



The _____
First Congregational Church
of Woodstock _____

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

June 14th, 2020

The Order of Morning Worship

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

June 14th, 2020

Nine-thirty

Welcome

Pastor Doug Warren

Prelude & Silent Prayer

❖ Call to Worship

Nicene Creed

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We believe in one God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only – begotten Son of God,
begotten of his Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father;
by whom all things were made;
who for us and for our salvation
came down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary,
and was made human;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered and was buried;
and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,
and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the
dead;
Whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son;
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified;
who spoke by the prophets;
and we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church;
we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins;
and we look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

❖ Hymn of Exultation *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* Number 457

Samuel ... named it Ebenezer, saying, "Thus far has the LORD helped us." 1 Sam. 7:12

G D A⁷ D A G D A⁷ D

1. Come, thou fount of ev - 'ry bless - ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
 2. Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer; hith - er by thy help - I'm come;
 3. O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con - strained to be;

A⁷ D A D G D A⁷ D

streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.
 and I hope, by thy good plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.
 let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan - d'ring heart to thee.

A⁷ D G D A⁷ D G D

Teach me some me - lo - dious son - net, sung by flam - ing tongues a - bove;
 Je - sus sought me when a strang - er, wan - d'ring from the fold of God:
 Prone to wan - der—Lord, I feel it—prone to leave the God I love:

A⁷ D A G D A⁷ D G

praise the mount! I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un - chang - ing love.
 he, to res - cue me from dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.
 here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts a - bove.

Scripture Reading

Luke 20: 9 – 18

⁹ And he began to tell the people this parable: “A man planted a vineyard and let it out to tenants and went into another country for a long while. ¹⁰ When the time came, he sent a servant to the tenants, so that they would give him some of the fruit of the vineyard. But the tenants beat him and sent him away empty-handed. ¹¹ And he sent another servant. But they also beat and treated him shamefully, and sent him away empty-handed. ¹² And he sent yet a third. This one also they wounded and cast out. ¹³ Then the owner of the vineyard said, ‘What shall I do? I will send my beloved son; perhaps they will respect him.’ ¹⁴ But when the tenants saw him, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir. Let us kill him, so that the inheritance may be ours.’ ¹⁵ And they threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. What then will the owner of the vineyard do to them? ¹⁶ He will come and destroy those tenants and give the vineyard to others.” When they heard this, they said, “Surely not!” ¹⁷ But he looked directly at them and said, “What then is this that is written:

“‘The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone’?”

¹⁸ Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces, and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him.”

Pastor: The grass withers, the flowers fade,

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

Pastoral Prayer

Children’s Message

The Sermon

“Rejecting the Lord’s Anointed”

Pastor Doug Warren

Acts 7: 35 – 53

³⁵ “This Moses, whom they rejected, saying, ‘Who made you a ruler and a judge?’—this man God sent as both ruler and redeemer by the hand of the angel who appeared to him in the bush. ³⁶ This man led them out, performing wonders and signs in Egypt and at the Red Sea and in the

wilderness for forty years. ³⁷ This is the Moses who said to the Israelites, ‘God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brothers.’ ³⁸ This is the one who was in the congregation in the wilderness with the angel who spoke to him at Mount Sinai, and with our fathers. He received living oracles to give to us. ³⁹ Our fathers refused to obey him, but thrust him aside, and in their hearts they turned to Egypt, ⁴⁰ saying to Aaron, ‘Make for us gods who will go before us. As for this Moses who led us out from the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.’ ⁴¹ And they made a calf in those days, and offered a sacrifice to the idol and were rejoicing in the works of their hands. ⁴² But God turned away and gave them over to worship the host of heaven, as it is written in the book of the prophets:

“Did you bring to me slain beasts and sacrifices,
during the forty years in the wilderness, O house of Israel?
⁴³ You took up the tent of Moloch
and the star of your god Rephan,
the images that you made to worship;
and I will send you into exile beyond Babylon.’

⁴⁴ “Our fathers had the tent of witness in the wilderness, just as he who spoke to Moses directed him to make it, according to the pattern that he had seen. ⁴⁵ Our fathers in turn brought it in with Joshua when they dispossessed the nations that God drove out before our fathers. So it was until the days of David, ⁴⁶ who found favor in the sight of God and asked to find a dwelling place for the God of Jacob.^[a] ⁴⁷ But it was Solomon who built a house for him. ⁴⁸ Yet the Most High does not dwell in houses made by hands, as the prophet says,

⁴⁹ “Heaven is my throne,
and the earth is my footstool.
What kind of house will you build for me, says the Lord,
or what is the place of my rest?
⁵⁰ Did not my hand make all these things?’

