



The _____
First Congregational Church
of Woodstock _____

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

July 18th, 2021

The Order of Morning Worship

July 18th, 2021

Nine-thirty

Welcome

Pastor Doug Warren

Missions Moment

Brian & Cathy Birdsall, Christian Embassy

❖ Call to Worship

Psalm 19

Congregation

Pastor: The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands.

Congregation: Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they acknowledge His glory.

Pastor: There is no land or nation where their voice is not heard.

Congregation: Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.

❖ Hymn of Exultation

Number 92

Congregation

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:

Scriptural Call to Repentance Habakkuk 2: 14, 18 – 20

Pastor

For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea... “Of what value is an idol, since a man has carved it? Or an image that teaches lies? For he who makes it trusts in his own creation; he makes idols that cannot speak. Woe to him who says to wood, ‘Come to life!’ Or to lifeless stone, ‘Wake up!’ Can it give guidance? It is covered with gold and silver; there is no breath in it. But the LORD is in his holy temple; let all the earth be silent before him.”

Collective Confession

Psalm 25

Congregation

Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your goodness, O LORD! For your name's sake, O LORD, pardon my guilt, for it is great. Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and afflicted. The troubles of my heart are enlarged; bring me out of my distresses. Consider my affliction and my trouble, and forgive all my sins.

Silent Reflection and Confession

Proclamation of Forgiveness

Romans 8:1

Pastor

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Scripture Reading

Joshua 1:1-9

Pastor

Now it came about after the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, that the LORD spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' servant, saying, ²“Moses My servant is dead; now therefore arise, cross this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them, to the sons of Israel. ³Every place on which the sole of your foot treads, I have given it to you, just as I spoke to Moses. ⁴From the wilderness and this Lebanon, even as far as the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and as far as the Great Sea toward the setting of the sun will be your territory. ⁵No man will *be able to* stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I have been with Moses, I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you. ⁶Be strong and courageous, for you shall give this people possession of the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. ⁷Only be strong and very courageous; be careful to do according to all the law

which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, so that you may have success wherever you go. ⁸This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success. ⁹Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”

Pastor: The grass withers, the flower fades,

Congregation: but the Word of our God will stand forever.

Pastoral Prayer

Pastor

❖ Hymn of Reflection

Number 705

Congregation

I Know Whom I Have Believed

I Know Whom I Have Believed

I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day. 2 Tim. 1:12

D G D G D

1. I know not why God's won-drous grace to me he has-made known,
 2. I know not how this sav-ing faith to me he did im-part,
 3. I know not how the Spir-it moves, cōn-vinc-ing men of sin,
 4. I know not what of good or ill may be re-served for me,
 5. I know not when my Lord may come, at night or noon-day fair,

A⁷ D G D G D A A⁷ D

nor why, un-wor-ty, Christ in love re-deemed me for his own.
 nor how be-liev-ing in his Word wrought peace with-in my heart.
 • re-veal-ing Je-sus through the Word, cre-at-ing faith in him.
 of wea-ry ways or gold-en days, be-fore his face I see.
 nor if I'll walk the vale with him, or "meet him in the air"

REFRAIN G D A⁷

But "I know whom I have be-liev-ed, and am per-suad-ed that he is

D G D A⁷ D

a-ble to keep that which I've com-mit-ted un-to him a-gainst that day."

“Freed From Fear”

Acts 20: 13 – 27

¹³ But we, going ahead to the ship, set sail for Assos, intending from there to take Paul on board; for so he had arranged it, intending himself to go by land. ¹⁴ And when he met us at Assos, we took him on board and came to Mitylene. ¹⁵ Sailing from there, we arrived the following day opposite Chios; and the next day we crossed over to Samos; and the day following we came to Miletus. ¹⁶ For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus so that he would not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hurrying to be in Jerusalem, if possible, on the day of Pentecost.

¹⁷ From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called to him the elders of the church. ¹⁸ And when they had come to him, he said to them,

“You yourselves know, from the first day that I set foot in Asia, how I was with you the whole time, ¹⁹ serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials which came upon me through the plots of the Jews; ²⁰ how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you publicly and from house to house, ²¹ solemnly testifying to both Jews and Greeks of repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. ²² And now, behold, bound by the Spirit, I am on my way to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there, ²³ except that the Holy Spirit solemnly testifies to me in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions await me. ²⁴ But I do not consider my life of any account as dear to myself, so that I may finish my course and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God.

²⁵ “And now, behold, I know that all of you, among whom I went about preaching the kingdom, will no longer see my face. ²⁶ Therefore, I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men. ²⁷ For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God.

