



The _____
First Congregational Church
of Woodstock _____

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

March 13th, 2022

The Order of Morning Worship

March 13th, 2022

Ten-thirty

Welcome

Pastor Doug Warren

Prelude & Silent Prayer

❖ Call to Worship

Psalm 86

Congregation

Pastor: We will praise You, O Lord our God, with our whole hearts; we will glorify Your name forever; for You have delivered us from the power of death.

Congregation: Bring joy to Your servants, O Lord, for to You we lift up our souls. There is none like You; no deeds can compare with Yours.

Pastor: All the nations You have made will come and worship before You. They will bring glory to Your name, for You alone are God.

Congregation: Teach us now Your way, O Lord, and we will live in Your truth. Give us undivided hearts that we may fear and praise Your great name.

❖ Hymn of Exultation #310

Rejoice, the Lord is King!

Congregation

Scriptural Call to Repentance

Psalm 46: 8 – 9

Pastor

Collective Confession

Congregation

Holy Father, we long to have You change our hearts. We confess to You that we do not obey You as we should. We don't think Your thoughts, speak Your truth, or do the good that You command. We do not love our neighbors as You have loved us. We bend the truth to our own purposes. We harbor bitterness when we don't get our own way. We neglect and leave the oppressed with no defender. We break Your holy law and delight in what You have forbidden. Merciful Lord, we humbly ask that You would forgive us and change our hearts. Conform us to the image of Your Son. Holy Spirit, work in us we pray, that we might be like You.

Silent Reflection and Confession

Proclamation of Forgiveness

Psalm 130

Pastor

Offering

(collected from back to front)

Congregation

- ❖ Affirmation of Faith *The Westminster Shorter Catechism*¹ Congregation
 Pastor: What is the chief end of man?
 Congregation: Man’s chief end is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.
 Pastor: What rule has God given to direct us in how to glorify and enjoy Him?
 Congregation: The Word of God, which is contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, is the only rule to direct us as to how we may glorify and enjoy Him.

- ❖ Creedal Song #735 *Gloria Patri* Congregation
- ❖ Scripture Reading Luke 15:1-32 Pastor
 Pastor: The Word of the Lord.
 Congregation: Thanks be to God.

- Deacons’ Offering (collected from back to front) Congregation
- Pastoral Prayer Pastor
- ❖ Hymn of Reflection #125 *Let All Things Now Living* Congregation
- The Sermon Philippians 1:15-18 Pastor
 “How Are We to Handle Contentious Siblings?”
- ❖ Hymn of Response #274 *Thine Be the Glory* Congregation
- Benediction Jude 24-25 Pastor
 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

¹ A catechism is a question and answer format for teaching the truths contained in Scripture. The Westminster Shorter Catechism was written in 1647 in England primarily as an aid for teaching children. It has been used by congregations and families in both worship and instruction for the past 350 years.

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

Deacons' Offering – Today, March 13th

Our church receives many requests for help from not just within our church body but the community at large. The deacons have a great many opportunities to share God's love with folks in need, whether it is paying a bill for them or buying them a pair of glasses. This is a vital ministry that our church has to reach into our communities and share the gospel in a loving, gracious way. If you are in need or know someone who is, please contact Dan Bruce, the Deacons' Mercy Minister at home (802) 457-3975, at his cell number (802) 345-8870, or email him at rhondan08@myfairpoint.net.

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

Property Manager Position

FCCW is looking for a Property Manager. This part-time position requires the person or persons to work a flexible schedule, be able to handle a variety of tasks, and be a good steward of FCCW property. Please contact Karl Huck at 802-457-3072 or e-mail him at karlhuck@gmail.com for more details or to submit an application. Thank you.

New Members and Friends Lists are on the
Table in the Billings Room.

Walking Wednesday

If you would like to walk inside for some exercise and fellowship, meet the Pastor at FCCW at 1:00 pm on Wednesday to go together to the Powerhouse Mall.

Together in Differences -- CCEF NE Conference, April 2

The FCCW Board of Christian Education would like to invite you to attend a one-day conference put on by the Christian Counseling and Educational Foundation of New England. It will be held in Lebanon, NH on **April 2, 2022**. FCCW has a special group rate, and according to people's desires, we may have a watch group at the church as well as a group attending in person. You may also watch from home or another remote location. The topic for the day is Together in Differences. Below is the brief description of the topic and the schedule for the day:

TOGETHER IN DIFFERENCES

Living Out Our Unity in Christ

Division and discord seem to surround us, even in the places where we most long for connection. Scripture recognizes this modern yet timeless problem and invites us into a new way of relating to others. We will press into the real problem of disunity and the real hope of the body of Christ, and examine strategies for engaging our differences in a way that builds up the church. Join CCEF New England and special guest Alasdair Groves for a day of teaching and encouragement.

Conference Schedule

8:00-9:00am | Registration

9:00-10:15am | Plenary 1 "We Really Have Differences" (Andy Engert)

10:15-10:30am | Stretch break

10:30-11:45am | Plenary 2 "We Really Have Unity" (Robyn Huck)

11:45-1:15pm | Lunch break (local restaurants or pre-purchased boxed lunch)

1:15-2:00pm | Breakout Sessions

2:00-2:15pm | Stretch break

2:15-3:00pm | Plenary 3 "We Really Can Overcome Divisions" (Alasdair Groves)

3:00-3:30pm | Book table open

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Breakout sessions will explore these ideas further in the context of marriage and family, church and more.

