



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

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

*January 31st, 2021*

# *The Order of Morning Worship*

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

January 31st, 2021

Ten-thirty

Welcome

Pastor Doug Warren

Prelude & Silent Prayer

❖ Call to Worship

Zephaniah 3: 14 – 15

Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away the judgments against you; he has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil.

❖ Hymn of Exultation

Number 580

*Lead On, O King Eternal*

## Lead On, O King Eternal

*I am the LORD your God ... who directs you in the way you should go. Is. 48:17*

1. Lead on, O King e - ter - nal, the day of march has come;  
 2. Lead on, O King e - ter - nal, till sin's fierce war shall cease,  
 3. Lead on, O King e - ter - nal: we - fol - low, not with fears;

hence - forth in fields of con - quest thy tents shall be our home:  
 and ho - li - ness shall whis - per the sweet a - men of peace;  
 for glad - ness breaks like morn - ing where - e'er thy face ap - pears;

through days of prep - a - ra - tion thy grace has made us strong,  
 for not with swords loud clash - ing, nor roll of stir - ring drums,  
 thy cross is lift - ed o'er us; we jour - ney in its light:

and now, O King e - ter - nal, we lift our bat - tle song.  
 but deeds of love and mer - cy, the heav'n - ly king - dom comes.  
 the crown a - waits the con - quest; lead on, O God of might.

## Scriptural Call to Repentance

Isaiah 55: 6 – 7

Seek the Lord while He may be found; call on Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the Lord, and He will have mercy on him, and to our God, for He will freely pardon.

## Collective Confession

Gracious Lord, we confess now that we dishonor You in our words and thoughts and deeds. Depending on our own strength we stumble; proclaiming our own goodness, we sin; glorying in our own righteousness we corrupt everything we touch. Turning our faces from You, Lord, we desire the things of this world to satisfy us. We pray now, Lord, for You to forgive all of our many sins; to cleanse the darkness from our lives, and to turn our faces and our hearts back towards You. We pray these things in the name of Your most precious Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

## Proclamation of Forgiveness

Acts 13: 38; Ephesians 1: 7

Through Jesus Christ forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. In Christ we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace.

## Scripture Reading

Ephesians 6: 10 – 20

<sup>10</sup> Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. <sup>11</sup> Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. <sup>12</sup> For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. <sup>13</sup> Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. <sup>14</sup> Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, <sup>15</sup> and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE; <sup>16</sup> in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil *one*. <sup>17</sup> And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

<sup>18</sup> With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints, <sup>19</sup> and *pray* on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, <sup>20</sup> for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in *proclaiming* it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

Pastor: The grass withers, the flower fades,

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

Pastoral Prayer

❖ Hymn of Reflection

Number 585

*Take My Life, and Let It Be*

# Take My Life, and Let It Be

585

*Just as you used to offer the parts of your body in slavery to impurity ... so now offer them in slavery to righteousness. Rom. 6:19*

Chords: F, C<sup>7</sup>, F 7, Dm, B<sup>b</sup>, Gm

1. Take my life, and let it be con - se - crat - ed,  
 2. Take my hands, and let them move at the im - pulse  
 3. Take my voice, and let me sing, al - ways, on - ly,  
 4. Take my sil - ver and my gold; not a mite would

Chords: F, C<sup>7</sup>, F, C, C<sup>7</sup>, F

Lord, to thee. Take my mo - ments and my days; let them  
 of thy love. Take my feet, and let them be swift and  
 for my King. Take my lips, and let them be filled with  
 I with - hold. Take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - 'ry

Chords: B<sup>b</sup>, F, C, F, C, F 7, Dm, C, F, B<sup>b</sup>, F, C, F 7

flow in cease - less praise, let them flow in cease - less praise.  
 beau - ti - ful for thee, swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.  
 mes - sag - es from thee, filled with mes - sa - ges from thee.  
 pow'r as thou shalt choose, ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

5. Take my will, and make it thine;  
 it shall be no longer mine.  
 Take my heart, it is thine own;  
 it shall be thy royal throne,  
 it shall be thy royal throne.

6. Take my love; my Lord, I pour  
 at thy feet its treasure-store.  
 Take my self, and I will be  
 ever, only, all for thee,  
 ever, only, all for thee.

## “*Stoning and Other Benefits of the Gospel*”

Acts 14: 19 – 28

<sup>19</sup> But Jews came from Antioch and Iconium, and having won over the crowds, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing him to be dead. <sup>20</sup> But while the disciples stood around him, he got up and entered the city. The next day he went away with Barnabas to Derbe. <sup>21</sup> After they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, <sup>22</sup> strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and *saying*, “Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.” <sup>23</sup> When they had appointed elders for them in every church, having prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

<sup>24</sup> They passed through Pisidia and came into Pamphylia. <sup>25</sup> When they had spoken the word in Perga, they went down to Attalia. <sup>26</sup> From there they sailed to Antioch, from which they had been commended to the grace of God for the work that they had accomplished. <sup>27</sup> When they had arrived and gathered the church together, they *began* to report all things that God had done with them and how He had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles. <sup>28</sup> And they spent a long time with the disciples.

