

The _____
First Congregational Church
of Woodstock _____

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

April 25th, 2021

The Order of Morning Worship

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

April 25th, 2021

Ten-thirty

Welcome

Pastor Doug Warren

Prelude & Silent Prayer

❖ Call to Worship

Psalm 95 – 96

Pastor: Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

Congregation: Let us come before Him with thanksgiving, and extol Him with music and song.

Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord all the earth. Sing to the Lord, praise His name; proclaim His salvation day after day.

Congregation: For the Lord is the great God, the great King above all gods. Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker; for He is our God and we are the people of His pasture, the flock under His care.

❖ Hymn of Exultation

Number 92

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Ps. 46:1

1. A might - y for - tress is our God, a bul - wark nev - er
 2. Did we in our own strength con - fide, our striv - ing would be
 3. And though this world, with dev - ils filled, should threat - en to un -
 4. That Word a - bove all earth - ly pow'rs, no thanks to them, a -

fail - ing; our help - er he a - mid the flood of
 los - ing; were not the right man on our side, the
 do us, we will not fear, for God hath willed his
 bid - eth; the Spir - it and the gifts are ours through

mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing. For still our an - cient foe
 man of God's own choos - ing. Dost ask who that may be?
 truth to tri - umph through us. The prince of dark - ness grim,
 him who with us sid - eth. Let goods and kin - dred go,

doth seek to work us woe; his craft and pow'r are great;
 Christ Je - sus, it is he, Lord Sa - ba - oth his name,
 we trem - ble not for him; his rage we can en - dure,
 this mor - tal life al - so; the bod - y they may kill:

and armed with cru - el hate, on earth is not his e - - qual.
 from age to age the same, and he must win the bat - tle.
 for lo! his doom is sure; one lit - tle word shall fell him.
 God's truth a - bid - eth still; his king - dom is for - ev - er.

Based on Psalm 46
 Martin Luther, 1529
 Tr. by Frederick H. Hedge, 1853

EIN' FESTE BURG 8.7.8.7.6.6.6.6.7.
 Martin Luther, 1529

Scriptural Call to Repentance

1 John 1: 8 – 9

God's Word warns us, "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us." It also provides the wonderful truth found only in Christ saying, "If we confess our sins, He who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness." In humility and faith let us confess our sin to God.

Collective Confession

Luther's Prayer

O Lord, merciful and mighty, we unworthy sinners, come to You in humble repentance and confess how we have transgressed Your holy Law. We are guilty of sins of omission and commission, evil thoughts, improper words, and wrong deeds. Forgive our iniquity and short-comings for the sake of the suffering and death of our Savior Jesus Christ. Let His obedience cover our disobedience, let His righteousness atone for our unrighteousness. Great God and Helper, You alone can forgive. With all our hearts we thank You for Your boundless mercy. Grant us grace with which we might accept Your gift of forgiveness with true faith and look upon the word of pardon as a message coming from You, assuring us and consoling our hearts before You. Let us treasure Your forgiveness and freely extend it to others by the power of Your resurrection. We pray in the name of our Redeemer, Jesus Christ.

Silent Reflection and Confession

Proclamation of Forgiveness

Jeremiah 33: 8

I will cleanse them from all the guilt of their sin against me, and I will forgive all the guilt of their sin and rebellion against me.

Scripture Reading

John 11: 23 – 27

²³ Jesus *said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” ²⁴ Martha *said to Him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” ²⁵ Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?” ²⁷ She *said to Him, “Yes, Lord; I have believed that You are the Christ, the Son of God, *even* He who comes into the world.”

Pastor: The grass withers, the flower fades,

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

Pastoral Prayer

❖ Hymn of Reflection

Before the Throne of God Above

Before The Throne Of God Above

Words by
Charitie Lees Bancroft

Music by
William Batchelder Bradbury

♩=74

VERSE 1

D



1. Be - fore the throne of God a - bove I have a strong and per - fect



plen; A great High Priest whose name is love, who ev - er lives and pleads for me. My name is



grav - en on His hands; My name is writ - ten on His heart. I know that while in heav'n He



stands, no tongue can bid me thence de - part, no tongue can bid me thence de - part.

