

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

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

*May 2nd, 2021*

# *The Order of Morning Worship*

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

May 2nd, 2021

Ten-thirty

Welcome

Pastor Doug Warren

Prelude & Silent Prayer

❖ Call to Worship

Isaiah 6

Pastor: I saw the Lord, seated on a throne, high and exalted,

**Congregation: And the train of his robe filled the temple.**

Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: with two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling to one another:

**Congregation: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.”**

❖ Hymn of Exultation

Number 2

*O Worship the King*

## O Worship the King

All you have made will praise you, O LORD; your saints will extol you. Ps. 145:10



1. O wor - ship the King all - glo - rious a - bove, O grate - ful - ly  
 2. O tell of his might, O sing of his grace, whose robe is the  
 3. The earth with its store of won - ders un - told, Al - might - y, your  
 4. Your boun - ti - ful care what tongue can re - cite? It breathes in the



- sing his pow'r and his love; our shield and De - fend - er, the  
 light, whose can - o - py space. His char - iots of wrath the deep  
 pow'r has found - ed of old; has 'stab - lished it fast by a  
 air; it shines in the light; it streams from the hills; it de -



- An - cient of Days, pa - vil - ioned in splen - dor and gird - ed with praise.  
 thun - der - clouds form, and dark is his path on the wings of the storm.  
 change - less de - cree, and round it has cast, like a man - tle, the sea.  
 scends to the plain; and sweet - ly dis - tils in the dew and the rain.



5. Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,  
 in you do we trust, nor find you to fail;  
 your mercies how tender, how firm to the end,  
 our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend!

6. O measureless Might! Ineffable Love!  
 While angels delight to hymn you above,  
 the humbler creation, though feeble their lays,  
 with true adoration shall lisp to your praise.

## Scriptural Call to Repentance

Isaiah 30: 15 – 18

In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength, but you would have none of it. Yet the Lord longs to be gracious to you; He rises to show you compassion. For the Lord is God of justice. Blessed are those who wait for Him!

## Collective Confession

Psalms 51

Be gracious to us, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; according to the greatness of Your compassion blot out our transgressions. Wash us thoroughly from our iniquity, and cleanse us from our sin. For we know our transgressions, and our sin is ever before us. Against You, You only, we have sinned, and done what is evil in Your sight, So that You are justified when You speak, and blameless when You judge.

## Silent Confession and Reflection

### Proclamation of Forgiveness

Hebrews 2: 18

Because Jesus Himself suffered when He was tempted,  
He is able to help those who are being tempted.

## Scripture Reading

Ephesians 1: 15 – 23

<sup>15</sup>For this reason I too, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which *exists* among you and your love for all the saints, <sup>16</sup>do not cease giving thanks for you, while making mention *of you* in my prayers; <sup>17</sup>that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him. <sup>18</sup>*I pray that* the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, <sup>19</sup>and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. *These are* in accordance with the working of the strength of His might <sup>20</sup>which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly *places*, <sup>21</sup>far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. <sup>22</sup>And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, <sup>23</sup>which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

**Congregation: Thanks be to God.**

Pastoral Prayer

❖ Hymn of Reflection

*God, Be Merciful to Me*

# God Be Merciful To Me (Psalm 51)

Words by Richard Redhead  
Music by Christopher Miner  
Arranged by Joel Littlepage

A E F#m D

1. God, be mer - ci - ful to me,  
 2. My trans - gres - sions I con - fess,  
 3. I am e - vil, born in sin;  
 4. Bro - ken, hum - bled to the dust.