❖ Hymn of Response

Number 571

*Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus*

# Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus

571

*Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. 2 Tim. 2:3*

1. Stand up, stand up for Je - sus, ye sol - diers of the cross;  
 2. Stand up, stand up for Je - sus, the trum - pet call o - bey;  
 3. Stand up, stand up for Je - sus, stand in his strength a - lone;  
 4. Stand up, stand up for Je - sus, the strife will not be long;

lift high his roy - al ban - ner, it must not suf - fer loss:  
 forth to the might - y con - flict in this his glo - rious day:  
 the arm of flesh will fail you, ye dare not trust your own:  
 this day the noise of bat - tle, the next the vic - tor's song:

from vic - t'ry un - to vic - t'ry his ar - my he shall lead,  
 ye that are men now serve him a - gainst un - num - bered foes;  
 put on the gos - pel ar - mor, each piece put on with pray'r;  
 to him that o - ver - com - eth a crown of life shall be;

till ev - 'ry foe is van - quished, and Christ is Lord in - deed.  
 let cour - age rise with dan - ger, and strength to strength op - pose.  
 where du - ty calls, or dan - ger, be nev - er want - ing there.  
 he with the King of glo - ry shall reign e - ter - nal - ly.



Benediction

Jude 24 – 25

Pastor: To Him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before His glorious presence without fault and with great joy—to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forever more.

**Congregation: Thanks be to God. Amen.**

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 ~~*

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Young Adult Fellowship Group tonight at 6:00 pm.

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The February Newsletter is available  
on the table in the Narthex.

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## 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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:mvcs@mvcs.info) or call 802-295-6800 to schedule a visit.

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## **Stoning and Other Benefits of the Gospel**

### **1. The Gathering Opposition to the Gospel (19).**

### **2. Preparing to Withstand Sustained Persecution (20-28).**

- a. Gather Around Paul (20)
- b. Preach Gospel (21, 25)
- c. Make Disciples (21)
- d. Strengthen Souls of Disciples (22)
- e. Encourage Them (22)
- f. Appointed Elders for Each Church (23)
- g. Prayer & Fasting (24)
- h. Gather Church Together (27)
- i. Give Testimonies of God's Work (27)
- j. Fellowship (28)

### **3. Trusting Christ Together in the Coming Storm (27-28).**

**CONCLUSION:** Jesus told us, "In the world you will have tribulation." We see that being borne out here in Acts with Paul and Barnabas. We should not be discouraged, even facing stoning, for Christ has also said, "But take heart; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). The means by which He is overcoming the world is through His Church as He equips His people through discipleship to stand firm as we proclaim His Word together.

## Ephesians 4: 11 – 16

<sup>11</sup> And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, <sup>12</sup> **to equip the saints for the work of ministry**, for building up the body of Christ, <sup>13</sup> until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, <sup>14</sup> so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. <sup>15</sup> Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, <sup>16</sup> from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, **makes the body grow** so that it builds itself up in love.

## Ephesians 6: 10 – 20

<sup>10</sup> Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. <sup>11</sup> Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. <sup>12</sup> **For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.** <sup>13</sup> Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. <sup>14</sup> Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, <sup>15</sup> and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup> In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; <sup>17</sup> and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, <sup>18</sup> praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, <sup>19</sup> and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, <sup>20</sup> for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

## 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

Jesus calls us to follow Him in the process of discipleship. It's His means of making us more and more like Himself. We can know with confidence that He will succeed in His plans for us. Let us joyfully pursue His work in us together!

*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 14:19-28; Ephesians 4:11-16; 6:10-20; Psalm 18:31-41.** DISCUSS, Do you struggle with difficulties because of your faith in Christ? Why does God allow Paul to be stoned? How does He prepare the Church to sustain persecution? How are you being discipled? Why? PRAY "Jesus, You know what we need. Thank You for providing us Your Word and Your Church to strengthen us for the coming storm. Help us to trust You and encourage one another!"

## Sunday Evening

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

## Monday

**READ Acts 14:19-28; Exodus 13:17-22.** DISCUSS, How did God go with His people as He led them out of slavery in Egypt? For what were the people equipped? How do we see God's wisdom displayed through how He led them? MEDITATE on **Ephesians 6:10-12.** PRAY, "Jesus, You alone are God! Thank You for caring for us as You lead us. Teach us to trust You in all things."

## Tuesday

**READ Acts 14:19-28; Second Samuel 22:32-40.** DISCUSS, This passage gives the historical context for this song of praise that is also found in Psalm 18. From whom had God delivered David? How does that relate to Acts 14? MEDITATE on **Ephesians 6:10-12.** PRAY, "Jesus, thank You for rescuing us from all Your and our enemies."

### Wednesday

READ **Acts 14:19-28; Second Timothy 3:10-17; Psalm 18:31-41.** DISCUSS, How would you describe Paul's discipleship of Timothy? Who are you nurturing in this way? Who have you followed as they follow Christ? MEDITATE on **Ephesians 6:10-12.** PRAY, "Lord Jesus, we need You to build Your Church. Please ground us in Your Word together."

### Thursday

READ **Acts 14:19-28; Hebrews 13:20-21; Psalm 18:31-41.** DISCUSS, What is this benediction asking the Lord to do? Why? Is this your prayer? MEDITATE on **Ephesians 6:10-12.** PRAY, "Jesus, we want to do the good things You will us to do. Help us we pray!"

### Friday

READ **Acts 14:19-28; Ephesians 4:11-16; 6:10-20; Psalm 18:31-41.** DISCUSS, How has God been teaching you from these passages this week? MEDITATE on **Ephesians 6:10-12.** 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 15:1-41.** Invite others to join you tomorrow for either the *live-stream or in-person service.* Ask Jesus to help us love our neighbors well.

## Ephesians 6: 10 – 12

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.