⁵¹ “You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. ⁵² Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, ⁵³ you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it.”

Who am I, O LORD God, and what is my family, that you have brought me this far?

1 Chron. 17:16

1. A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that saved a wretch like me!
 2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears re - lieved;
 3. Thro' man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I have al - read - y come;
 4. The Lord has prom - ised good to me, his Word my hope se - cures;

I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.
 how pre - cious did that grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 'tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 he will my shield and por - tion be, as long as life en - dures.

5. And when this flesh and heart shall fail,
 and mortal life shall cease,
 I shall possess within the veil
 a life of joy and peace.

6. When we've been there ten thousand years,
 bright shining as the sun,
 we've no less days to sing God's praise
 than when we've first begun.

St. 1-5, John Newton, 1779
 St. 6, *A Collection of Sacred Ballads*, 1790

AMAZING GRACE C.M.
 Traditional American melody
 Arr. by Edwin O. Excell, 1900

Benediction

Jude 24 – 25

²⁴ Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, ²⁵ to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

The Congregation may be seated after the Benediction for silent prayer

*God Be with You Till We Meet Again (v. 1)**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 ~~
 ~~ Please ensure cell phones are off ~~

~~ The flowers on the communion table
 are given in memory of Fran Gillett ~~

Tithing

Online Giving is now available. Please go to <https://www.fccw.net/donate/> and choose the fund you would like to give to. 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, 36 Elm Street, Woodstock, VT 05091.

Deacons' Offering – This Sunday, June 14

This month's Deacons' offering will go towards the work of the Deacons. 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 Jerry Morton, the Deacons' Mercy Minister at 802-672-1793 or email at ejerrym@aol.com.

Morning Worship Services

Even though our Sunday morning services have returned to meeting in person, we will continue to offer our services streamed live through our website: fccw.net and Facebook. Below are the links for the live stream of the Sunday Morning Worship Service:

1. Live Stream: fccw.net/livestream, click on the arrow to start the Live Stream.

2. Live Stream via Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/First-Congregational-Church-of-Woodstock-Vermont-1514061492225108>

3. Live Stream via YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWwcbQa26ywlnXKwd9KSgEA/videos>

The Order of Worship, Sermon Notes and Taking Gathered Worship home are available on fccw.net/livestream. If you have any questions, concerns, or prayer requests, please don't hesitate to call (802) 457-9818 or email fccwinfo@gmail.com.

Social Distancing Practices for FCCW Worship Services

First, **trust in the Lord** and not our procedures. Then practice these protocols faithfully as a way of loving one another. Christ is in control AND He normally works through His people to accomplish what He is doing. (Jeremiah 9:23-24; Second Corinthians 1:8-11; Hebrews 2:9-18; 10:23-25)

Second, if you are sick, PLEASE STAY HOME. If you are not sure, stay home and make use of the live-stream. No one with an elevated temperature should come for any reason.

Third, we encourage those with health risks, co-mortality factors, and household contact with those who have such risk factors to STAY HOME and make use of the live-streaming for a little longer. As those without these issues return to more gatherings, even with social distancing protocols, there will be more virus transmission. So please wait and allow the rest of the population to build the necessary herd-immunity for you to be able to participate more safely later.

Fourth, *if and only if* you do not have higher risk of serious COVID complications and do not live with anyone who does, then please come participate in the worship services following these precautions:

- Please wear a facemask (no one will be permitted entrance without one).
- Please come in with your household members and sit together.
- Please maintain a distance of six (6) feet from anyone not in your household.
- Please keep an empty pew between your household and anyone else.
- Please refrain from shaking hands or any other physical contact with anyone not in your own household.
- Please thoroughly wash your hands before and after the worship service.
- Please only one person in the bathroom (or parent and child) at a time.

Fifth, please know we are doing the following to help protect you and our neighbors:

- Disinfecting all public surfaces, doorknobs, etc. before and after every service.
- Praying for the congregation and all our neighbors.
- Continuing to provide live-streaming for those unable to join physically yet.
- Removed hymnals and Bibles from the pews, providing Orders of Worship with printed hymns. You may want to bring your own Bible.
- Rope off every other pew to help maintain adequate distance between households.

Sixth, in order to minimize potentially lethal virus transmission

- We will use individual cups and wafers for communion.
- No passing offering plate—please place offering in box in the back.
- No-Contact Greeters will assist with social distancing protocols outside of entrances.
- Hand-sanitizer stations at entrances.

