

The _____
First Congregational Church
of Woodstock _____

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

September 5th, 2021

The Order of Morning Worship

September 5th, 2021

Nine-thirty

Welcome

Pastor Doug Warren

Prelude & Silent Prayer

❖ Call to Worship

Isaiah 6

Congregation

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

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

Pastor: 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:

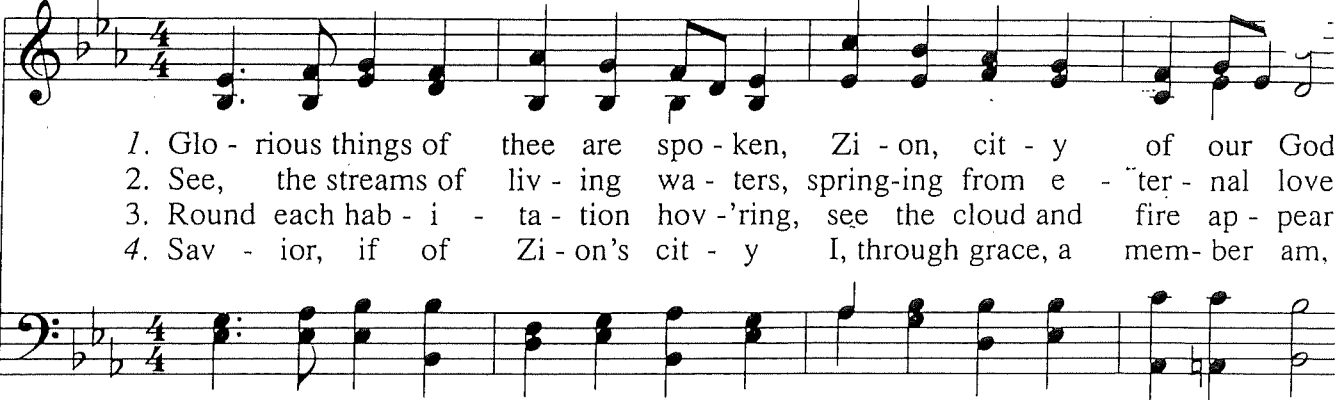
Congregation: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.”