3 A E F#m D

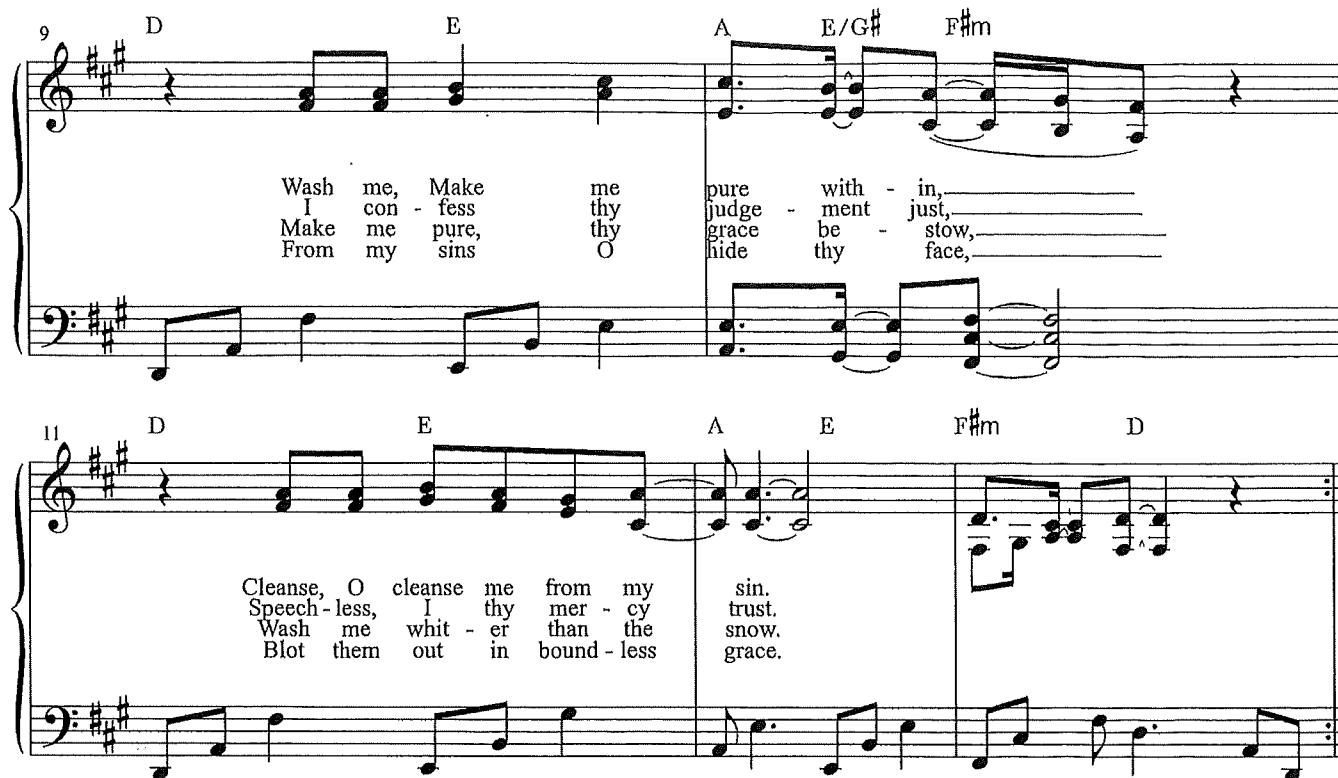
On thy grace I rest my plea;  
 Grief and guilt my soul oppress;  
 Thou de - sir - est and truth with in;  
 By thy wrath and judge - ment just,

5 A E F#m D

Plen - teous in com - pas - sion thou,  
 I have sinned a - gainst thy grace  
 Thou a lone con - my Sav - iour art,  
 Let my con - trite heart re - joice.

7 A E F#m

Blot out my trans - gres - sions now;  
 And pro - voked thee to thy face;  
 Teach thy wis - dom my heart;  
 And in glad - ness hear thy voice;



9 D E A E/G# F#m

Wash me, Make me pure with in,  
I con - fess thy judge - ment just,  
Make me pure, thy grace be - stow,  
From my sins O hide thy face,

11 D E A E F#m D

Cleanse, O cleanse me from my sin.  
Speech - less, I thy mer - cy trust.  
Wash me whit - er than the snow.  
Blot them out in bound - less grace.

5. Gracious God, my heart renew,  
Make my spirit right and true  
Cast me not away from thee,  
Let thy Spirit dwell in me;  
Thy salvation's joy impart,  
Steadfast make my willing heart.

6. Sinners then shall learn from me,  
And return O God to Thee  
Savior all my guilt remove,  
And my tongue shall sing Thy love  
Touch my silent lips O Lord,  
And my mouth shall praise accord

The Sermon

Pastor Doug Warren

## “Mars Hill Apologetics”

Acts 17: 22 – 34

<sup>22</sup> So Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, “Men of Athens, I observe that you are very religious in all respects. <sup>23</sup> For while I was passing through and examining the objects of your worship, I also found an altar with this inscription, ‘TO AN UNKNOWN GOD.’ Therefore what you worship in ignorance, this I proclaim to you. <sup>24</sup> The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; <sup>25</sup> nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all *people* life and breath and all things; <sup>26</sup> and He made from one *man* every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined *their* appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation, <sup>27</sup> that they would seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find

Him, though He is not far from each one of us; <sup>28</sup> for in Him we live and move and exist, as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we also are His children.’ <sup>29</sup> Being then the children of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and thought of man. <sup>30</sup> Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all *people* everywhere should repent, <sup>31</sup> because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead.”

