

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

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

*November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
The First Sunday in Advent*

# *The Order of Morning Worship*

November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022

*The First Sunday in Advent*

Ten-thirty

Welcome & Announcements

Pastor Doug Warren

The Advent Reading

Dennis & Diana Snider

Leader: Come, *let us light the first Advent Candle!*

**Family: We can't wait to see Jesus who is coming back for us!**

Leader: How do candles point us to Jesus who is *the Light of the World?*

**Family: Jesus said, "I am the Light of the world. He who follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the Light of Life." (John 8:12)**

Leader: What is the promise God has given to His people?

**Family: The promise was first given by God that a child born of the woman would deliver us from sin and death.**

Leader: Who is this promised Deliverer?

**Family: Our Deliverer, Jesus, who is Messiah, the anointed One, came just as He promised. (John 4:25-26)**

Leader: What else did Messiah promise?

**Family: Jesus promised that He will return for us and save all who trust in Him as true Messiah. (John 14:1-7)**

Leader: Hebrews 6:13-20

For when *God made a promise to Abraham*, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore by himself, saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you." And thus Abraham, having patiently waited, obtained the promise. For people swear by something greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. *So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath*, so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us. *We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul*, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as

a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

**Family: Thanks be to God.**

Prelude & Silent Prayer

- |                                 |                                     |              |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| ❖ Call to Worship               | Romans 10:8-13                      | Pastor       |
| ❖ Hymn of Exultation #221       | <i>Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming</i> | Congregation |
| Scriptural Call to Repentance   | Psalm 2:10-12                       | Pastor       |
| Prayer of Collective Confession | Micah 7:18-20                       | Congregation |

**Who is a God like You, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of His inheritance? He does not retain His anger forever, because He delights in steadfast love. He will again have compassion on us; He will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea. You will show faithfulness to Jacob and steadfast love to Abraham, as You have sworn to our fathers from the days of old.**

Silent Reflection and Confession

- |                             |                                |              |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Proclamation of Forgiveness | 1 Timothy 1:15-17              | Pastor       |
| Pastoral Prayer             |                                | Pastor       |
| Offering                    | (collected from back to front) | Congregation |

Affirmation of Faith	<i>The Heidelberg Catechism</i> <sup>1</sup> , Q. 21	Congregation
----------------------	------------------------------------------------------	--------------

Pastor: What is true faith?

**Congregation: True faith is not only a sure knowledge by which I hold as true all that God has revealed to us in Scripture; it is also a wholehearted trust, which the Holy Spirit creates in me by the gospel, that God has freely granted, not only to others but to me also, forgiveness of sins, eternal righteousness, and salvation. These are gifts of sheer grace, granted solely by Christ's merit.**

- |                     |                    |        |
|---------------------|--------------------|--------|
| ❖ Scripture Reading | John 12:1-3; 12-13 | Pastor |
|---------------------|--------------------|--------|

---

<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).

❖ Hymn of Reflection #162 *Of the Father's Love Begotten* Congregation  
The Sermon Psalm 2:1-12 Pastor  
*"Awaiting the Promised Messiah"*

❖ Hymn of Response # 194 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* Congregation

❖ Benediction Philippians 4:7 Pastor

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

Postlude

---

*~~ Organist: Anne Hablitzel ~~  
~~ Please ensure cell phones are off ~~*

~~~~~

### 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, 2022.

~~~~~

There will be no Young Adult Fellowship Group this week.

~~~~~

### Women's Lunch after Worship - December 4th

Dear Women of FCCW, please join us after worship on December 4th for a lunch of soups, breads, and salads. It will be a time for fellowship and chance to reflect together about the Advent season.

