within His Church
- b. Our Catholic Beliefs
- c. Our Historic Practices
- d. Our Evangelical Convictions
- e. Our Reformed Beliefs
- f. Our Congregational Heritage

Session Three—Radical Love for One Another

- a. Charity Born of Character
- b. Christian Sanctification
- c. Living Together with Differences

Session Four— Extending His Grace

- a. Two Parables and A Command
- b. You Can't Serve What You Ain't Cookin'
- c. What Does It Mean To Extend Christ's Grace?

Session Five— Belonging to His Community

- a. Understanding the Church
 - b. The Church as a Worshipping Community
 - c. The Church as a Worshipping Community
 - d. The Biblical Concept of Church Membership
 - e. Membership & Stewardship
 - f. Summary
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It's that time of year again! Time to explore your children's Fall educational options!

Mid Vermont Christian School (MVCS) was formed by Christian families in the Upper Valley to provide an excellent Christian Worldview education and to disciple children to follow God as they serve Him in the secular world. Visit our website (www.mvcs.info).

We understand your concerns. Is MVCS the right place to integrate Biblical truth into your child's education?

Does MVCS provide a quality education? Christian education runs much deeper than a few "ornaments" like prayer, chapels, and Bible classes. We are committed to strengthening the Biblical foundation you have been cultivating in your family. We instruct all subject areas through the "spectacles of Scripture." Our students consistently score above VT, NH, and National averages on the SAT's. Our new "LIVE" online opportunity allows any student (full-time, part-time, or just a class) to join from home and truly be part of their class.

Does MVCS just shelter students from the world? MVCS is not a "safe house" - there is not a guarantee against sin and many students have not accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior. MVCS is a mission field that disciplines by teaching students about God's demands, and His forgiveness, grace, and mercy.

Can I afford to send my kids to MVCS? Due to the consequences of COVID on our families and community, last summer we slashed our tuition rate. Through a network of supporters and donors, if a family is in need and qualifies, we offer a **Variable Tuition Program**, where we aim to keep tuition contributions to 10% of annual household income. *Example, a family with \$45,000 annual income may contribute \$4,500 for all their children to attend MVCS. We work with every family to ensure affordability.*

Homeschooling? MVCS can supplement your homeschool curriculum with physical education, art, music, and band or Junior and Senior high classes.

Book a tour! See MVCS in action! Email mvcs@mvcs.info or call 802-295-6800 to schedule a visit.

Old Habits (Like Idolatry) Die Hard

1. A Miraculous Healing Testifies to the Gospel's Power (8-10).

2. The Crowd's Reaction—Misplaced Worship (11-13).

3. The Problem with False Worship (14-18).

CONCLUSION: The people of Lystra saw a great miracle—a man born lame was healed and able to walk for all to see. How were they to make sense of this mighty act? They interpreted it according to what they knew. Or at least according to what they thought they knew. But their response was way off. Here, graciously, the God who healed the man through His servants explained what He had done. That's what Scripture does. It explains what God is doing and what we should do in response. God mercifully restrains them from further idolatry.

Acts 3: 1 – 13

Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. ² And a man lame from birth was being carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple that is called the Beautiful Gate to ask alms of those entering the temple. ³ Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive alms. ⁴ And Peter directed his gaze at him, as did John, and said, “Look at us.” ⁵ And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them. ⁶ But Peter said, “I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!” ⁷ And he took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. ⁸ And leaping up, he stood and began to walk, and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. ⁹ And all the people saw him walking and praising God, ¹⁰ and recognized him as the one who sat at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, asking for alms. And they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

¹¹ While he clung to Peter and John, all the people, utterly astounded, ran together to them in the portico called Solomon’s. ¹² And when Peter saw it he addressed the people: “Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk? ¹³ The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his servant Jesus, whom you delivered over and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release him.”

Deuteronomy 7: 17 – 19

¹⁷ “If you say in your heart, ‘These nations are greater than I. How can I dispossess them?’ ¹⁸ you shall not be afraid of them but you shall remember what the Lord your God did to Pharaoh and to all Egypt, ¹⁹ the great trials that your eyes saw, the **signs**, the **wonders**, the mighty hand, and the outstretched arm, by which the Lord your God brought you out. So will the Lord your God do to all the peoples of whom you are afraid.

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

Our passage this week takes us to a city (Lystra) without a synagogue and with a strong pagan influence, including a temple to Zeus. Yet for all its differences we find the same ravages of sin, rebellion, and treasonous idolatry against the Lord God, Most High. We also find the same solution—God’s mercy.

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 14:8-18; 3:1-13; Deuteronomy 4:23-24; Psalm 19:1-14.** DISCUSS, How does God use the proclamation of His Word? What does His Word reveal? Why? How are you submitting to His lordship today? Be specific. PRAY “Sovereign Lord, thank You for how You use Your Word for Your purposes. Help us to trust You and delight in Your purposes! ”

Sunday Evening

Young Adults Fellowship at **6:00** pm. *Please join in-person or on-line!*

Monday

READ **Acts 14:8-18; 3:1-13; Deuteronomy 7:17-19.** DISCUSS, How has God used signs and wonders like this healing of the man born lame? Why is idolatry so wrong? How are you repenting of your own idolatry today? MEDITATE on **Deuteronomy 4:23-24.** PRAY, “Jesus, You alone are God!”

Tuesday

READ **Acts 14:8-18; First Kings 18:20-40.** DISCUSS, How are these passages related? What does their idolatry look like? What does our idolatry look like? How can we overcome it? MEDITATE on **Deuteronomy 4:23-24.** PRAY, “Jesus, thank You for dealing with us not according to what we deserve, but in mercy and grace. Teach us to extend that mercy to others for Your glory. Keep us from idolatry.”

Wednesday

READ **Acts 14:8-18; First Samuel 25:23-35; Psalm 19:7-14**. DISCUSS, How does God restrain us from sin? Why is this important? How does Christ's victory over sin and death comfort us? What should we expect when Christ returns? Why? MEDITATE on **Deuteronomy 4:23-24**. PRAY, "Lord Jesus, we thank You for restraining evil. You alone are good."

Thursday

READ **Acts 14:8-18; Romans 7:14-25; Psalm 19:7-14**. DISCUSS, Does this account of struggling with sin resonate with you? Who delivers us from sin? How? When will we be done with it completely? MEDITATE on **Deuteronomy 4:23-24**. PRAY, "Jesus, You are holy. In You there is no darkness at all. Thank You for delivering us from death. Make us holy, we pray."

Friday

READ **Acts 14:8-18; 3:1-13; Deuteronomy 4:23-24; Psalm 19:1-14**. DISCUSS, How has God been teaching you from these passages this week? MEDITATE on **Deuteronomy 4:23-24**. 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 14:1-28**. Invite others to join you tomorrow for either the *live-stream or in-person service*. Ask Jesus to help us love our neighbors well.

Deuteronomy 4: 23 – 24

Take care, lest you forget the covenant of the Lord your God, which he made with you, and make a carved image, the form of anything that the Lord your God has forbidden you. For the Lord your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.