❖ Hymn of Exultation #345

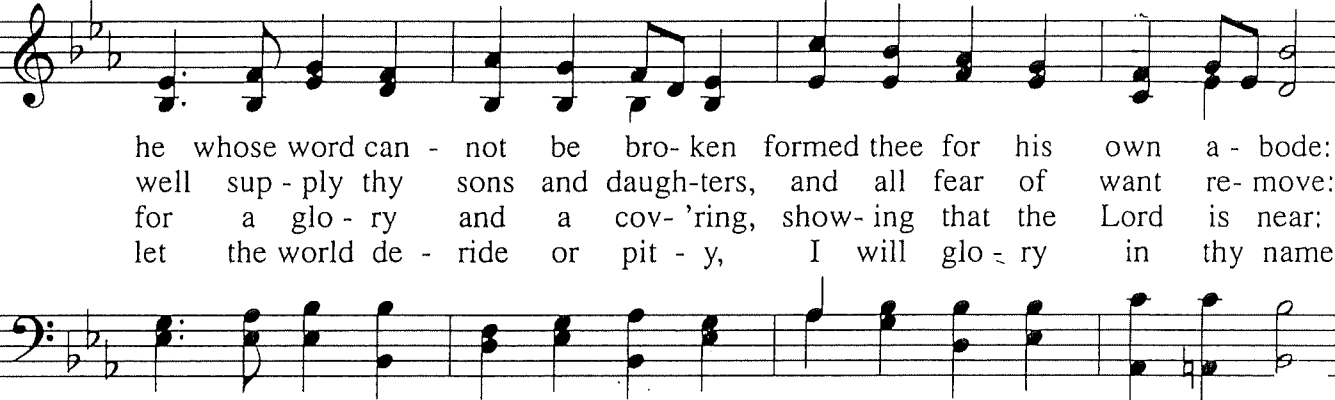
*Glorious Things of
Thee Are Spoken*

Congregation

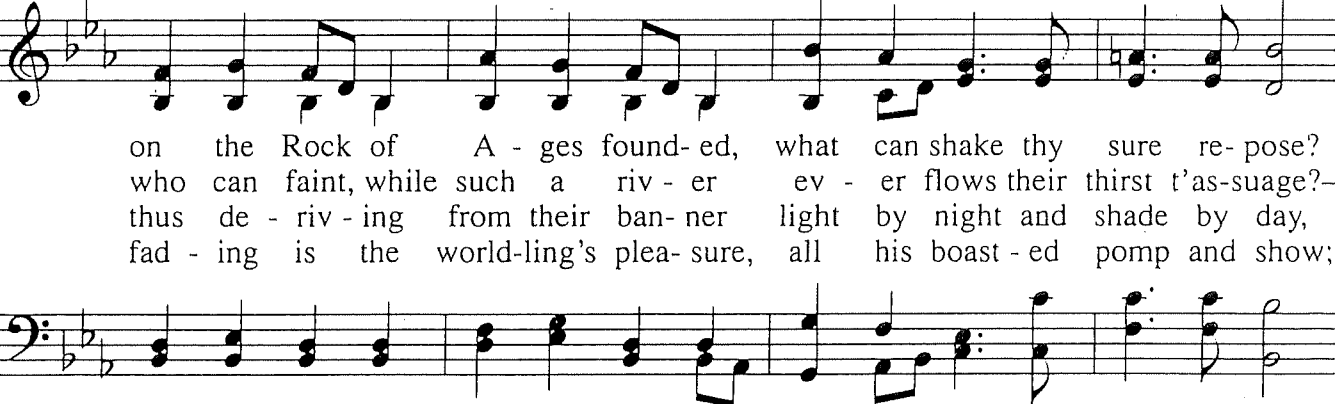
Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken

Glorious things are said of you, O city of God. Ps. 87:3


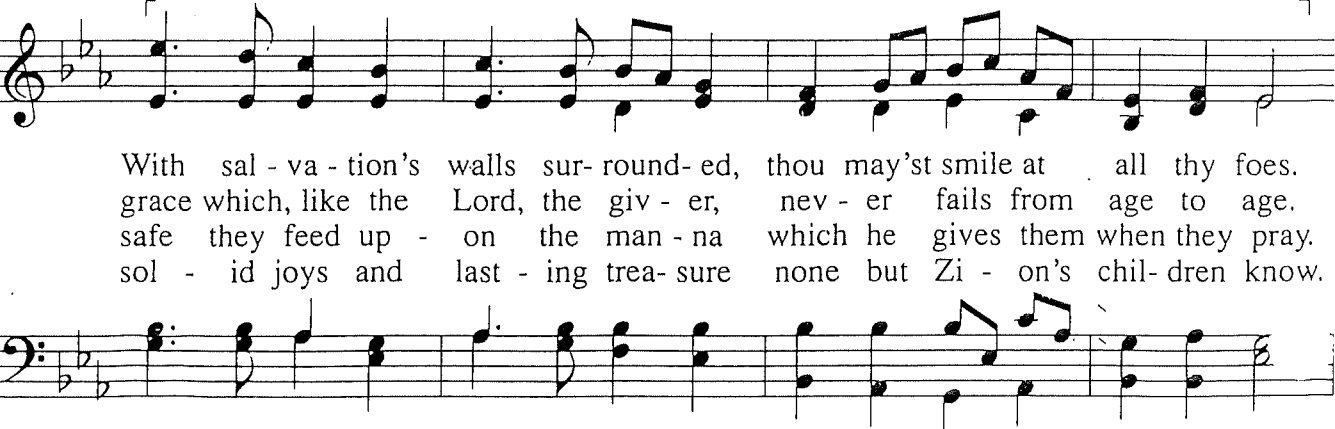
1. Glo - rious things of thee are spo - ken, Zi - on, cit - y of our God
 2. See, the streams of liv - ing wa - ters, spring - ing from e - ter - nal love
 3. Round each hab - i - ta - tion hov - 'ring, see the cloud and fire ap - pear
 4. Sav - ior, if of Zi - on's cit - y I, through grace, a mem - ber am,



he whose word can - not be bro - ken formed thee for his own a - bode:
 well sup - ply thy sons and daugh - ters, and all fear of want re - move:
 for a glo - ry and a cov - 'ring, show - ing that the Lord is near:
 let the world de - ride or pit - y, I will glo - ry in thy name



on the Rock of A - ges found - ed, what can shake thy sure re - pose?
 who can faint, while such a riv - er ev - er flows their thirst t'as - suage?
 thus de - riv - ing from their ban - ner light by night and shade by day,
 fad - ing is the world - ling's plea - sure, all his boast - ed pomp and show;



With sal - va - tion's walls sur - round - ed, thou may'st smile at all thy foes.
 grace which, like the Lord, the giv - er, nev - er fails from age to age.
 safe they feed up - on the man - na which he gives them when they pray.
 sol - id joys and last - ing trea - sure none but Zi - on's chil - dren know.

