



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

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

*January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024*



**was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.**

**And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets; and we believe in one holy catholic<sup>2</sup> and apostolic church; we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

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|-------------------------|--|--------------|
| ❖ Gospel Reading        | John 3:31-36   | Pastor       |
| ❖ New Testament Reading | Ephesians 2:18-22  | Pastor       |
| ❖ Hymn of Reflection    | <i>Holy Spirit</i>   | Congregation |
| The Sermon              | Ephesians 3:14-19<br><i>“Loved with the Fullness of God”</i> | Pastor       |
| ❖ Hymn of Response      | <i>There Is a Redeemer</i>                                   | Congregation |
| ❖ Benediction           | 2 Corinthians 13:14  | Pastor       |

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

Postlude

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*~~ Organist: Jonathan Denham ~~  
~~ Please ensure cell phones are off ~~*

<sup>2</sup> The term “catholic” here means universal and does not mean any particular denomination.

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## Save the Date!

**This coming Friday, Feb. 2-Saturday, Feb. 3** — Intro to FCCW Workshop  
**Sunday, February 11, 5 pm** — Young Adult Fellowship and Super Bowl Party  
**Sunday, February 18** — Visit from Teen Challenge Women’s Ministry

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## Introduction to FCCW Workshop

Interested in knowing more about FCCW? Want to explore questions about the Bible in a small group? What does it mean to be a member? What opportunities are there to serve at FCCW? Consider attending the *Introduction to FCCW Workshop* being offered **Friday** night, **February 2**, from **6-9 pm** (includes dinner) and **Saturday** morning, **February 3**, from **9 am-noon** (includes continental breakfast.) This two-part workshop will give insight into how FCCW functions and the importance of membership. Please contact Kristen at [fccwinfo@gmail.com](mailto:fccwinfo@gmail.com) to register.

Session One—Worship

Session Two—Joyous Knowledge

Session Three—Radical Love for One Another

Session Four— Extending His Grace

Session Five— Belonging to His Community

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

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The January Prayer Letter is available on the back table.

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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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## **Theological Series—Our Triune God of Love**

10:30 am Worship Service: *John 3:31-36; Ephesians 2:18-22, 3:14-19*

### **Loved with the Fullness of God**

*All Three Persons (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit)  
are actively securing our redemption.*

#### **1. God the Father Loves Us with an Everlasting Redemptive Love.**

- A. *God the Father called us into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus (1Cor 1:9).*
- B. *God the Father sent His Son to redeem us from slavery to adoption in His family (Gal 4:4)*
- C. *God the Father sent the Holy Spirit to assure us of our adoption (Gal 4:6).*
- D. *God the Father treats us as sons by disciplining us (Heb 12:3-11).*
- E. *God the Father strengthens us through the power of the HS (Eph 3:16).*

#### **2. God the Son Demonstrates His Love by Sacrificing Himself.**

- A. *God the Son came to secure our access to the Father and the Spirit (Eph 2:18).*
- B. *God the Son lived, died, and rose again to justify us by His blood and reconcile us (Rom 5:6-9).*
- C. *God the Son joyfully endured the cross to rescue us from death and shame (Hebrews 12:2).*
- D. *God the Son ascended to the right hand of the Father to intercede for us as we mature (Eph 4:8-16).*
- E. *God the Son will return for us as He promised to take us home forever (John 14:1-3; 1Thess 4:16).*

#### **3. God the Spirit Applies the Love of the Trinity to Us.**

- A. *God the Spirit gives us new life (Ezekiel 36:26-27; 37:14; John 3:3-6).*
- B. *God the Spirit is building us up as a dwelling place for the Father (Eph 2:22).*
- C. *God the Spirit is working in us to sanctify us and conform us to the image of Christ (Titus 3:5-6).*

#### **4. Having Been So Greatly Loved, Let Us Love God and One Another.**

- A. *What are ways that you need to trust God that His love for you is real?*
- B. *How does this biblical knowledge of the combined love of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit comfort you?*
- C. *In what ways does it challenge you?*
- D. *How are you (we) loving in a way that reflects this lavish, generous, self-sacrificial love?*

Conclusion: God is eternally loving. The Scripture teaches us that all three persons of the Godhead, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are united in their love for all who are found in Christ Jesus. If that is you, demonstrate that love by faith in Jesus Christ.

## John 3:31-36

<sup>31</sup> He who comes from above is above all. He who is of the earth belongs to the earth and speaks in an earthly way. He who comes from heaven is above all. <sup>32</sup> He bears witness to what he has seen and heard, yet no one receives his testimony. <sup>33</sup> Whoever receives his testimony sets his seal to this, that God is true. <sup>34</sup> For he whom God has sent utters the words of God, for he gives the Spirit without measure. <sup>35</sup> The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hand. <sup>36</sup> Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.