VERSE 2



2. When Sa - tan tempts me to des - pair and tells me



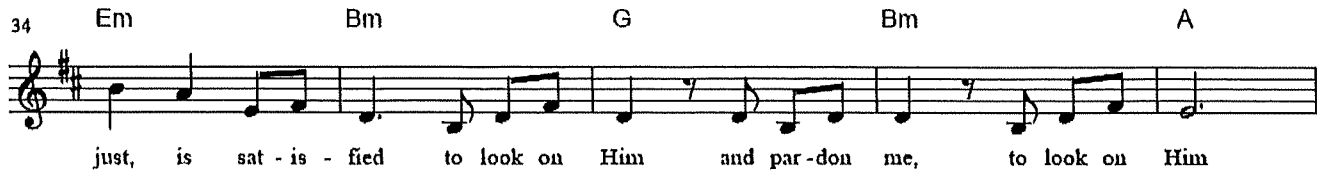
of my guilt with - in, up - ward I look and see Him there who made an end of all my

29 D G A G Bm



sin. Be-cause the sin-less Sav-ior died, my sin-ful soul is coun-ted free. For God, the

34 Em Bm G Bm A



just, is sat-is-fied to look on Him and par-don me, to look on Him

INSTRUMENTAL

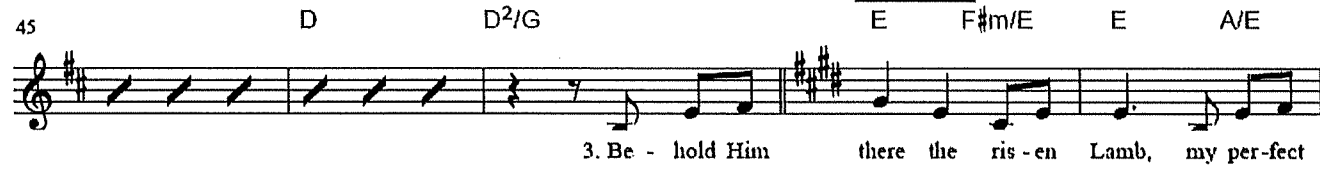
39 A^{SUS} G A G/B G



and par-don me.

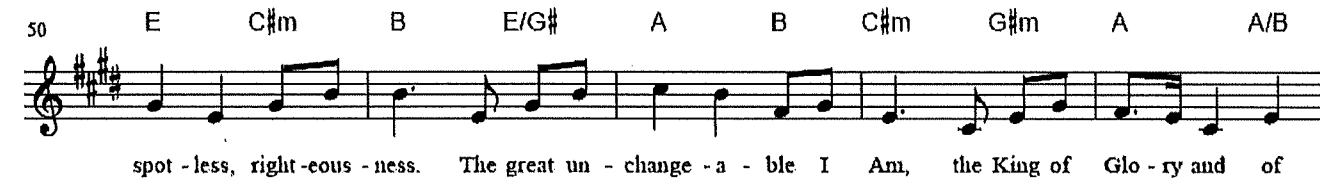
VERSE 3

45 D D²/G E F#m/E E A/E



3. Be-hold Him there the ris-en Lamb, my per-fect

50 E C#m B E/G# A B C#m G#m A A/B



spot-less, right-eous-ness. The great un-change-a-ble I Am, the King of Glo-ry and of

55 E A/E C#m/E B/E G#m/E A/E G#m/E A²



grace. One with Him-self; I can-not die, my soul is pur-chased by His blood. My life is

60 F#m⁷ C#m⁷ Dmaj⁹



hid with Christ on high, with Christ my Sav-ior and my

63 A² F#m E



God, with Christ my Sav-ior and my God.