To register, first email Jeff DeDell at dedellcrew@gmail.com for the special FCCW group discount code. Registration costs will go up after Feb 15 and March 15. Conference cost to FCCW folks will be between \$34 and \$49 dollars per person, depending on when you register. (There is an optional lunch you can add to your registration cost when you sign up online.)

After contacting Jeff for the code, go to www.ccef.org/newengland to register. Jeff can assist anyone who has trouble with online registration, and the BCE would also like you to tell him if you wish for assistance in paying for the conference.

The BCE is looking forward to this day of learning alongside other Christians about a struggle that is found in all our churches. Please save the date of Saturday, April 2, 2022.

Teachers Needed

WCCC is in need of **Teachers/Assistants**, and **Substitutes**. Please contact Ruth Brisson at rbrissonwccc@gmail.com or 410-925-7959, if you are interested in serving in any of these roles.

Sermon Notes and Daily Devotional
First Congregational Church of Woodstock

Pastor Doug Warren
March 13, 2022

Morning Worship Service:

Philippians 1:15-18

How Are We to Handle Contentious Siblings?

1. Folks in Rome Were Proclaiming Christ with Mixed Motives

2. How Do We Rightly Understand Embittered Christians?

3. Rejoice in Christ's Name Being Made Glorious!

CONCLUSION: Sometimes it is more difficult to forgive family members for the wounds they inflict than it is to forgive our enemies. Paul shows us how trust in Christ frees us from getting embittered by jealousy and envy. We can rejoice in the progress of the gospel despite hardships because God is faithfully using what look like setbacks to us for the spread of His glory. Let us with Paul rejoice!

Romans 12:1-5

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

³For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you *not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think*, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, ⁵*so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.*

First Peter 1:3-9

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶In this you *rejoice*, though now for a little while, if necessary, *you have been grieved by various trials*, ⁷so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found *to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ*. ⁸Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and *rejoice with joy that is inexpressible* and filled with glory, ⁹obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Deuteronomy 12:7

And there you shall eat before the Lord your God, and *you shall rejoice*, you and your households, in all that you undertake, in which the Lord your God has blessed you.

Taking Gathered Worship Home

God calls us to love our enemies, to turn the other cheek to those who strike us, and in this week's passage, to rejoice in Christ's name being proclaimed even when it is done out of envy and in a way that is designed to cause us hardship. What?! Isn't this too much? Only if it was too much for Him to love us while we still despised Him. He calls us into this fellowship not to make us miserable, but to know true joy.

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 **Philippians 1:15-18; Romans 12:1-5; First Peter 1:3-9; Luke 15:1, 11-32; Deuteronomy 12:1-28; Ecclesiastes 3:12-13**. DISCUSS How is Paul able to rejoice in people seeking to harm him? What about our partnership together in Christ should change how we respond to this type of envy? What is the hardest part of forgiving others for you? PRAY "Lord Christ, help us to want Your name glorified above everything else. Teach us to trust You in all things."

Sunday Evening

Come join the *Young Adults' Fellowship* at 6pm in the FCCW library!

Monday

READ **Philippians 1:15-18; Romans 12:1-5; 14-21**. DISCUSS How does trust in Christ's sovereignty free us to forgive others? Who do you have a hard time accepting as a brother/sister in Christ? How can you trust Christ's work in them? MEDITATE on **Luke 15:32**. PRAY, "Lord Jesus, *teach us to trust You* in all Your ways. You are faithful to complete Your household exactly as You planned."

Tuesday

READ **Philippians 1:15-18; First Peter 1:3-9; Luke 15:1, 11-32**. DISCUSS How does rejoicing in trials demonstrate faith in Christ? Why is this important? MEDITATE on **Luke 15:32**. PRAY, "Lord, help us to delight in being Your people. Teach us to proclaim Your glory to whomever You send us."

Wednesday

READ **Philippians 1:15-18; Luke 15:1-32**. DISCUSS, Why was it proper for Jesus to feast with sinners? Why was celebration necessary? How does this apply to believers in your life? Why is this so difficult for us? MEDITATE on **Luke 15:32**. PRAY, “Lord, use us as You will and teach us to rejoice in You.”

Thursday

READ **Philippians 1:15-18; Deuteronomy 12:1-28; First Corinthians 12:27-31**. DISCUSS, What is repeated that they should do in terms of rejoicing? Why? How is rejoicing in the Lord central to living out the gospel? MEDITATE on **Luke 15:32**. PRAY, Lord, You are more than enough for us. Teach us to be satisfied in You.”

Friday

READ **Philippians 1:15-18; Romans 12:1-5; First Peter 1:3-9; Luke 15:1, 11-32; Deuteronomy 12:1-28; Ecclesiastes 3:12-13**. DISCUSS, How has God been teaching you from these passages this week? DELIGHT in Christ with all your heart and love His people with joy! MEDITATE on **Luke 15:32**. PRAY for unity and joyful care for one another at FCCW.

Saturday

PREPARE today for the worship service tomorrow which is *available both in-person and via live-stream*. READ **Philippians 1:1-30**. Invite others to join you tomorrow for the service. Ask Jesus to gather us together joyfully to praise Him.

Luke 15:32

But *we had to celebrate and rejoice,*
because this brother of yours was dead
and has begun to live, and was lost and has been found.