~~~~~

### A Note from the Hospitality Committee

There are many dishes and containers that are accumulating in the kitchen that do not belong to the church. Please check the items on the counter top in the kitchen next to the hallway to see if any of them are yours. The dishes remaining will be given away by the end of the month.

~~~~~

---

## Wassail Weekend

FCCW is hosting several special events during Woodstock's Wassail Weekend, Dec. 9-11. Take a look at the list below to see how you can get involved and invite your friends!

**First Congregational  
Church of Woodstock**

**WASSAIL EVENTS  
DECEMBER 9-11  
2022**

**FRIDAY DEC. 9**

- 4PM HISTORY TOUR FREE
- 5PM HISTORY TOUR FREE
- 5:30PM-7:30PM BONFIRE & MUSIC
- FREE HOT DOGS, SMORES, HOT CHOCOLATE

**SATURDAY DEC. 10**

- 12:30PM-3:00PM COOKIES & HOT WASSAIL FREE
- 12:45PM-1:45PM HOLIDAY SING INDOORS FREE
- 2:00PM PARADE WATCH PARTY FCCW LAWN
- 3:00PM THE TEN OF NYC A CAPPELLA FREE

**SUNDAY DEC. 11**

- 9:00AM SUNDAY SCHOOL ALL AGES
- 10:30AM SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

Events will take place on-site at FCCW  
36 Elm Street, Woodstock, VT 05091  
fccwinfo@gmail.com  
(802) 457-9818

---

The November Prayer letter is available in the narthex.

---





~~~~~

## Tuesday Morning Ladies' Bible Study

The Ladies' Bible Study meets in person at 10:00 am each Tuesday at the Thompson Senior Center and via Zoom. Contact Bonnie Atwood at (802) 457-4120 or [bonhope2@gmail.com](mailto:bonhope2@gmail.com) for more information.

~~~~~

## True Woman Bible Study

This Bible study is geared toward young moms although all women are welcome. The study meets on Thursday mornings from 10-11:30 am in the FCCW nursery; there is no childcare, but children ages infant to preschool are welcome to come along and play while the ladies meet. Contact Christine Morton at [christinefmorton@gmail.com](mailto:christinefmorton@gmail.com) or (802) 591-1511 for more information.

~~~~~

## **Awaiting the Promised Messiah**

**The World Is United in Its Treason Against the True God (1-3).**

**The King of Zion Will Come As Promised (4-6).**

**Christ Will Be Crowned and Conquer All Countries (7-9).**

**God's Son Is This Promised King (10-12).**

CONCLUSION: All the world is aligned against God and His anointed One, Jesus. But God is not worried. He has installed His King in Zion who will conquer all the earth. This promised Messiah has come to Zion exactly as He said. He has been coronated through His life, death, and resurrection. This Son of God, who is the promised King is our great hope and Deliverer of everyone who hopes in Him.

## Psalm 2

Below is Psalm 2 with study notations added. Notice in particular the parallel words/phrases marked similarly with italics/bold/underlined.

Why do the *nations* rage  
and the *peoples* plot in vain?  
The **kings of the earth** set themselves,  
and **the rulers** take counsel together,  
>> *against the Lord and against his Anointed*, saying,  
“Let us *burst their bonds apart*  
and *cast away their cords* from us.”

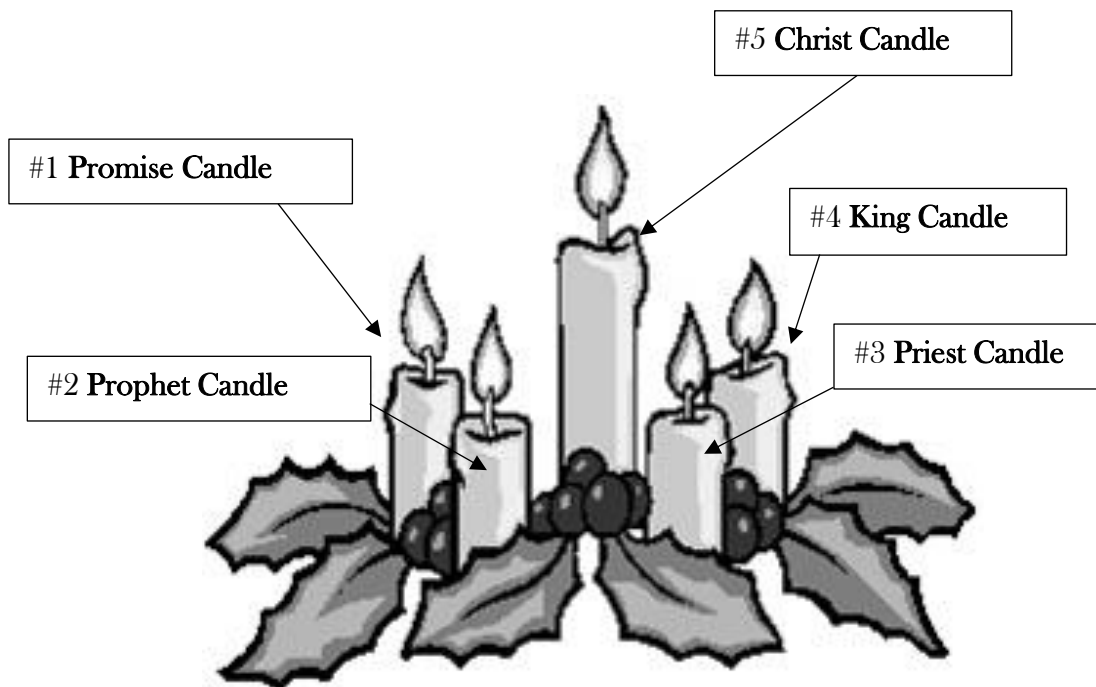
**He who sits in the heavens** laughs;  
**the Lord** holds them in derision.  
Then he will *speak to them* in his **wrath**,  
and *terrify them* in his **fury**, saying,  
“As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill.”