Rejecting the Lord's Anointed

1. The Israelites in the Wilderness Rejected the Lord's Anointed.

2. The Priests Likewise Rejected the Righteous One.

3. We Are Hopeless to Do Differently Apart from Christ's Mercy.

Stephen wraps up his summary of God's history of rescuing His people by showing how their entire history was the tale of their failure and faithlessness. It is against this backdrop of unworthiness that God's mercy shines so brilliantly. The very King they despised, rejected, and killed had come to rescue them. Thankfully He is more powerful in rescuing us than we are in rejecting Him. He rose from the dead having conquered our hatred and sin. Beloved, let us praise Him!

Luke 20: 9 – 18

⁹ And he began to tell the people this parable: “A man planted a vineyard and let it out to tenants and went into another country for a long while. ¹⁰ When the time came, he sent a servant to the tenants, so that they would give him some of the fruit of the vineyard. But the tenants beat him and sent him away empty-handed. ¹¹ And he sent another servant. But they also beat and treated him shamefully, and sent him away empty-handed. ¹² And he sent yet a third. This one also they wounded and cast out. ¹³ Then the owner of the vineyard said, ‘What shall I do? I will send my beloved son; perhaps they will respect him.’ ¹⁴ But when the tenants saw him, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir. Let us kill him, so that the inheritance may be ours.’ ¹⁵ And they threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. What then will the owner of the vineyard do to them? ¹⁶ He will come and destroy those tenants and give the vineyard to others.” When they heard this, they said, “Surely not!” ¹⁷ But he looked directly at them and said, “What then is this that is written:

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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

Accusations sting. Even more so if they are accurate! The priests were seeking to condemn Stephen and instead found themselves condemned. It boiled their blood. We may react the same way when our sin is pointed out. May the Lord grant us grace to repent!

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 7:35-53; Isaiah 5:1-7; Luke 20:9-18. DISCUSS, How have God's people demonstrated continual rejection of God's authority? Why in the world does God love us?! How has Christ loved us? **PRAY** for Him to enable us to live as Christ's holy instruments in the fallen world in which we live awaiting His return.

Sunday Evening

In lieu of the evening worship service tonight, please set apart some time to pray for God to bring revival here at FCCW and around the globe.

Monday

READ Acts 7:35-53; Isaiah 66:1-6. DISCUSS, How does our attempt to please God apart from Christ reflect this same arrogance in us? Have you ever experienced someone purportedly doing something for you that actually went against everything you stood for? If so how did it feel? How do we do that to God? **PRAY**, "Lord Jesus, teach us to patiently wait on You. Remind us that You are faithful to Your promise. Teach us to serve You in holiness together."

Tuesday

READ Acts 7:35-53; Psalm 118:22-29. DISCUSS, What does it mean for Jesus to be the stone which the builders rejected? How is He similar and different in that respect from Moses? How has He become the chief cornerstone? What does that mean? **PRAY**, "Lord God, You will not be mocked. You will see justice done for all of our rebellion. Thank You for meeting the requirements of justice on the cross and granting us mercy. Teach us to not take that for granted."

Wednesday

READ **Acts 7:35-53; Amos 5:18-27**. DISCUSS, Why did God reject their offerings? How do the priests in Acts behave like the faithless in Amos? Why was their rejection of God so heinous? How may we fall into the same type of empty religion? Why? PRAY, "Lord, You alone are able to make us holy. Help us to worship You in Spirit and Truth."

Thursday

READ **Acts 7:35-53; First Peter 1:13-16; Ephesians 6:10-17**. DISCUSS, Repentance is turning from the wickedness our selfish hearts want to the holy thoughts, words, and actions God has for us as His beloved children. What does that include for you (us) today? PRAY, "Lord, teach us to trust You and obey You faithfully as our rightful King. Warm our hearts with Your affections. Make what matters to You matter to us. "

Friday

READ **Acts 7:35-53; Isaiah 5:1-7; Luke 20:9-18**. How has God been teaching you from these passages this week? REJOICE if Christ has counted you as part of His own! PRAY for renewal in the Church and revival in our land.

Saturday

PREPARE today for the worship service tomorrow. There will be both the live-stream and in-person services available.

READ **Acts 7:1-60; Luke 23:1-56**. Invite others to join you for either the *live-stream or in-person service* tomorrow. Ask Jesus to help us in the transition back to gathered worship in the building.

Matthew 24: 9 – 14

"Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake. And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another. And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come."