



The _____
First Congregational Church
of Woodstock _____

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

April 26th, 2020

The Order of Morning Worship

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

April 26th, 2020

Ten-thirty

Welcome

Pastor Doug Warren

Prelude & Silent Prayer

Easter Offering to the Birdsalls

Last Day to Give is April 28

❖ Call to Worship

Psalm 34: 1 – 3

Pastor Doug Warren

I will bless the LORD at all times;
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.
² My soul makes its boast in the LORD;
let the humble hear and be glad.
³ Oh, magnify the LORD with me,
and let us exalt his name together!

❖ Hymn of Exultation

Come, Thou Almighty King

Number 101

Come, Thou Almighty King

101

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. 2 Cor. 13:14

F F
Gm F C F
C F
C7
F C 7

1. Come, thou Al - might - y King, help us thy name to sing,
 2. Come, thou In - car - nate Word, gird on thy might - y sword,
 3. Come, Ho - ly Com - fort - er, thy sa - cred wit - ness bear
 4. To the great One in Three e - ter - nal prais - es be,

F
C
C F C7
F
C F C7

help us to praise. Fa - ther, all glo - ri - ous, o'er all vic -
 our prayer at - tend. Come, and thy peo - ple bless, and give thy
 in this glad hour. Thou who al - might - y art, now rule in
 hence ev - er - more. His sov - ereign maj - es - ty may we in

F
F
Gm F C7
F 7

to - ri - ous, come and reign o - ver us, An - cient of Days.
 Word suc - cess; Spir - it of ho - li - ness, on us de - scend.
 ev - ery heart, and ne'er from us de - part, Spir - it of pow'r.
 glo - ry see, and to e - ter - ni - ty love and a - dore.

Scripture Reading

Jeremiah 9: 23 – 25

Pastor Doug Warren

Thus says the LORD: “Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, ²⁴ but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD.”

²⁵ “Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will punish all those who are circumcised merely in the flesh—

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

Pastoral Prayer

Pastor Doug Warren

Children’s Message

Pastor Doug Warren

The Sermon

“The Briefest of Honeymoons”

Pastor Doug Warren

Acts 5: 12 – 16

¹² Now many signs and wonders were regularly done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. ¹³ None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high esteem. ¹⁴ And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, ¹⁵ so that they even carried out the sick into the streets and laid them on cots and mats, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. ¹⁶ The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed.

❖ Hymn of Commitment

Jesus! What a Friend for Sinners!

Number 498

Jesus! What a Friend for Sinners!

498

A friend of ... "sinners." Matt. 11:19

1. Je - sus! what a Friend for sin - ners! Je - sus! lov - er of my soul;
2. Je - sus! what a strength in weak - ness! Let me hide my - self in him;
3. Je - sus! what a help in sor - row! While the bil - lows o'er me roll,
4. Je - sus! what a guide and keep - er! While the tem - pest still is high,
5. Je - sus! I do now re - ceive him, more than all in him I find;

friends may fail me, foes as - sail me, he, my Sav - ior, makes me whole.
tempt - ed, tried, and some - times fail - ing, he, my strength, my vic - t'ry wins.
• e - ven when my heart is break - ing, he, my com - fort, helps my soul.
storms a - bout me, night o'er - takes me, he, my pi - lot, hears my cry.
he hath grant - ed me for - give - ness, I am his, and he is mine.

REFRAIN

Hal - le - lu - jah! what a Sav - ior! Hal - le - lu - jah! what a Friend!

Sav - ing, help - ing, keep - ing, lov - ing, he is with me to the end.

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

The Congregation may be seated after the Benediction for silent prayer

❖ Hymn of Anticipation *God Be with You Till We Meet Again (v. 1)* Number 385

I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up. Acts 20:32

Unison

1. God be with you till we meet a - gain;

Harmony

by his coun - sels guide, up - hold you, with his sheep se -

Unison

cure - ly fold you: God be with you till we meet a - gain.

Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1880
Tune from the *English Hymnal* by permission of Oxford University Press.

RANDOLPH Irreg.
Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

Postlude

~~ Organist: Anne Hablitzel ~~

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.

If you are giving online at <https://www.fccw.net/donate/>, please be sure to choose the Easter Offering Donate button. If you are mailing your gift, please be sure to put in the memo line Easter Offering. You may still contribute to the Easter Offering through April 28, 2020.

Tithing

Through the hard work of the Deacons and Michael Byrne, the church now has the ability to accept online donations. Here is the link for making an online donation: <https://www.fccw.net/donate/>. You will be able to tithe to the general fund, give to the Easter Offering, etc. If you want to use your mobile phone, set your mobile phone browser to <https://www.fccw.net/donate/>, it will automatically format the page to your phone screen. This is a very safe and secure way for you to be able to give to the church.