## Ephesians 2:18-22

For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. <sup>19</sup> So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, <sup>20</sup> built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, <sup>21</sup> in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. <sup>22</sup> In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

### Together in Salvation

Richard Phillips, *Chairman of the Philadelphia Conference of Reformed Theology*

One of the most important insights of Reformed theology is the *unity* of the works of the Trinity. Calvinists believe that God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit **are united in the work of redeeming lost mankind**. We do not believe that they act against one another or even on one another, but *with* one another in our salvation. For instance, Jesus did not die to convince the Father to change His attitude toward us from enmity to love. Rather, Jesus died on the cross because of the Father's love for us, as John 3:16 says: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." The Father and Son are united in their work for the salvation of those who believe: the Father electing and sending His Son; the Son atoning for the sins of those chosen and given to Him by the Father (John 6:37–40). The same harmony exists between the Son and the Spirit. Jesus did not die for the sins of all people, only to have the Holy Spirit apply the benefits of His work merely to some. Rather, the Holy Spirit regenerates precisely the people for whom Jesus offered His atoning death, so that the work of the second and third persons of the Trinity harmonizes perfectly.

# Taking Gathered Worship Home

If you are a child of God, it has taken the whole Triune God to make you that way. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit have not only cooperated together to redeem you out of the kingdom of darkness, but they have delighted to give themselves wholly in your rescue. What an amazing reality!

*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 John 3:31-36; Ephesians 2:18-22; 3:14-19; 4:8-16; Deuteronomy 6:4-5; Second Corinthians 13:14; 1 John 4:7-16.** **DISCUSS** Who are the three persons of the Trinity? What is each One's role in redeeming us? **SERVE** someone in need. **MEDITATE** on **John 3:31-36**. **PRAY** "Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, thank You for loving us. Make us more aware of Your unity in redeeming us."

## Sunday Evening

**GATHER** for Young Adult Bible Study and Fellowship at 6pm.

## Monday

**READ John 3:31-36; Ephesians 2:18-22; 4:8-16; Romans 5:6-9.** **DISCUSS** Who called us into Christ? Who sent Christ? Why? Who sent the Spirit? Why? How has God the Father loved us? **SERVE** by putting someone else's interests *above your own!* **MEDITATE** on **John 3:31-36**. **PRAY**, "Jesus, You have come from above. We praise You! Thank You for revealing Your Father to us and giving us Your Spirit."

## Tuesday

**READ Deuteronomy 6:4-5; First Corinthians 1:4-9; Galatians 4:4-7.** **DISCUSS** Who called us into Christ? Who sent Christ? Why? Who sent the Spirit? Why? How has God the Father loved us? **SERVE** by considering someone else's needs *above your own!* **MEDITATE** on **John 3:31-36**. **PRAY**, "Heavenly Father, You have sent us Your Son from heaven. Thank You for loving us so generously. Teach us to believe the truth and live it out in praise to You."



### Wednesday

READ **Deuteronomy 6:4–5; Ezekiel 36:26-27; 37:14; Titus 3:5-6; 1 John 4:7-16.** DISCUSS How does the Holy Spirit apply the love of the Father and Son to us? How does He demonstrate His love for us? SERVE by *caring about someone else* more than yourself! MEDITATE on **John 3:31-36.** PRAY, “Holy Spirit, thank You for comforting us as You comforted Jesus. We praise You for giving us life.”

### Thursday

READ **Deuteronomy 6:4–5; Heb 12:3-11; Ephesians 3:14-19; John 14:25-31.** DISCUSS How do the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit all work together for our redemption? SERVE by putting someone else’s interests *above your own!* MEDITATE on **John 3:31-36.** PRAY, “Triune God, You love one another perfectly. In Your infinite mercy You have set Your love upon us and in perfect harmony have loved us into Your Kingdom. Receive our grateful praise.”

### Friday

READ **John 3:31-36; Ephesians 2:18-22; 3:14-19; 4:8-16; Deuteronomy 6:4–5; Second Corinthians 13:14; 1 John 4:7-16.** DISCUSS, What has the Holy Spirit been teaching you this week through these passages? MEDITATE on **John 3:31-36.** PRAY that we at FCCW would *be transformed together by God’s self-giving love.*

### Saturday

PREPARE for *gathered worship tomorrow.* READ **John 1:1-18.** Invite others to join you tomorrow for the *worship service @ 10:30.* Ask Jesus to *help us love Him and one another as He loves us.*

## Key Verses — *God is one and three*

“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is *one.* Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.”

—**Deuteronomy 6:4–5**

The grace of the **Lord Jesus Christ** and the love of **God** and the fellowship of the **Holy Spirit** be with you all.”

—**Second Corinthians 13:14**