



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

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

*April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
Easter Celebration Service*

# *Easter Celebration Service*

April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Ten-thirty

Welcome

Pastor Doug Warren

Prelude & Silent Prayer

❖ Call to Worship                      1 Corinthians 15                      Congregation

Jesus Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting? Death is swallowed up in victory. Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!

Pastor: Christ is risen!

**Congregation: He is risen indeed!**

**All: Alleluia! Our Lord, Jesus, is risen from the dead!  
Death has been conquered!**

❖ Hymn of Exultation #277    *Christ the Lord is Risen Today*                      Congregation

Prayer of Adoration                      Congregation

**Our Father, who is in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen**

Scriptural Call to Repentance    John 12:12-6; 19:15                      Pastor

Collective Confession                      Congregation

**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.**

## Silent Reflection and Confession

Proclamation of Forgiveness	Romans 8:1	Pastor
Pastoral Prayer		Pastor
Offering	(collected from back to front)	Congregation
Description of Easter Sacrificial Offering Recipients		
Scripture Reading	Matthew 28:5-10	Pastor
Easter Sacrificial Offering	(collected from back to front)	Congregation
Affirmation of Faith	Romans 10:8-13	Congregation
Pastor:	But what does the Bible say?	
<b>Congregation:</b>	<b>“The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim)</b>	
Pastor:	because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. For the Scripture says,	
<b>Congregation:</b>	<b>“Everyone who believes in Christ will not be put to shame.”</b>	
Pastor:	For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him.	
<b>Congregation:</b>	<b>For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”</b>	
❖ Hymn of Reflection #276	<i>Up From the Grave He Arose</i>	Congregation
The Sermon	Acts 2:22-39 <i>“Resurrection Power”</i>	Pastor
❖ Hymn of Response #268	<i>Worship Christ the Risen King</i>	Congregation
❖ Benediction	Hebrews 13:20-21	Pastor

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

Postlude

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~~ Organist: Jonathan Denham ~~

~~ Horn: Anne Denham ~~

~~ Please ensure cell phones are off ~~

*Prelude: Prelude in G Major (Bach)*

*Offertory: The Strife is O'er (Trinity 275, Pott/Palestrina)*

*Sacrificial Offering: Run, Peter, Run (Evans)*

*Postlude: Hallelujah Chorus (Handel)*

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*The Easter Plants Were Given*  
*in Loving Memory of:*

Richard and Evelyn Englishmen by Elaine Brown

Dick and Betty Marciano by Robyn Huck

Betty Koop and Norm Koop by Anne Koop

Dr. C. Everett Koop by Cora Koop

Her Parents by Carol Nettleship

Ruth and MaryEllen Vanderhoof by Peter and Rosmarie Vanderhoof

Robert Powell by Carol Powell

David B. Johnston by Doris Johnston

William, Ruth and Fred Beebee by Dan and Rhonda Bruce

Sue Warren and Richard Houlberg by Doug and Kristen Warren

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There will be no Young Adult Fellowship Group tonight.  
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## Congregational Meeting

Mark your calendars for the special congregational meeting that will immediately follow the worship service on April 30<sup>th</sup>. Stay tuned for more details!

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## Greeters Needed

Would you like to help welcome folks to worship on Sunday mornings? We need two volunteers each Sunday from 10:10 until the beginning of worship. If you would like to serve in this way there is a sign-up sheet in the Billings Room near the punch bowl. Questions? Contact Diana Snider at [dennisssnider@msn.com](mailto:dennisssnider@msn.com).

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## A Note from the Hospitality Committee

ATTENTION: All Boards, Committees, Staff, WCCC, and Individuals. Beginning April 1, 2023, each item or group of items NOT labeled in the refrigerator or freezer will be removed at the end of each month. Thank you for your consideration. The Hospitality Committee

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## Save the Date!

Saturday, April 29 -- 9:00 am-1:00 pm Church Clean-Up Day  
Sunday, April 30 -- Special Congregation Meeting after the worship service  
Saturday, May 6 -- 8:00 - 9:15 am Men's Fellowship Breakfast  
Friday, May 12 -- 7:00-8:30 pm Concert of Prayer  
Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup> -- FCCW hosting the Northern New England Presbytery

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The April prayer letter is available on the back table.

