



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

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

*July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022*

# The Order of Morning Worship

July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Nine-thirty

Welcome

Elder Gil Emery

Prelude & Silent Prayer

❖ Call to Worship                                  Psalm 95:6-7                                  Elder

Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker! For He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand.

❖ Hymn of Exultation #441                          *Jesus Shall Reign*                          Congregation

Scriptural Call to Repentance     based on Romans 8:39                          Elder

Collective Confession    Congregation

**O Lord, do not remember against us our former iniquities; let Your compassion come speedily to meet us, for we are brought very low. Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of Your name; deliver us, and atone for our sins, for Your name's sake!**

Silent Reflection and Confession

Proclamation of Forgiveness                  1 Peter 2:24                                  Elder

Offering                                  (collected from back to front)                  Congregation

Pastoral Prayer    Elder

❖ Affirmation of Faith     *The Westminster Shorter Catechism*<sup>1</sup>     Congregation

Pastor: What benefits do believers receive from Christ at death?

**Congregation: The souls of believers are at their death made perfect in holiness, and do immediately pass into glory; and their bodies, being still united to Christ, do rest in their graves till the resurrection.**

Pastor: What benefits do believers receive from Christ at the resurrection?

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<sup>1</sup> A catechism is a question and answer format for teaching the truths contained in Scripture. The Westminster Shorter Catechism was written in 1647 in England primarily as an aid for teaching children. It has been used by congregations and families in both worship and instruction for the past 350 years.

**Congregation:** At the resurrection, believers being raised up in glory, shall be openly acknowledged and acquitted in the day of judgment, and made perfectly blessed in the full enjoying of God to all eternity.

❖ Creedal Song #735 *Gloria Patri* Congregation

❖ Scripture Reading Matthew 5:3-11 Elder

❖ Hymn of Reflection #525 *A Child of the King* Congregation

Deacons' Offering (collected from back to front) Congregation

The Sermon Psalm 32 Rev. Michael R. Alford  
*"Blessed"*

❖ Hymn of Response #173 *Praise Him! Praise Him!* Congregation

Benediction 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17 Rev. Alford

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word.

*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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Vespers Today

Vespers will be held at the Homestead today, Sunday, July 10th at 3:30. All are welcome to come. We will be doing this each month on the second Sundays of each month. Please note that masks are required.

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## Guest Preacher—Rev. Michael R. Alford

Michael Alford was born in Oxford, North Carolina in 1938. He graduated from Cary High School in 1956 and attended North Carolina State University. While attending high school and college, he worked fulltime at a restaurant. While at NC State he was a member the Air Force ROTC program, the Sigma Phi Epsilon honor society, the Tau Beta Pi Engineering Society, the American Institute of Physics, and the Phi Kappa Phi honorary society. He graduated cum laude with a BS in Nuclear Engineering in 1960. He did graduate study at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York.

He has worked for the General Electric Company in their Aircraft Nuclear Propulsion Department, Evendale, Ohio and the ALCO Products Company, Schenectady, New York as a theoretical physicist.

He graduated from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, Hamilton, Massachusetts in 1964 with a Master of Divinity degree. He did some graduate studies at the Southern Baptist Theological School in Louisville, Kentucky. He was ordained in Louisville in 1965.

He was involved in church planting in Cape Cod while in seminary. He ministered in Billerica, Massachusetts, and Nashua, New Hampshire before going to the First Presbyterian Church, Schenectady, New York in 1974

He was the Associate Minister until 1980 when he was elected Senior Minister. He retired after 27 years at the church on December 31, 2001. In retirement he has served as interim minister at three churches and moved to live with his daughter in Chester, New Hampshire in January 2020.

He was the director of a children's camp in the Schenectady area in 1964 and served on their Board of Directors from 1974 to 2002. He directed numerous camps for teens in the 1960s and 1970s.

He was on the Board of Directors for the National Association of Evangelicals for 20 years and on the Executive Board. He was among the founders of the New York State Association of Evangelicals and served as president, secretary, and treasurer. He was president of the Capital District Association of Evangelicals in the Schenectady area. He was one of the founders of the Schenectady Christian School and served on their Board of Directors for 28 years until his retirement.