“Athens – A City Full of Idols”

Acts 17: 16 – 21

¹⁶ Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was being provoked within him as he was observing the city full of idols. ¹⁷ So he was reasoning in the synagogue with the Jews and the God-fearing *Gentiles*, and in the market place every day with those who happened to be present. ¹⁸ And also some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers were conversing with him. Some were saying, “What would this idle babbler wish to say?” Others, “He seems to be a proclaimer of strange deities,”—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. ¹⁹ And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new teaching is which you are proclaiming?” ²⁰ For you are bringing some strange things to our ears; so we want to know what these things mean.” ²¹ (Now all the Athenians and the strangers visiting there used to spend their time in nothing other than telling or hearing something new.)

❖ Hymn of Response

Number 286

Worship Christ, the Risen King!

Worship Christ, the Risen King!

He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Matt. 28:6

Chords: F Bb, F7 Bb, Eb, Bb Gm, F7, Bb

1. Rise, O church, and lift your voices, Christ has conquered death and hell.
 2. See the tomb where death had laid him, empty now, its mouth declares:
 3. Hear the earth protest and tremble, see the stone removed with power;
 4. Doubt may lift its head to murmur, scoffers mock and sinners jeer;
 5. We acclaim your life, O Jesus, now we sing your victory;

Chords: Bb, F7 Gm D, Gm D Gm, F C7 F

Sing as all the earth rejoices; resurrection anthems swell.
 "Death and I could not contain him, for the throne of life he shares."
 • all hell's minions may assemble, but cannot withstand his hour.
 but the truth proclaims a wonder, thoughtful hearts receive with cheer.
 sin or hell may seek to seize us, but your conquest keeps us free.

Chords: F, Bb7, Eb, Cm Dm Cm Gm, Bb F7 Bb

Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the risen King!
 Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the risen King!
 • He has conquered, he has conquered, Christ the Lord, the risen King!
 He is risen, he is risen, now receive the risen King!
 Stand in triumph, stand in triumph, worship Christ, the risen King!

Benediction

John 14: 27

Pastor: Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives, do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.

Congregation: Thanks be to God. Amen.

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

Postlude

~~ Organist: Jonathan Denham ~~

~~ Please ensure cell phones are off ~~

Young Adult Fellowship Group tonight at 6 pm.

Leadership Training

Our training for prospective elder and deacon candidates will be open to any men who would like to grow in their own walk with the Lord. This year these sessions will be held on the second Saturday of the month starting in March and running through October. Each one will run from 9:00 am until noon and will be available both in person and via Zoom. We will be studying Living by Example on May 8th. Hope to see you there!

Upcoming Dates and Topics:

5/8 Living by Example

6/12 Deaconal Topic

7/10 Higher Standard for Leadership

To register, please email Terri at fccwinfo@gmail.com.



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Athens – A City Full of Idols

1. Spiritual Battle in Dark Places Requires Extra Effort (16-17).

2. The Gospel of Jesus Necessarily Divides (18-21).

3. Don't Give Up When Others Misunderstand the Gospel.

CONCLUSION: Life can be so difficult. Sometimes it is simply overwhelming. Yet, we know how this all ends. We know the certainty of King Jesus' victory that is secured in His resurrection. It is a truth that necessarily divides, but we must remain vigilant. The world around us misunderstands His resurrection and sadly often so do we. Let us renew our minds with the truth of His Word. In this spiritual darkness let us live in light of our King's victory and declare it to all whom God puts in our path.

John 11: 23 – 27

Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the *resurrection on the last day*.” Jesus said to her, “*I am the resurrection and the life*. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?” She said to him, “Yes, Lord; *I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world*.”