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

Psalm 51

Congregation

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 Reflection and Confession

Proclamation of Forgiveness

Hebrews 2: 18

Pastor

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

Offering

(collected from back to front)

Congregation

Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

Congregation

Pastor: Christian, what do you believe concerning God, the Father?

Congregation: I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

Pastor: What do you believe concerning Jesus?

Congregation: I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and buried; He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

Pastor: Christian, what do you believe concerning the Holy Spirit and His work?

Congregation: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic¹ church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

❖ Creedal Song #731

Doxology

Congregation

¹ The term “catholic” is used here in its generic sense of the universal church, not to refer to a denomination.

Doxology

Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Ps. 150:6

Praise God from whom all bless - ings flòw; praise him, all

crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly ho

praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - - - men.

Scripture Reading

Joshua 1:6-9

Pastor

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.”

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

Pastoral Prayer

Pastor

❖ Hymn of Reflection

Here I Am, Lord

Congregation

Here I Am, Lord

Dan Schutte

Dan Schutte/Carlton Young

G Em Am D Em C Bm Em D

1. I the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.
 I who made the stars of night, I will make their dark - ness bright.
 2. I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my pee - ple's pain.
 I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
 3. I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame,
 Fin - est bread I will pro - vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.

5 G Em Am7 C Am7 C/G D Am7 G/B

All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save, Whom shall I send? Here I
 Who will bear my light to them? (To Chorus)
 I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way.
 I will speak my word to them. (To Chorus)
 I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.
 I will give my life to them. (To Chorus)

12 G Gsus G Em D G Gsus G G Em Am G/B Am/C D D7 G Gsus

am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you call - ing in the night. I will go, Lord,

21 G G G C G G D G Am D G

if you lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

“Innocent as Doves and Shrewd as Serpents”

Acts 23: 1 - 11

23 And looking intently at the council, Paul said, “Brothers, I have lived my life before God in all good conscience up to this day.”² And the high priest Ananias commanded those who stood by him to strike him on the mouth.³ Then Paul said to him, “God is going to strike you, you whitewashed wall! Are you sitting to judge me according to the law, and yet contrary to the law you order me to be struck?”⁴ Those who stood by said, “Would you revile God's high priest?”⁵ And Paul said, “I did not know, brothers, that he was the high priest, for it is written, ‘You shall not speak evil of a ruler of your people.’”

⁶ Now when Paul perceived that one part were Sadducees and the other Pharisees, he cried out in the council, “Brothers, I am a Pharisee, a son of Pharisees. It is with respect to the hope and the resurrection of the dead that I am on trial.”⁷ And when he had said this, a dissension arose between the Pharisees and the Sadducees, and the assembly was divided.⁸ For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, nor angel, nor spirit, but the Pharisees acknowledge them all.⁹ Then a great clamor arose, and some of the scribes of the Pharisees' party stood up and contended sharply, “We find nothing wrong in this man. What if a spirit or an angel spoke to him?”¹⁰ And when the dissension became violent, the tribune, afraid that Paul would be torn to pieces by them, commanded the soldiers to go down and take him away from among them by force and bring him into the barracks.

¹¹ The following night the Lord stood by him and said, “Take courage, for as you have testified to the facts about me in Jerusalem, so you must testify also in Rome.”

❖ Hymn of Response #38

*Immortal, Invisible,
God Only Wise*

Congregation

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

*Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory
for ever and ever. Amen. 1 Tim. 1:17*

1. Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
2. Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing and si - lent as light,
3. Great Fa - ther of glo - ry, pure Fa - ther of light,

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;
thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;

most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
all praise we would ren - der; O help us to see

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise.
thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

Communion

Congregation

❖ Communion Hymn #580 *Lead On, O King Eternal*

Congregation

Lead On, O King Eternal

I am the LORD your God ... who directs you in the way you should go. Is. 48:17

1. Lead on, O King e - ter - nal, the day of march has come;
 2. Lead on, O King e - ter - nal, till sin's fierce war shall cease,
 3. Lead on, O King e - ter - nal: we - fol - low, not with fears;

hence - forth in fields of con - quest thy tents shall be our home:
 and ho - li - ness shall whis - per the sweet a - men of peace;
 for glad - ness breaks like morn - ing where - e'er thy face ap - pears;

through days of prep - a - ra - tion thy grace has made us strong,
 for not with swords loud clash - ing, nor roll of stir - ring drums,
 thy cross is lift - ed o'er us; we jour - ney in its light:

and now, O King e - ter - nal, we lift our bat - tle song.
 but deeds of love and mer - cy, the heav'n - ly king - dom comes.
 the crown a - waits the con - quest; lead on, O God of might.

