



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

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

*March 29th, 2020*

# *The Order of Morning Worship*

*For assistance as we “gather” remotely for the live streaming worship service.*

March 29th, 2020

Ten-thirty

Welcome Pastor Doug Warren

Prelude & Silent Prayer

Easter Sacrificial Offering

See Announcement at the End

❖ Call to Worship Zephaniah 3: 14 – 15 Pastor Doug Warren

❖ Hymn of Exultation *All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name!* Number 296

Scripture Reading Colossians 3: 1 – 4 Pastor Doug Warren

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

**Congregation: Thanks be to God!**

Offering Please mail your offering to the church. We are exploring electronic giving options and will forward those details when available.

Scriptural Call to Repentance Isaiah 55: 6 – 7 Pastor Doug Warren

Prayers of Confession Congregation

Almighty and most merciful father, we are thankful that your mercy is higher than the heavens, wider than our wanderings, deeper than all our sin. Forgive our frivolous attitude toward life, our callousness toward suffering, our envy of those who have more than we have, our obsession with creating a life of constant pleasure, our indifference to the treasures of heaven, our neglect of your wise and gracious law. Help us to change our way of life so that we may desire what is good, love what you love, and do what you command, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Silent Reflection and Confession

Proclamation of Forgiveness Pastor Doug Warren

Acts 13:8, Ephesians 1:7

❖ Song of Praise *Great Is Thy Faithfulness* Number 32

Pastoral Prayer Pastor Doug Warren

❖ Creedal Song *Doxology* Number 731

The Sermon Acts 4: 13 – 22 Pastor Doug Warren

*“Being With Jesus Changes Us”*

❖ Hymn of Commitment *Lift High the Cross* Number 263

Benediction Numbers 6: 24 – 26 Pastor Doug Warren

The Congregation may be seated after the Benediction for silent prayer

Postlude

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~~ Organist: Anne Hablitzel ~~

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## Easter Offering

This year's Easter Offering recipient will be Brian and Cathy Birdsall. They have been affiliated with First Congregational Church of Woodstock since 1988 when they served with Campus Crusade for Christ (Cru) at Dartmouth College. It was Brian and Cathy who started the connection with Dartmouth students and FCCW by loading them in their Volkswagen van and driving them over on Sunday mornings.

In 1991, God called Brian and Cathy to serve in the former Soviet Union. They moved to Moscow, Russia in February 1992 and then to Kiev, Ukraine in 1993. They served in a variety of roles with Cru in that part of the world for over twenty years.

Brian and Cathy currently lead the Christian Embassy ministry at the United Nations in New York City where they serve the spiritual needs of over 4,000 diplomats from 193 countries around the world. They do this via large events such as The International Prayer Breakfast and small groups such as Bible studies, English classes and personal appointments. Brian and Cathy have five children and two grandchildren, with a third due the end of April.

Please watch the video attached to the newsletter or on FCCW's YouTube channel that the Birdsalls have put together to explain their work and the challenges that they are facing. You will have a chance to bless them through the Easter sacrificial offering.

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## Easter Flowers

Easter plants and flowers always bring beauty to the Easter Service. If you would like to share a flowering plant for the Easter service in memory of a loved one and then take it home after, please see Carol Powell or call 457-3833.

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## Tithing

Currently, there is no online giving. The Deacons are working on making that option available. Until it is, please mail your tithe to FCCW, ATTN: Treasurer, 36 Elm Street, Woodstock, VT 05091. Thank you.

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If you have not filled out the Elders' questionnaire, please do so and return to me via email or snail mail (FCCW, 36 Elm Street, Woodstock, VT 05091). The questionnaire is on the next page. Please fill out a questionnaire for each person in your household. Every person has different health needs, contact information, and concerns. Thank you for helping the leadership stay connected with the needs of the body.

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If you have any questions or prayer requests, please email them to me at [fccwinfo@gmail.com](mailto:fccwinfo@gmail.com).

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## Elders' Questionnaire

If you have not sent the answers to the questions below via email, please answer the questions and return via email or snail mail.

From the Elders:

With the Coronavirus outbreak we want to make sure that everyone at First Congregational Church of Woodstock is receiving loving care physically and spiritually.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

- Do you have any symptoms such as a cough or fever?
- Do you have any complicating health concerns such as respiratory issues or a compromised immune system?
- Are you under medical quarantine or social isolation?
- Do you have enough food and medicine for the next month?
- Are you under a doctor's care?
- What is the most concerning part of this current outbreak for you?
- What needs do you have?
- How can the Elders best pray for you?
- Do you have access to FaceTime, Skype, Zoom, or some other means of video conferencing? If so, what is your contact information?
- What Bible verse or passage has been the most helpful for you in the past week?

Additionally,

- Are you available to help drive people to the doctor?
- Would you be able to transport groceries or other essentials to those homebound?
- What time of the day/week are you most available?

By Christ's Grace,

Pastor Doug

# 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!

### APPLYING GOD'S WORD

*Please ask the Holy Spirit to guide you:*

**How Are You Expressing Faith in Christ as King?** What does that look like in your daily life? What other things does that bump up against? Where do you tend to meet resistance in your loyalty to Christ?

**How are you growing in your loyalty to Christ?** Be specific. How is that evidence of the Holy Spirit's work within you? What other loyalties do you need to lower or abandon?

**How are you growing in your resemblance to Christ?** Be specific. How is it evident that you have been with Jesus? Where do you need to ask the Holy Spirit to help you? What lesser things do you tend to resemble? What do you need to change so that those resemblances are not encouraged?

## **Being with Jesus Changes Us**

1. Being with Jesus Transformed the Apostles.
2. How Do We, Like Jesus, Reply to Earthly Authorities?
3. Jesus is actively transforming His followers.

Peter and John were common, ordinary folks used powerfully by God to accomplish His purposes. The more they pursued those purposes in the presence of Christ, the more He emboldened them to glorify His name. Let us also draw near to Christ in faith and follow our Savior as He faithfully transforms us to resemble Him more and more each day.