<sup>32</sup> Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some *began* to sneer, but others said, “We shall hear you again concerning this.” <sup>33</sup> So Paul went out of their midst. <sup>34</sup> But some men joined him and believed, among whom also were Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris and others with them.

❖ Hymn of Response

Number 498

*Jesus! What a Friend for Sinners!*



## 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.

Communion

Congregation

❖ Communion Hymn

*Behold the Lamb*

# Behold The Lamb

Words and Music by  
Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty  
and Stuart Townend

VERSE

G<sup>2</sup>/B                      A/C#            D            Em<sup>7</sup> D/F#    A    D/F#            G<sup>2</sup>

1. Be - hold the Lamb who bears our sins a - way, slain for us:  
2. The bod - y of our Sav-iour, Je - sus Christ, torn for you:  
3. The blood that cleans - es ev - 'ry stain of sin, shed for you:  
4. And so with thank - ful - ness and faith we rise to re - spond

4    D/A                      A<sup>7sus</sup>    A<sup>7</sup>    G<sup>2</sup>/B                      A/C#            D            Em<sup>7</sup> D/F#    A    D/F#

And we re-mem - ber                      the prom - ise made that all who come in faith find for -  
Eat and re-mem - ber                      the wounds that heal, the death that brings us life, paid the  
Drink and re-mem - ber                      He drained death's cup that all may en - ter in to re -  
and to re-mem - ber                      our call to fol - low in the steps of Christ as His

7    G<sup>2</sup>                      A<sup>7sus</sup>    A<sup>7</sup>                      D                      D/F#            G<sup>2</sup>                      D<sup>2</sup>/F#    Gmaj<sup>7</sup>    A<sup>2</sup>    D/F#

-give - ness at                      the cross.                      So, we share                      in this Bread of Life, and we  
price to make                      us one.                      So, we share                      in this Bread of Life, and we  
-ceive the life                      of God.                      So, we share                      in this Bread of Life, and we  
bod - y here                      on earth.                      As we share                      in His suf - fer - ing, we pro -

11  $G^2$   $D^2/F\#$   $G^2$   $A$   $D/F\#$   $G^2$   $D^2/F\#$   $Gmaj^7$   $A^{7sus}$

drink of His sac - ri - fice, as a sign of our bonds of peace  
 drink of His sac - ri - fice, as a sign of our bonds of love  
 drink of His sac - ri - fice, as a sign of our bonds of grace  
 -claim: Christ will come a - gain! And we'll join in the feast of heav'n

## TURNAROUND / OUTRO

15  $G^2/B$   $Gmaj^7$   $A^7$   $D^2$   $D^2/G$

a-round the ta - ble of the King.  
 a-round the ta - ble of the King.  
 a-round the ta - ble of the King.  
 a-round the ta - ble of the King.

18  $D^2$   $D^2/G$   $D^2$

Benediction

Hebrews 13: 20 – 21

Pastor: Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, even Jesus our Lord, equip you in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever.

**Congregation: Thanks be to God. Amen.**

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

Postlude

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

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## Deacons' Offering – Next Sunday, May 9

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 802 – 457 – 3975 or email him at [rhondan08@myfairpoint.net](mailto:rhondan08@myfairpoint.net).

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## Meet and Greet for Parents and Caregivers

Saturday, May 22  
10:30 am – 11:30 am

A reception for parents and caregivers of children from birth to kindergarten. This will be an opportunity to meet other young families in our community. Activities provided for the children as caregivers get to know each other. Light refreshments will be served.

OPEN TO PUBLIC

RSVP RECOMMENDED AT [FCCW.NET](http://FCCW.NET)

RAIN OR SHINE

STROLLERS WELCOME

Posters are in the Narthex. Feel free to share it with your family, friends, and neighbors.

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## Spring Bike Tune-Up Day

Saturday, May 15  
9am – Noon

**FREE Basic Bike Maintenance**

It is time to tune up your bike for all your summer adventures. Stop on by the First Congregational Church on Elm Street for a bike tune. Professionals will be available to give your bike a once over and get it ready for the summer.

- Lubricating chains, pumping and changing tires, adjusting brakes
- Wylie Dulmage of "Go By Bike Vermont" will be available on site to handle more complicated bike repairs

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, NO RSVP REQUIRED

Posters are in the Narthex. Feel free to share it with your family, friends, and neighbors.

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## Leadership Training Sessions 2021

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 9:00am 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](mailto:fccwinfo@gmail.com).

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Young Adult Fellowship Group tonight at 6 pm.

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The May Newsletter is available  
on the table in the Narthex.