Benediction

Hebrews 13: 20 – 21

Pastor

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

~~ Organist: Jonathan Denham ~~

~~ Please ensure cell phones are off ~~

Fall Schedule Begins September 12

On September 12 we will return to our School Year Schedule with Sunday School at 9:00-10:00 am and the Morning Worship Service beginning at 10:30 am.

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

Nursery Helpers Needed

He took a little child whom he placed among them. Taking the child in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me."

The Nursery Committee is excited to announce that the FCCW Nursery will be reopening this **Sunday, September 5!** Beginning September 12, the nursery will be available during both Sunday School and Worship, 9 am-noon. Jean Panoushek will be our regular nursery attendant, but we will need an additional volunteer helper each week. No preparation is required—just a willingness to serve and show God's love to our youngest children and their families. Please prayerfully consider how you can help meet this need! If you are able to help **one Sunday or many**, you may reply to this email or to any of the nursery committee members listed below. There is also a sign-up sheet in the Billings Room.

Blessings to you,

The FCCW Nursery Committee

Brenda Byrne brenturtle@hotmail.com

Lisa Kaija lqkaija@gmail.com

Karis Warren karis.warren@gmail.com

Kristen Warren momof4pks@gmail.com

Sunday School Teachers Needed

The Board of Christian Ed is planning the 2021-2022 Sunday School year. Sunday School is a fabulous opportunity to connect with the children of our church and community. An opportunity to plant seeds of faith and watch them sprout and grow. The BCE is looking to use a more creative way for everyone to be involved in teaching our children. Our curriculum will be broken into 4-6 week units, therefore the time commitment would be only 4-6 weeks depending on the unit. We would need 2 teachers per unit as we would like to be able to offer Sunday School in-person and virtually. Please prayerfully consider committing to teach one 4-6 week unit and investing in the young lives of our church and community. For more information, please contact Terri DeDell at dedellcrew@gmail.com.

Supper Talk

The BCE is pleased to announce the next installment in our Supper Talk series:

Church is Hard: Differences within Unity

Presented by Robyn Huck, a talented speaker and gifted Christian counselor with CCEF New England and, perhaps most importantly, one who knows and loves our congregation.

Do you mostly think of yourself as an independent entity with unique responsibilities, or more as part of something bigger? How do you think that assessment of yourself affects your well-being and your relationship with others? What does God say about all this? The Supper Talk presentation will consider the counseling implications of how we identify within a church body. There will be a time of conversation to hear from each other on the subject.

The Supper Talk will be held on Friday night **September 24th at 6pm.**

The BCE will be offering free grilled burgers and hot dogs, as well as all of the side dishes.

There is no cost to join us but there will be pre-registration for in-person and virtual attendees.

There is a signup sheet in the Billings Room . You may also register by emailing Jeff DeDell at dedellcrew@gmail.com

Work Days

We have two work days scheduled this month to help with the renovation of our outdoor play area. Mark your calendars now for Saturday, September 11, noon-4:00, and Saturday, September 25, 9:00-noon. Stay tuned for more details!

Deacons' Offering – Next Sunday, September 12

In the month of September, the regular Deacons' offering that will be collected on the second Sunday, September 12, will go towards funding the works of the Community Outreach Team. If you have questions about what the Community Outreach Team will be embarking on for 2021, please speak to a member of the Community Outreach Team – Ruth Brisson, Jeff DeDell, Jennifer Barnes, Hayley Bauer, Keri Bristow, Sheryl Hoehner, or Lisa Kaija.

Market on the Green

Our Market on the Green booth continues to be very popular. Thank you to all who have been a part of this exciting outreach opportunity! Right now we are in great need of volunteers to specifically help paint faces. Those who have been helping have had schedule changes so we need others to help now moving forward. You do not need to be an artist to help with face painting--we have a sheet of simple designs that you can copy!

Our plan is to have a booth every Wednesday from 3-6 pm now through mid-October. If you can help paint happy little faces--or are willing to learn--please contact Hayley at (785) 727-0756 or hayleylgriffith@gmail.com.

September Newsletter is on the Table in the Narthex.

Leadership Training Sessions 2021

Our leadership training sessions will be open to anyone 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 9:00 am until noon and will be available both in person and via Zoom. We will be studying Prayer and Fasting on September 11. Hope to see you there!

To register, please email Kristen at fccwinfo@gmail.com.

WCCC Teachers Needed

WCCC is in need of **Teachers/Assistants**, and **Substitutes**. We are in serious need of Substitutes in the Fall Session, so please prayerfully consider how you could support the center by becoming a Substitute.