I will tell of the decree:  
The Lord said to me, “You are *my Son*;  
today I have *begotten you*.  
Ask of me, and I will make the **nations** your heritage,  
and the **ends of the earth** your possession.  
You shall *break them* with a rod of iron  
and *dash them in pieces* like a potter's vessel.”

Now therefore, O **kings**, be wise;  
be warned, O **rulers** of the earth.  
*Serve the Lord* with fear,  
and *rejoice* with trembling.  
Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way,  
for his wrath is quickly kindled.  
Blessed are all who take refuge in him (*refrain tying back to Ps 1:2*).



# The Advent Wreath



## **The First Week of Advent—November 27—December 3**

*This litany of questions and answers may be used in personal devotions or family worship. For maximum effect, repeat them each day for the first week. You may also find it helpful to reflect upon these truths individually and to discuss them within your family or group. This type of instruction using scripted questions and answers is called catechesis.*

**Read aloud Psalm 2:1-12** (text on previous page). Slowly re-read and meditate upon this song. This week you might also want to read and reflect upon the following Scriptures: John 4:25-26; 8:12; 14:1-7; Hebrews 6:13-20.

Leader: Come, *let us light the first Advent Candle!*  
Family: **We can't wait to see Jesus who is coming back for us!"**

Leader: How do candles point us to Jesus who is *the Light of the World?*

Family: **Jesus said, "I am the Light of the world. He who follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the Light of Life."** (John 8:12)

Leader: What is the promise God has given to His people?

Family: **The promise was first given by God that a child born of the woman would deliver us from sin and death.**

Leader: Who is this promised Deliverer?

Family: **Our Deliverer, Jesus, who is Messiah, the anointed One, came just as He promised** (John 4:25-26).

Leader: What else did Messiah promise?

Family: **Jesus promised that He will return for us and save all who trust in Him as true Messiah.** (John 14:1-7)



### *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

1. Lo how a Rose e'er blooming  
From tender stem hath sprung  
Of Jesse's lineage coming  
As men of old have sung  
It came a flow'ret bright  
Amid the cold of winter  
When half-spent was the night

2. Isaiah 'twas foretold it  
The Rose I have in mind  
With Mary we behold it  
The Virgin Mother kind  
To show God's love aright  
She bore to men a Savior  
When half-spent was the night

3. The shepherds heard the story,  
proclaimed by angels bright,  
how Christ, the Lord of glory,  
was born on earth this night.  
To Bethlehem they sped  
and in the manger found him,  
as angel heralds said.

4. This flow'r whose fragrance tender  
With sweetness fills the air  
Dispels with glorious splendor  
The darkness everywhere  
True man yet very God  
From sin and death he saves us  
And lightens every load

5. O Savior child of Mary  
Who felt our human woe  
O Savior King of glory  
Who dost our weakness know  
Bring us at length we pray  
To the bright courts of heaven  
And to the endless day