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## Gathering Opportunities

Prayer Meeting: Tuesdays 6-7 pm in the FCCW library and via Zoom

Bible Studies:

- Tuesday Middle School & High School Bible Study 7:00 am
  - Tuesday Morning Ladies Bible Study 10:00 am at the Thompson Senior Center and via Zoom
  - Thursday Women's Bible Study 10:00 am in the FCCW nursery
  - Wednesday Morning Men's Bible Study 6:15 am in the library and via Zoom
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Sermon Notes and Daily Devotional  
First Congregational Church of Woodstock

Pastor Doug Warren  
April 9, 2023  
EASTER SUNDAY  
Acts 2:22-36

Morning Worship Service:

## **Resurrection Power**

**1. Jesus Is the Promised Messiah.**

**2. God Has Kept His Promise.**

**3. His Promises Come with Resurrection Power.**

Conclusion: The promise of God to deliver us from sin and death through His Messiah is true. We can only know it through the resurrected Jesus. He empowers us through His Holy Spirit to turn from our sin and rebellion against Him through repentance and to join together with His people in baptism so that we might testify to His mighty change in us. He brings the dead to life. Let us join Him and one another in *proclaiming His mercy and might* to all the world!

## **Matthew 28:5-10**

But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. *He is not here, for he has risen, as he said.* Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples that *he has risen from the dead*, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you.” So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. And behold, Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me.”

## **First Corinthians 15:1-6**

Now I would remind you, brothers, of *the gospel I preached to you*, which you received, in which you stand, and *by which you are being saved*, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, *that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures*, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep.

## **Philippians 3:7-11**

For [Christ’s] sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that *which comes through faith in Christ*, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—*that I may know him and the power of his resurrection*, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain *the resurrection from the dead*.

## **Romans 1:1-6**

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for *the gospel of God*, which *He promised* beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and *was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord*, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith *for the sake of his name among all the nations*, including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ ...

# Taking Gathered Worship Home

New life. The dead alive again. The promise of everlasting life delighting with God. That is what the resurrection of Jesus brings. Prisoners set free to live forever with God. *Do you have that?* Are you telling anyone about it?

*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.*

## **EASTER Sunday Morning**

**READ Acts 2:22-36; Matthew 28:5-10; First Corinthians 15:1-6; Philippians 3:7-11; Romans 1:1-6; Psalm 16:1-10; 17:8-15; 22:21-31; 103:1-5.** DISCUSS How does Christ's resurrection affect you? Why? How? What are you doing to *demonstrate* that reality to others? MEDITATE on **Acts 4:33**. PRAY "Jesus, thank You for conquering death for us and giving us life that we might live with You."

## **Sunday Evening**

There will be no **Young Adult Fellowship** tonight. Join us next week!

## **Monday**

**READ Acts 2:22-36; Matthew 16:21-23; 28:5-10; Psalm 16:1-10.** DISCUSS Jesus had been telling His disciples that He **MUST** go to Jerusalem and that He had to die there. What are the women told by the angel after His death? How has God kept His promise through the resurrection? How can you believe Him? MEDITATE on **Acts 4:33**. PRAY, "Father, thank You for being faithful and trustworthy. Thank You for keeping all Your promises."

## **Tuesday**

**READ Acts 2:22-36; Genesis 12:1-3; John 8:56; Hebrews 11:8-16; Psalm 17:8-15.** DISCUSS These passages all deal with God's promise to Abraham and Abraham's faith in God? How did Christ's resurrection secure Abraham's eternal life? How are we secured by it? **SERVE** by considering someone else's needs *above your own!* MEDITATE on **Acts 4:33**. PRAY, "Lord God, You are the God of the living. Teach us to trust You, Jesus, as the resurrected Lord who will come to live with us forever."



### Wednesday

READ **Acts 2:22-36; First Corinthians 15:1-6; Psalm 22:21-31.** DISCUSS How does Paul summarize the gospel to the Corinthians? Why is the resurrection significant? SERVE by *contacting someone from FCCW you haven't seen in a while. Demonstrate care for them more than yourself!* MEDITATE on **Acts 4:33.** PRAY, "Lord, thank You for rising from the dead in fulfillment of Your promise. Teach us how to live in the power of Your resurrection."

### Thursday

READ **Acts 2:22-36; Philippians 3:7-11; Romans 1:1-6; Psalm 103:1-5.** DISCUSS Does having the power of the resurrection mean that we will only experience blessings and health? Why or why not? How would Paul answer? What did Christ's resurrection declare? How? SERVE by putting someone else's interests *above your own!* MEDITATE on **Acts 4:33.** PRAY, "Lord, enable us by Your power to walk in a manner worthy of our calling."

### Friday

READ **Acts 2:22-36; Matthew 28:5-10; First Corinthians 15:1-6; Philippians 3:7-11; Romans 1:1-6; Psalm 16:1-10; 17:8-15; 22:21-31; 103:1-5.** DISCUSS What has the Holy Spirit been teaching you this week through these passages? MEDITATE on **Acts 4:33.** PRAY that we at FCCW would *trust Christ as our risen Redeemer and Lord.*

### Saturday

PREPARE for *gathered Sunday worship tomorrow.* READ **Ruth 2:1-23.** Invite others to join you tomorrow for *worship services @ 10:30.* Ask Jesus to *help us walk by faith in the power of His resurrection.*

## Acts 4:33

*"And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all."*