In Nashua, New Hampshire he was involved in the Boy's Club, the Council on Aging and various Chamber of Commerce committees. When he left, the mayor presented him with a key to the city in appreciation for his service to the community.

He was married to Diana Jennings for 43 years until her death in 2005. He had three grown children, Andy, Peter, and Mary. Andy died in 2021 from complications with a kidney transplant. He has six grandchildren.

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## Pastor Doug is Away

Pastor Doug and his family will be away from July 7-13 for a wedding and some vacation time. If you have an emergency, please contact one of the elders below:

Elder Peter Vanderhoof (Chair): 802-483-9430, [pdvanderhoof@gmail.com](mailto:pdvanderhoof@gmail.com)  
Elder Gil Emery: 802-457-4950, [Hgemery@aol.com](mailto:Hgemery@aol.com)  
Elder Tom Johnston: 802-457-3012, [tajdmd1@gmail.com](mailto:tajdmd1@gmail.com)

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## Deacons' Offering – Today, July 10<sup>th</sup>

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 home (802) 457-3975, at his cell number (802) 345-8870, or email him at [rhondan08@myfairpoint.net](mailto:rhondan08@myfairpoint.net).

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There will be no Young Adult Fellowship Group tonight.

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## Market on the Green

FCCW Community Outreach Team is excited for our annual face painting booth at Market on The Green in Woodstock, VT. The event takes place each Wednesday, June 1-Oct 12 from 3-6pm. We will offer free face painting for all ages, coloring books, and story time. Please come by to say hello; we will be under the purple FCCW tent, rain or shine. There are 30+ vendors at this year's market on the green which includes live music, food, and drinks. If you would like to help in any way with this amazing outreach opportunity please contact Hayley Bauer at [hayleylgriffith@gmail.com](mailto:hayleylgriffith@gmail.com)

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The July Prayer Letter is available in the narthex.

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## HISTORY & FELLOWSHIP RETREAT

### Old South Church Newburyport, MA

The Board of Christian Education of the First Congregational Church of Woodstock, Vermont invites you to join us for a special day trip to the seaside town of Newburyport, where we will tour the church founded by George Whitefield. We will learn about this highly influential puritan evangelist with the help of historian, Jason Wakefield. After spending the morning at Old South, we will have time for lunch, shopping and sightseeing in the historic downtown, and perhaps a stroll on the boardwalk or a chance to put your toes in the sand.

We will meet at the Woodstock Union High School parking lot the morning of July 23. Our comfortable Premier coach will leave at 8:00AM sharp, returning that evening at approximately 6:30PM. See more information and itinerary at [www.FCCW.net](http://www.FCCW.net).

Payment is required in advance by check or cash. Due to the underwriting of the BCE and several individuals, the members and friends of FCCW are being offered the very low cost of \$25 per person for the bus and tour. Please expect to pay for lunch or bring your own.

Please speak to Preston Bristow with any questions, and see Jeff DeDell when you're ready with payment.

This will be a day well spent, exploring Christianity past and present.

**PRESTON BRISTOW @GMAIL.COM**  
**DEDELLCREW@GMAIL.COM**

*Dear FCCW Family,*

*I am so looking forward to the History & Fellowship Retreat on July 23rd. Our guide, Jason Wakefield, is a close personal friend of mine and George Whitefield is a wonderful hero of the Faith. Let me encourage you to participate if there is any way you can join us!*

*-Pastor Doug*



Mid Vermont Christian School

*Educating for Impact*

**Calling missionaries to MVCS!**

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

MVCS has full-time and part-time positions available:

Music Director & Teacher (band & chorus teaching could be split into two part time positions), Elementary School Teacher, JSH Foreign Language Teacher, JSH Mathematics Teacher and part-time High School Art.

Please inquire through the school office ~ [mvcs@mvcs.info](mailto:mvcs@mvcs.info) or 802-295-6800.

Teachers Needed

WCCC is in need of **Teachers/Assistants**, and **Substitutes**. Please contact Ruth Brisson at [rbrissonwccc@gmail.com](mailto:rbrissonwccc@gmail.com) or 410-925-7959, if you are interested in serving in any of these roles.