❖ Hymn of Response

Number 460
Amazing Grace!

Congregation

Amazing Grace!

460

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.

Benediction

2 Corinthians 13: 14

Pastor

Pastor: The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

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 ~~

Brian & Cathy Birdsall, Christian Embassy, Cru

We are blessed to have Brian and Cathy Birdsall worshipping with us today. Brian & Cathy began their married life 30+ years ago over in Hanover, NH, where they directed the Cru ministry to Dartmouth students. In early 1992 they moved to Moscow, Russia and a year later to Kyiv, Ukraine where they were involved in a variety of Campus Crusade ventures for more than two decades. In 2013 they moved to New York City where they direct the Cru ministry at the United Nations, known as "Christian Embassy-United Nations." They have five adult children all of whom will be married by August 14, three grandchildren and a fourth due in September. They live on the Upper East Side of Manhattan and attend Central Presbyterian Church.

Young Adult Fellowship Group will meet tonight
at 6 pm in the church library.

Nursery Staff Position

We are looking for someone to serve as a Nursery Staff Person. Please join us in praying for the Lord to raise up someone who loves Jesus and children and who would be the anchor for caring for the little ones assisted by volunteers from the congregation. For more information, please contact Steve Selbo at 802-299-6446 or e-mail him at steve.selbo@outlook.com for more details or to submit an application. Thank you.

Market on the Green

The Community Outreach Team has the wonderful opportunity to set up a FCCW booth at the weekly Woodstock Market on the Green. For the past three Wednesdays, volunteers from FCCW have offered face-painting and a coloring station for children and families. They have talked with many families who are new to the area about our upcoming picnic, the childcare center, and where our church is located. It's a great opportunity to plant seeds and be actively involved in our community. Thank you to all who have volunteered!

FCCW has been so well-received that we have been invited to continue attending weekly for the remainder of the season (thru October 13) at no cost. Very exciting--but we need your help! It takes many hands to make this event a success each week. If you can help in any way--greeting children and families, painting faces, overseeing the coloring station, holding babies, or assisting in the setup and tear-down of the tent, table, and chairs--please contact Hayley Bauer at (785) 727-0756 or email her at hayleylgriffith@gmail.com.

Administrative Assistant Position

We are looking for an Administrative Assistant for FCCW. Terri has done a fantastic job and is now going to be transitioning into a teaching position at Woodstock Christian Child Care Center. This is answered prayer because we have had a desperate need for teachers. Nonetheless it leaves us in need for someone with excellent organizational skills to step into the vacancy that will begin in July. Please contact Steve Selbo at 802-299-6446 or e-mail him at steve.selbo@outlook.com for more details or to submit an application. Thank you.

Teachers Needed

WCCC is in need of **Teachers, Assistants, and Substitutes**. We have one teacher retiring, one who has recently delivered a new son, and we are looking for a licensed teacher to work at least 10 hours a week in the Fall Session.

This vital ministry in our community allows our light to shine, as we serve our neighbors and friends. Please pray for staff to be found because WCCC is almost completely full with children at this time, and projections are the same throughout Summer and Fall sessions!

Please contact Ruth Brisson at brissonwccc@comcast.net or 410-925-7959, if you are interested in serving in any of these roles.

Church Family Picnic

The BCE is hosting the annual **Church Family Picnic** on **Sunday August 1st** at Silver Lake State Park in Barnard VT. The coffee hour has been canceled on that date to allow the congregation to head over to Barnard immediately following the Sunday Morning service. We officially end the picnic at 3pm, but everyone is welcome to stay and enjoy the park until it closes later in the evening.

Details:

Location: The pavilion at Silver Lake State Park in Barnard VT.
vtstateparks.com/silver.html

Time: Immediately following the church service until 3pm. Stay longer if you like.

Cost: Nothing, sign in at the gate and tell them you are there with FCCW.

Who can come: You, your family, and everyone you care about, whether or not they are affiliated with FCCW.

What to bring:

- Bathing suits, towels, spare lawn chairs, boats, fishing equipment, games, etc.
- Place settings for your party, including napkins, cups, and cutlery.
- Bring a side dish to feed at least 10 extra people besides your party. Be creative so that we have many types of food to sample.

What is provided: Hamburgers, hotdogs, cold beverages, picnic tables and trash bags.

Keri Bristow will be organizing games for us.

No sign up is necessary; come as you are able and stay for as long as you can. For further details contact Jeff DeDell at dedellcrew@gmail.com or 457-3773.

July Newsletter is on the Table in the Narthex.

New Members and Friends Lists are on the
Table in the Billings Room.