If you are uncomfortable with online giving and prefer to mail your tithe, please don't hesitate to continue to mail your checks to FCCW, ATTN: Treasurer, 36 Elm Street, Woodstock, VT 05091.

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

Testimonies Requested

The Elders believe that the congregation would be blessed to hear the testimonies of God's people as another way to encourage and sustain everyone during this season of trial and perseverance. To that end we would invite you to send your testimony of praise to Terri who will collect them and periodically publish for everyone to read.

The prophet Jeremiah declared in Chapter 51:10 that we should "announce everything that God has done" and the book of 1 Chronicles 16: 8, 9 that "we should proclaim God's greatness." Psalm 9:11 implores believers to "tell the world about God's unforgettable deeds." Certainly we have much to tell and so much to be grateful for. God bless you all as we travel this road in faith and adoration to the Lord's greatness and provision for his people.

The Elders

~~~~~  
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.  
~~~~~


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

The Briefest of Honeymoons

1. Jesus Is Preparing His Covenant Community for Deployment.
2. This Community of Faith Is a Place of Life and Healing.
3. This Respite Is Brief *So That We Might Trust Christ* Not Prosperity.

Christ is sovereignly establishing His Church throughout all the earth to declare His resurrection and live out His kingdom. Sometimes He provides wonderful respites like that described in this passage. But He is working on something far greater than our temporary comfort. Let us trust Him together to extend His Kingdom throughout the earth!

Jeremiah 9: 23 – 26

Thus says the Lord: “Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the Lord.” “Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will punish all those who are circumcised merely in the flesh—Egypt, Judah, Edom, the sons of Ammon, Moab, and all who dwell in the desert who cut the corners of their hair, for all these nations are uncircumcised, and all the house of Israel are uncircumcised in heart.”

Taken from *The Westminster Shorter Catechism*.

Question #26: What is faith in Jesus Christ?

Answer: Faith in Jesus Christ is a saving grace, whereby we receive and rest upon Him alone for salvation as He is offered to us in the gospel.

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

We would like to camp out a little while in these verses (Acts 5:12-16), wouldn't we? It would be nice to have only the blessings and none of the trials, persecutions, and heartaches that come with following Jesus. Let's look together at how Christ calls us to follow Him in blessing and difficulties.

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 5:12-16; Jeremiah 9:23-25; Acts 1:8. DISCUSS, What does Jesus do through His Church? How can these same testimonies to His power also give us false hope? What might that look like? Who is the source of our wisdom, might, and riches? PRAY for God to equip us for His mission for us to glorify Him through life-giving work.

Sunday Evening

In lieu of the evening worship service tonight, please set apart some time to pray for God to bring repentance and renewal to us at FCCW and throughout His Church.

Monday

READ Acts 5:12-16; Psalm 20:1-9; Romans 15:1-7. DISCUSS, What things are tempting for you to trust in instead of God's provision? It's probably not chariots or Peter walking by. So what is it? Why do we struggle so? PRAY for the congregation of FCCW that we might trust in nothing apart from Christ. Ask Him to help us delight in Him and His provision for us.

Tuesday

READ Acts 5:12-16; Isaiah 31:1-9. DISCUSS, What alliances or partnerships do you have to help keep you safe? How can those be good? Why might they be bad? What does over-reliance on those things look like? PRAY, "Lord Jesus, thank You that Your loving-kindness for us is never-ending. There will never be a time when You fail us or desert us. Help us to not elevate anyone else to Your place."

Wednesday

READ Acts 5:12-16; Exodus 4:1-9; 7:8-13; 17-25. DISCUSS, What do these instances of God working supernaturally through His people have in common. What differences do you see? Are we trusting in His signs and wonders or in Him? What does it look like to live by faith in Christ? Why? **SERVE:** If you are able, make a sign for the FCCW Hope Garden PRAY, "Lord, You are the Giver of Life and in You we have resurrection confidence."

Thursday

READ Acts 5:12-16; John 2:18-25. Compare Acts 19:12 and 1Tim 5:23. DISCUSS, What are some of the limitations of supernatural signs? Why does God provide them sometimes and not others? PRAY, "Lord, teach us to trust You and to see Your wisdom as so much greater than our own."

Friday

READ Acts 5:12-16; Jeremiah 9:23-25; Romans 15:1-7. How has God been teaching you from these passages this week? **REJOICE,** for Christ will make us gloriously pure! PRAY for renewal in the Church and revival in our land.

Saturday

PREPARE today for the gathered worship service tomorrow.

READ Acts 5:1-42. Invite others to watch the *live-stream service* with you tomorrow. Pray for Christ to grant us boldness in following Him.

Acts 1: 8

Jesus said, "... But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."