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Mid Vermont Christian School

*Educating for Impact*

We are seeking qualified and enthusiastic individuals  
who have a passion for Christian education!

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Junior/Senior High Science and Elementary School Teacher,

Part-time Art and Foreign Language, Administrative Assistant, Bookkeeper.

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## **Mars Hill Apologetics**

**1. Paul Affirms What They Already Knew to Be True (22-28).**

**2. The God of the Bible Is the Solution They Need (29).**

**3. Jesus Is Validated as Judge By His Resurrection (30-34).**

CONCLUSION: Paul interacts with the philosophers in Athens differently than we have seen before. He presents Christ as the culmination of all their hopes and dreams that their own philosophical systems could not attain. In many ways this is the same approach as He takes with those in the synagogue. It is just that the philosophers are at a different starting point. No matter whom we are speaking with, Jesus has been shown to be what we truly need through His resurrection from the grave. Let us be faithful in presenting Him as He truly is—the righteous Judge of all the earth!



## Isaiah 30: 18

Therefore the Lord waits to be gracious to you,  
and therefore he exalts himself to show mercy to you.  
For the Lord is a God of justice;  
blessed are all those who wait for him.

## Second Peter 3: 8 – 18

But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. <sup>9</sup> The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. <sup>10</sup> But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

<sup>11</sup> Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, <sup>12</sup> waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! <sup>13</sup> But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

<sup>14</sup> Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace. <sup>15</sup> And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, <sup>16</sup> as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures. <sup>17</sup> You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability. <sup>18</sup> But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

## Habakkuk 2: 2 – 4

And the Lord answered me: “Write the vision;  
make it plain on tablets, so he may run who reads it.  
*For still the vision awaits its appointed time; it hastens to the end—it will not lie.*  
If it seems slow, wait for it; it will surely come; it will not delay.  
“Behold, his soul is puffed up; it is not upright within him,  
but the righteous shall live by his faith.

# Taking Gathered Worship Home

Is Christianity only credible among the ignorant, superstitious, and slow witted? Scripture presents the gospel of Jesus as able to withstand the most rigorous criticism and best academic inquiry in humanity. At the epicenter of intellectualism Paul goes toe-to-toe with the best scholars and makes a compelling case. While some scoff, others believe.

*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 17:22-34; Romans 1:18-23; Ephesians 1:15-23**. DISCUSS, How does Paul meet the Athenians where they are? How does he agree with them? How does he challenge their errors? Why does he do each? How well do you know your neighbors' agreements with and objections to Christianity? PRAY "Lord Jesus, You alone are the righteous Judge of all the earth. Teach us to honor You."

## Sunday Evening

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

## Monday

READ **Acts 17:22-34; Psalm 14:1-7; 19:1-6; Romans 1:18-23**. DISCUSS, Is there anyone who truly does not believe in God? How do we know? So what are atheists doing? Why should we demonstrate humility when talking with them? MEDITATE on **Philippians 2:9-11**. PRAY "Resurrected King, thank You for conquering death. Enable me to live in Your power."

## Tuesday

READ **Acts 17:22-34; Romans 2:1-5**. DISCUSS: Why is God patient with rebels, traitors, and those who deny Him? How should we treat such folks? Do we deserve God's mercy? Then why does He give it? MEDITATE on **Philippians 2:9-11**. PRAY "Lord, forgive us for ways that we presume upon the riches of Your kindness. Teach us instead to repent."

### Wednesday

READ **Acts 17:22-34; Isaiah 30:18; Second Peter 3:8-18**. DISCUSS, How does God lead us to repentance? What evil have you turned from today? Give God the praise He is due. MEDITATE on **Philippians 2:9-11**. 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 17:22-34; Habakkuk 2:2-4; Psalm 75:1-10** DISCUSS, Who appoints the times? Who will judge all people? Who is righteous in all His judgments? Why can we trust Him? MEDITATE on **Philippians 2:9-11**. PRAY “Jesus, You are just in judgment. You are righteous in all Your ways. We praise You!”

### Friday

READ **Acts 17:22-34; Romans 1:18-23; Ephesians 1:15-23**. DISCUSS, How has God been teaching you from these passages this week? MEDITATE on **Philippians 2:9-11**. PRAY “Judge of all the earth, we praise Your glorious name. You are right and just in all Your judgments. Teach us to joyfully submit to You.”

### Saturday

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

READ **Mark 12:41-44; Luke 16:10-15**. Invite others to join you tomorrow for the *live-stream or in-person service*. Ask Jesus to help us love our neighbors well.

## Philippians 2: 9 – 11

Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.