Freed From Fear

1. We Are Welcomed into Paul's Inner Council (13-16).

2. He Served as an Example in Thought, Word, and Deed.

3. Christ Provides the Faith in Him to Not Shrink Back.

CONCLUSION: This passage tells us more than just Paul's itinerary. It invites us into his fears and plans submitted to the lordship of Christ. This is what a life consecrated to God looks like. The Holy Spirit provides this look inside so that we can be honest with ourselves and one another about our own fears and plans. As we face these struggles together may we encourage one another to trust Christ with all of it and so not shrink back from the work Lord Jesus has called us to do!

Second Timothy 1:8-14

⁸Therefore do *not* be **ashamed** of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, *but share* in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, ⁹ who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, ¹⁰ and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, ¹¹ for which I was appointed a preacher and apostle and teacher, ¹² which is why I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard until that day what has been entrusted to me. ¹³ Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁴ By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you.

Joshua 1:1-9

After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord said to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, ²“Moses my servant is dead. Now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them, to the people of Israel. ³ Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you, just as I promised to Moses. ⁴ From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun shall be your territory. ⁵ No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you or forsake you. ⁶ Be strong and courageous, for you shall cause this people to inherit the land that I swore to their fathers to give them. ⁷ Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go. ⁸ This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. ⁹ Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

Revelation 1:4b-7

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth.

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood ⁶ and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. ⁷ Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen.

Taking Gathered Worship Home

God's Word calls us out from the fear of man to the right and good fear of the Lord. Understanding God as He truly is freed Paul from fearful slavery to those threatening his life. Secure in Christ, we too can be free from this bondage.

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 20:13-27; Second Timothy 1:8-14; Joshua 1:1-9; Revelation 1:4b-7**. DISCUSS, How does God use godly saints who have gone before us to model faith in Christ? Is it just their actions that we need to follow? PRAY "Lord Jesus, forgive us for not fearing You as we should. Teach us to worship, revere, and fear You as we should. There is no one in all the earth like You. Give us a holy fear of Your majesty that would silence all other fears within us."

Sunday Evening

Young Adult Bible Study this evening at 6pm in the church library.

Monday

READ **Acts 20:13-27; Psalm 111:1-10; Proverbs 1:1-7; 9:10**. DISCUSS, What does the Bible mean by "fear of the Lord"? How does it match the world's ideas? How does it differ? How are we supposed to fear Christ? How does that free us from fearing others? MEDITATE on **Deuteronomy 31:6-8**. PRAY "Lord, forgive us for the ways we try to domesticate You. Restore a good and right fear of You in our hearts and minds. Make us fearless of those around us."

Tuesday

READ **Acts 20:13-27; Second Timothy 1:8-9; Joshua 1:1-9**. DISCUSS: How are being ashamed and shrinking back similar? Why? How does our fear of man lead us to shrink back from the whole counsel of God? How does proper fear of God embolden us to suffer hardship? MEDITATE on **Deuteronomy 31:6-8**. PRAY "Lord, forgive us for ways we fear the wrong things. Enable us to see clearly and respond with faith in King Jesus."

Wednesday

READ **Acts 20:13-27; Second Timothy 1:8-12; Psalm 107:23-32.** DISCUSS, How does the light of the gospel reveal that death has been abolished? What confidence does it provide us? Why does Paul speak not about *what* he has believed, but *whom* he has believed? MEDITATE on **Deuteronomy 31:6-8.** PRAY “Lord teach us to *trust in You* more than in our eyes.”

Thursday

READ **Acts 20:13-27; Joshua 1:1-9; Revelation 1:4b-7.** DISCUSS, How can we to be strong and courageous? How are you doing this? Who do you know that is doing this in a way that is good to emulate? MEDITATE on **Deuteronomy 31:6-8.** PRAY “Jesus, embolden us and renew our trust in You for new life.”

Friday

READ **Acts 20:13-27; Second Timothy 1:8-14; Joshua 1:1-9; Revelation 1:4b-7.** DISCUSS, How has God been teaching you from these passages this week? MEDITATE on **Deuteronomy 31:6-8.** PRAY “We magnify Your name, Jesus, for You alone reign supreme. Thank You for loving us and building Your Church through us.”

Saturday

PREPARE today for the worship service tomorrow. *Both in-person & live-stream services are available.* READ **Acts 20:1-38.** Invite others to join you tomorrow for the *in-person or live-stream service.* Ask Jesus to help us encourage one another.

Deuteronomy 31:6-8

“Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you.” Then Moses summoned Joshua and said to him in the sight of all Israel, “Be strong and courageous, for you shall go with this people into the land that the Lord has sworn to their fathers to give them, and you shall put them in possession of it. It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed.”