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 for the Fall session, which starts on August 30th!

Please contact Ruth Brisson at rbrissonwccc@gmail.com or 410-925-7959, if you are interested in serving in any of these roles.

Innocent as Doves and Shrewd as Serpents

1. Paul Reveals the Hypocrisy of the High Priest (1-5).

2. Paul Divides the Sanhedrin (6-10).

3. The Lord Stands by Paul and Encourages Him (11).

CONCLUSION: Jesus told them this would happen. He promised that they would be dragged before courts to bear witness on His behalf. He also commanded them to be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. That is what we see in this passage with Paul. Here is a servant of the King bearing witness to Christ with a clear conscience and shrewd insight. He divides his enemies while revealing their atrocious hypocrisy so that he is able to continue proclaiming Jesus as the King who has come to rescue us from the same sort of injustice. Let us trust Christ so that we might likewise proclaim Him wherever He sends us!

Matthew 10:16-22

“Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so *be wise as serpents and innocent as doves*. Beware of men, for they will deliver you over to courts and flog you in their synagogues, and you will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them and the Gentiles. When they deliver you over, do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour. For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. Brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death, and you will be hated by all for my name’s sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

Joshua 1:6-9

Be strong and courageous, for you shall cause this people to inherit the land that I swore to their fathers to give them. 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. 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. 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.*”

Genesis 17:1-2

When Abram was ninety-nine years old the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, “I am God Almighty; *walk before me, and be blameless*, that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly.”

Taking Gathered Worship Home

God has called us to live before Him blamelessly. That call to walk with God according to His commands continues today. Yes, it has been fulfilled in Christ's perfect obedience. Those who trust Christ's sacrifice for us will now endeavor to walk faithfully as part of our testimony for Christ. Our submission to our King is what frees us to be wise in our dealing with those who hate us and our Savior.

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 23:1-11; Matthew 10:16-22; Philippians 3:5-6; Genesis 17:1-14; Joshua 1:6-9.** DISCUSS How did Christ's prophecy for His disciples come true? What does that have to do with us? PRAY "Lord Christ, teach us to submit to You and trust You with all of our lives. Holy Spirit, embolden us to speak Your truth wisely."

Sunday Evening

Come join the *Young Adults' Fellowship* tonight at 6pm. Pray for them!

Monday

READ **Acts 23:1-11; Matthew 10:16-22; Mark 13:9-13.** DISCUSS How could Jesus be so cruel as to send us before wolves? How has He prepared us? Why is He trustworthy? MEDITATE on **Matthew 10:16.** PRAY, "Lord Jesus, thank You for Your faithfulness. Thank You for the certainty of Your return. Spirit; help us to rest in Your faithfulness as You make us faithful too."

Tuesday

READ **Acts 23:1-11; Philippians 3:5-6.** DISCUSS What does it mean to be blameless with regard to the law? How can we be blameless? How is that different from perfect? How can we be perfect? MEDITATE on **Matthew 10:16.** PRAY, "Lord, thank You for Your faithful and perfect obedience. Teach us to walk in the Holy Spirit. "

Wednesday

READ **Acts 23:1-11; Genesis 17:1-14**. DISCUSS, How was Abraham to express faith in His covenant-keeping God? How are we? How is it the same/different? MEDITATE on **Matthew 10:16**. PRAY, “Lord, thank You for keeping Your covenant with us. Call us back to covenant faithfulness. Enable us to walk in truth.”

Thursday

READ **Acts 23:1-11; Joshua 1:6-9. Matthew 28:20b**; DISCUSS, Why did Joshua need courage? To do what? Why do we? How can we be courageous? MEDITATE on **Matthew 10:16**. PRAY, Lord You alone are Wise. Teach us to trust Your wisdom and rejoice in what You have planned for us.”

Friday

READ **Acts 23:1-11; Matthew 10:16-22; Philippians 3:5-6; Genesis 17:1-14; Joshua 1:6-9**. DISCUSS, How has God been teaching you from these passages this week? REJOICE if Christ has given you the honor to be identified among His people! MEDITATE on **Matthew 10:16**. PRAY for renewal and revival across our land.

Saturday

PREPARE today for the worship service tomorrow. *There will be both the in-person and live-stream services available.* READ **Acts 23:1-35**. Invite others to join you for either *the in-person or live-stream service* tomorrow. Ask Jesus to make us bold in our testimony to Him.

Matthew 10:16

*“Behold, I am sending you out as sheep
in the midst of wolves,
so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.*”