



The _____
First Congregational Church
of Woodstock _____

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

May 3rd, 2020

The Order of Morning Worship

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

May 3rd, 2020

Ten-thirty

Welcome

Pastor Doug Warren

Prelude & Silent Prayer

❖ Call to Worship

Isaiah 6: 1 – 3

Pastor Doug Warren

In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. ²Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. ³And one called to another and said:

“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory!”

❖ Hymn of Exultation

Jesus Shall Reign

Number 441

Jesus Shall Reign

He will rule from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth. Ps. 72:8

F D A⁷ D G C^{#dim} D A E⁷ A 7 D

1. Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does his suc -
 2. To him shall end - less prayer be made, and prais - es
 3. Peo - ple and realms of ev - ery tongue dwell on his
 4. Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns; the pris - 'ner
 5. Let ev - ery crea - ture rise and bring pe - cu - liar

G D Em D A D A⁷ D G D A⁷ D

ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from shore to
 thron - e to crown his head; his name, like sweet per - fume, shall
 • love with sweet - est song; and in - fant voic - es shall pro -
 leaps to lose his chains, the wea - ry find e - ter - nal
 hon - ors to our King; an - gels de - scend with songs a -

A F D G C^{#dim} D Em⁷ D Em D A⁷ D 7

shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.
 rise with ev - ery morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
 • claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.
 rest, and all the sons of want are blest.
 gain, and earth re - peat the loud a - men!

Based on Psalm 72
Isaac Watts, 1719

DUKE STREET L.M.
John Hatton, 1793

Scripture Reading

John 6: 51, 60 – 63

Pastor Doug Warren

⁵¹ “I am the living bread that came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread also which I will give for the life of the world is My flesh.”

⁶⁰ Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard *this* said, “This is a difficult statement; who can listen to it?” ⁶¹ But Jesus, conscious that His disciples grumbled at this, said to them, “Does this cause you to stumble? ⁶² *What* then if you see the Son of Man ascending to where He was before? ⁶³ **It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.**

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

Pastoral Prayer

Pastor Doug Warren

Children’s Message

Pastor Doug Warren

The Sermon

“Speaking All the Promises of Life”

Pastor Doug Warren

Acts 5: 17 – 26

¹⁷ But the high priest rose up, and all who were with him (that is, the party of the Sadducees), and filled with jealousy ¹⁸ they arrested the apostles and put them in the public prison. ¹⁹ But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, ²⁰ “Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life.” ²¹ And when they heard this, they entered the temple at daybreak and began to teach.

Now when the high priest came, and those who were with him, they called together the council, all the senate of the people of Israel, and sent to the prison to have them brought. ²² But when the officers came, they did not find them in the prison, so they returned and reported, ²³ “We found the prison securely locked and the guards standing at the doors, but when we opened them we found no one inside.” ²⁴ Now when the captain of the temple and the chief priests heard these words, they were greatly perplexed about them, wondering what this would come to. ²⁵ And someone came and told them, “Look! The men whom you put in prison are standing in the temple and teaching the people.” ²⁶ Then the captain with the officers went and brought them, but not by force, for they were afraid of being stoned by the people.

It Is Well with My Soul

*The peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts
and your minds in Christ Jesus. Phil. 4:7*

1. When peace, like a riv - er, at - tend - eth my way, when sor - rows like
2. Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, let this blest as -
3. My sin— O the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought!—my sin, not in
4. O Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight, the clouds be rolled

sea bil - lows roll; what - ev - er my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
sur - ance con - trol, that Christ has re - gard - ed my help - less es - tate,
part, but the whole, is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more;
back as a scroll, the trump shall re - sound and the Lord shall de - scend,

REFRAIN
"It is well, it is well with my soul."
and has shed his own blood for my soul. It is well
praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! It is well
"E - ven so"— it is well with my soul.

with my soul; it is well, it is well with my soul.
with my soul;

²⁰ Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, ²¹ equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

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 ~~

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.

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

Please Fill Out Elder's Questionnaire

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

Speaking All the Promises of Life

1. After a Brief Respite, the Persecution Returns (17-18).
2. Apostles Receive a *Supernatural Assist* to Stay on Mission (19-21a).
3. Fickle Masses Help Here, Hinder Elsewhere (21b-26).
4. Christ Is Orchestrating the Growth of His Kingdom.

Jesus had commissioned His people to serve as His witnesses. When they are imprisoned and kept from doing that, He sent His angel to release them and send them back to speak all the promises of this Life. This mission is central to who we are and what we are to do as His witnesses. How are you demonstrating faith in Christ today by both living and speaking all the promises of Life?

John 6: 51, 60 – 63

⁵¹ “I am the living bread that came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread also which I will give for the life of the world is My flesh.”

⁶⁰ Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard *this* said, “This is a difficult statement; who can listen to it?” ⁶¹ But Jesus, conscious that His disciples grumbled at this, said to them, “Does this cause you to stumble? ⁶² *What* then if you see the Son of Man ascending to where He was before? ⁶³ **It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.**

Taken from *The Westminster Shorter Catechism*.

Question #26: How does the Spirit apply to us the redemption purchased by Christ?

Answer: The Spirit applies to us the redemption purchased by Christ, *by working faith in us, and thereby uniting us to Christ in our effectual calling.*

Question #31: What is effectual calling?

Answer: Effectual calling is the work of God’s Spirit, whereby, convincing us of our sin and misery, enlightening our minds in the knowledge of Christ, and renewing our wills, He persuades and enables us to embrace Jesus Christ freely 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

Time for a jail break! For what purpose does the angel of the Lord release the Apostles from jail? What do they do as a result? How does this fit with the flow of Acts? Does God always deliver His people from persecution? Why does He do so here?

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 5:17-26; John 6:26-71; 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 5:17-26; Luke 1:38; 2:29. DISCUSS, What is the word/message/promise in these passages? To what does it refer? How are we to speak these same promises of Life? PRAY for the congregation of FCCW that we might boldly proclaim the promises of Life in word and action. Ask Christ to embolden us.

Tuesday

READ Acts 5:17-26; John 12:44-50. DISCUSS, How are we to speak? How did Christ speak? Based on what? How does the Holy Spirit help us to do this? 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 5:17-26; Matthew 16:13-27. DISCUSS, Did Jesus tell His disciples that while He would suffer, they didn't need to worry because He was calling them to comfort? What did He tell them to expect? What is He doing with His Church? Why? SERVE. If you are able, make a sign for the FCCW Hope Garden! PRAY, “Lord, You have promised to build Your Church. Teach us to trust You as we take up our cross and follow You.”

Thursday

READ Acts 5:17-26; 17:8; 13; 21:27; Mark 15:11. DISCUSS, What role does the crowd play in all of these texts? Is God or his plan hindered because of how the people react? PRAY, “Lord, teach us to trust You and to see Your wisdom as so much greater than our own.”

Friday

READ Acts 5:17-26; John 6:26-71; Acts 1:8. How has God been teaching you from these passages this week? REJOICE, for Christ has graciously called you to participate in His mission! 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.”