## **Blessed**

### **1. The Celebration of Forgiveness**

### **2. The Cost of Sin**

### **3. The Confidence for Tomorrow**

Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, O righteous,  
and shout for joy all you upright in heart.”

Psalm 32:11



## Matthew 5:1-20

Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup> And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

<sup>3</sup> “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for *theirs is the kingdom of heaven*.

<sup>4</sup> “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

<sup>5</sup> “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup> “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

<sup>7</sup> “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup> “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

<sup>9</sup> “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

<sup>10</sup> “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for *theirs is the kingdom of heaven*.

<sup>11</sup> “Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

<sup>13</sup> “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet.

<sup>14</sup> “*You are the light of the world*. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, *let your light shine before others*, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

<sup>17</sup> “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. <sup>18</sup> For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. <sup>19</sup> Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>20</sup> *For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven*.

## Ephesians 1:3-10

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has *blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places*, <sup>4</sup> even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him. In love <sup>5</sup> He predestined us for adoption to Himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of His will, <sup>6</sup> to the praise of His glorious grace, with which *He has blessed us in the Beloved*. <sup>7</sup> In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace, <sup>8</sup> which He lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup> making known to us the mystery of his will, according to His purpose, which He set forth in Christ <sup>10</sup> as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in Him, things in heaven and things on earth.

# Taking Gathered Worship Home

As followers of Jesus Christ we are blessed by God beyond our wildest dreams. Those blessings come at great cost to Christ, yet He gives them to us freely. Understanding how and why He blesses us provides us with confidence to face whatever He brings today and tomorrow.

*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 **Psalm 32:1-11; Matthew 5:1-20; Ephesians 1:3-10**. DISCUSS How are you celebrating forgiveness in Christ? What is the cost of our sin? What provides you confidence today and hope for tomorrow? PRAY “Jesus, thank You for blessing us so greatly with Your steadfast love.”

## Sunday Evening

The *Young Adults’ Fellowship* will not meet this week.

## Monday

READ **Psalm 32:1-4; Matthew 5:1-11**. DISCUSS the contrast in these verses in Ps 32. How is the one forgiven described? What about the one who has not confessed? What does it mean to be blessed? SERVE by putting someone else’s interest *above your own!* MEDITATE on **Isaiah 30:18**. PRAY, “Lord, thank You for Your blessing and the joy of being forgiven. Help us to not take that for granted.”

## Tuesday

READ **Psalm 32:5; Ephesians 1:3-10**. DISCUSS how our responsibility in Ps. 32:5 relates to God’s gifts in Ephesians. What about His grace enables us to do what we ought? What further blessings do we experience through obedience? MEDITATE on **Isaiah 30:18**. PRAY, “Lord, embolden us in the blessing of Your gospel to confess everything to You and to turn from our sin as You reveal it.”

### Wednesday

READ **Psalm 32:6-7**; **Matthew 5:12-20**. DISCUSS how God's faithfulness frees us to share everything with Him. Is there anyone who can protect us like Christ? Why do we so often neglect running to Him for safety? MEDITATE on **Isaiah 30:18**. PRAY, "Lord, teach us to trust Your faithfulness and to cling to You."

### Thursday

READ **Psalm 32:8-11**; **Ephesians 1:3-10**. DISCUSS How does the joy promised here relate to what we have been seeing in Philippians? How are you rejoicing today? MEDITATE on **Isaiah 30:18**. PRAY, "Lord, enable us to rejoice in what is right and to mourn evil. Make us to want no part of wickedness and to turn from it to You swiftly and consistently."

### Friday

READ **Psalm 32:1-11**; **Matthew 5:1-20**; **Ephesians 1:3-10**. DISCUSS, How has God been convicting you from these passages this week? MEDITATE on **Isaiah 30:18**. PRAY that we at FCCW would *bless the God who has so richly blessed us in Christ*.

### Saturday

PREPARE today for the service tomorrow which is *available both in-person and via live-stream*. READ **John 15:1-11**. Invite others to join you tomorrow for the 9:30 service. Ask Jesus to gather us together joyfully to praise Him.

## Isaiah 30:18

Therefore the Lord waits to be gracious to you,  
and He exalts Himself to show mercy to you.

For the Lord is a God of justice; *blessed are all those who wait for Him*.