Second Kings 6: 15 – 19

¹⁵ When the servant of the man of God rose early in the morning and went out, behold, an army with horses and chariots was all around the city. And the servant said, “Alas, my master! What shall we do?” ¹⁶ He said, “Do not be afraid, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.” ¹⁷ Then Elisha prayed and said, “O Lord, please open his eyes that he may see.” *So the Lord opened the eyes of the young man*, and he saw, and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha. ¹⁸ And when the Syrians came down against him, Elisha prayed to the Lord and said, “Please strike this people with blindness.” So he struck them with blindness in accordance with the prayer of Elisha. ¹⁹ And Elisha said to them, “This is not the way, and this is not the city. Follow me, and I will bring you to the man whom you seek.” And he led them to Samaria.

Mark 13: 9 – 27

“But be on your guard. For they will deliver you over to councils, and you will be beaten in synagogues, and you will stand before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them. And the gospel must first be proclaimed to all nations. And when they bring you to trial and deliver you over, do not be anxious beforehand what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit. And brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death. And you will be hated by all for my name’s sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

Taking Gathered Worship Home

Have you ever been in a place of profound spiritual darkness? Paul was provoked within his spirit because of the preponderance of idols throughout Athens. This was a place full of evil. But he didn't just shrug his shoulders or leave. He talked more about Jesus and the victory of His resurrection. How can we learn from him this week?

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 17:16-21; Romans 12:1-2; John 11:23-27; Mark 13:9-27.** DISCUSS, How does spiritual warfare affect your daily life? Be specific. How are we presenting Christ specifically to our culture? How does the certainty of His resurrection embolden, comfort, and encourage you? PRAY "Lord Jesus, thank You for conquering death in Your resurrection. Help us to see the certainty of that victory."

Sunday Evening

Young Adults Fellowship at 6:00 pm. *Please come to FCCW's Library!*

Monday

READ **Acts 17:16-21; Second Kings 6:15-19; 2 Peter 1:16-21.** DISCUSS, What is the spiritual climate where you live? Where you work? In your extended family? How does this spiritual climate affect your talking about Jesus and His resurrection? MEDITATE on **Romans 12:1-2.** PRAY "Resurrected King, thank You for conquering death. Enable me to live in Your power."

Tuesday

READ **Acts 17:16-21; John 11:23-27; Romans 12:1-2.** DISCUSS: How do you understand the resurrection of Jesus? How does that compare to the Bible? How do we realign ourselves to the truth of Scripture? What would you do differently if you were completely confident of Christ's resurrection? MEDITATE on **Romans 12:1-2.** PRAY "Lord, forgive us for ways that we doubt You. Teach us to trust You entirely. Change our lives to conform to Your absolute truth."

Wednesday

READ **Acts 17:16-21; Mark 13:9-27; Romans 1:4-6**. DISCUSS, Why does Christ's resurrection necessarily bring such conflict? How do we reconcile this with our dread of conflict? How can we be faithful to our King? MEDITATE on **Romans 12:1-2**. PRAY "King Jesus, teach us to trust in You. Work in us so that we live out the reality of Your resurrection every day."

Thursday

READ **Acts 17:16-21; First Corinthians 15:35-58; Romans 6:5-11**. DISCUSS, How is our certainty of Christ's resurrection displayed in our daily life? Repent of ways that we fall short. What about His return are you especially looking forward to and why? MEDITATE on **Romans 12:1-2**. PRAY "King Jesus, Your resurrection really is our only hope. Help us to live like that."

Friday

READ **Acts 17:16-21; Romans 12:1-2; John 11:23-27; Mark 13:9-27**. DISCUSS, How has God been teaching you from these passages this week? MEDITATE on **Romans 12:1-2**. PRAY "Risen, Glorious King, You are worthy of all praise, glory, and delight. We long to give You what You deserve with all of our lives. Work in us to make that so. Amen."

Saturday

PREPARE today for the worship service tomorrow. *Both live-stream & in-person services are available.*

READ **Acts 17:1-34**. Invite others to join you tomorrow for either the *live-stream or in-person service*. Ask Jesus to help us love our neighbors well.

Romans 12: 1 – 2

"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. Do 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."