



The _____
First Congregational Church
of Woodstock _____

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

August 30th, 2020

The Order of Morning Worship

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

August 30th, 2020

Nine-thirty

Welcome

Pastor Doug Warren

Prelude & Silent Prayer

❖ Call to Worship

Zephaniah 3: 14 – 15

¹⁴ Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion;
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter of Jerusalem!

¹⁵ The LORD has taken away the judgments against you;
he has cleared away your enemies.
The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;
you shall never again fear evil.

❖ Hymn of Exultation

Number 263

Lift High the Cross

Lift High the Cross

I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself. John 12:32

Unison

(Ref.) Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim,

till all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.

Fine

1. Come, breth - ren, fol - low where our Sav - ior trod,
 2. Led on their way by this tri - um - phant sign,
 3. O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
 4. Thy king - dom come, that earth's de - spair may cease
 5. For thy blest cross which doth for us a - tone,

our King vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
 the hosts of God in con - qu'ring ranks com - bine.
 as thou hast prom - ised, draw men un - to thee.
 be - neath the shad - ow of its heal - ing peace.
 cre - a - tion's prais - es rise be - fore thy throne.

D.C.

Scriptural Call to Repentance

Isaiah 55: 6 – 7

Seek the Lord while He may be found; call on Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the Lord, and He will have mercy on him, and to our God, for He will freely pardon.

Collective Confession

Almighty and most merciful father, we are thankful that your mercy is higher than the heavens, wider than our wanderings, deeper than all our sin. Forgive our frivolous attitude toward life, our callousness toward suffering, our envy of those who have more than we have, our obsession with creating a life of constant pleasure, our indifference to the treasures of heaven, our neglect of your wise and gracious law. Help us to change our way of life so that we may desire what is good, love what you love, and do what you command, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Proclamation of Forgiveness

Acts 13: 38; Ephesians 1: 7

Through Jesus Christ forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. In Christ we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace.

Scripture Reading

Galatians 3: 7 – 9

⁷ Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham. ⁸ And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, “In you shall all the nations be blessed.” ⁹ So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

Pastoral Prayer

“Setting the Stage – Part 2”

Acts 10: 1 – 16

At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion of what was known as the Italian Cohort, ² a devout man who feared God with all his household, gave alms generously to the people, and prayed continually to God. ³ About the ninth hour of the day he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God come in and say to him, “Cornelius.” ⁴ And he stared at him in terror and said, “What is it, Lord?” And he said to him, “Your prayers and your alms have ascended as a memorial before God. ⁵ And now send men to Joppa and bring one Simon who is called Peter. ⁶ He is lodging with one Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the sea.” ⁷ When the angel who spoke to him had departed, he called two of his servants and a devout soldier from among those who attended him, ⁸ and having related everything to them, he sent them to Joppa.

⁹ The next day, as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the housetop about the sixth hour to pray. ¹⁰ And he became hungry and wanted something to eat, but while they were preparing it, he fell into a trance ¹¹ and saw the heavens opened and something like a great sheet descending, being let down by its four corners upon the earth. ¹² In it were all kinds of animals and reptiles and birds of the air. ¹³ And there came a voice to him: “Rise, Peter; kill and eat.” ¹⁴ But Peter said, “By no means, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is common or unclean.” ¹⁵ And the voice came to him again a second time, “What God has made clean, do not call common.” ¹⁶ This happened three times, and the thing was taken up at once to heaven.

❖ Hymn of Commitment

Number 30

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations. Ps. 90:1

Chords: C, F, C, Am, Dm, G, C, Am, Em, Am, D

1. Our God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
 2. Un - der the shad - ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;
 3. Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, or earth re - ceived her frame,
 4. A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone;

Chords: C, F, Dm, G, C, F, E, C, F, C, Dm, G, C

our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
 suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
 from ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.
 short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

5. The busy tribes of flesh and blood,
 with all their lives and cares,
 are carried downward by your flood,
 and lost in foll'wing years.

6. Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
 bears all its sons away;
 they fly forgotten, as a dream
 dies at the op'ning day.

7. Our God, our help in ages past,
 our hope for years to come:
 O be our guard while troubles last,
 and our eternal home.

From Psalm 90
 Isaac Watts, 1719
 Alt. 1990, mod.

ST. ANNE C.M.
 Attr. to William Croft, 1678-1727
 Tate and Brady's Supplement to the New Version, 1708

Benediction

Numbers 6: 24 – 26

- 24 The LORD bless you and keep you;
25 the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;
26 the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

The Congregation may be seated after the Benediction for silent prayer.

Postlude

~~ Organist: Jonathan Denham ~~
~~ Please ensure cell phones are off ~~

Reception for Wood Family

The Deaconesses' invite you to join the Wood family after church on today, August 30, outside on the patio to encourage and extend love and support for them as we remember their daughter, Naomi.

“By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” John 13:35

Ladies Bathrooms

Beginning Monday August 31, the Ladies Bathroom off the Billings Room will no longer be available during the week. Due to the rigid COVID sanitation regulations for childcare centers, those bathrooms will be closed to public use during the week and ONLY available on Saturday and until 2:00 pm on Sunday. Please do not use the Ladies Bathroom off the Billings Room in the evenings or after 2:00 pm on Sunday. The bathrooms downstairs in the Sunday School Classrooms are available during the week, evenings, and weekends. Thank you for helping WCCC to follow the state mandated protocols.

Substitutes Needed

The Woodstock Christian Childcare is reopening August 31. Staff has been busily reorganizing and preparing. They are in need of more substitute teachers. If you would like more information, please contact Ruth Brisson at 410 – 925 – 7959 or email her at brissonwccc@comcast.net. Please continue to pray for the many changes that must be put in place in order to stay open.

Need IT Help

In order to assist folks in the use of the church's computer network for Zoom (and similar) meetings, Michael Byrne has offered, on a trial basis, to serve as the FCCW help desk. If you are having trouble with the FCCW computer system or have a question for Michael, please email michael@clickthruvt.com with the subject "FCCW HELP DESK".

Please remember he already has a full time job so we can only promise he will try to respond within 24 hours.

Young Adult Fellowship Group

Pastor Doug has formed a Young Adult Fellowship Group to grow the faith of our High School Students and Young Adults in our congregation and community. On Tuesdays the group meets at 8:00 am for Bible Study at the Church. On Sundays, the group meets at 7:30 pm for a time of Praise and Fellowship at the Church. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Doug at 802-457-1304 or email him at PastorDougW@gmail.com. Young Adults invite your friends to a time of learning, praise and worship, and fellowship. Appropriate social distancing and protocols are being taken.

First Responders Needed

The AED device in the hallway between the Sanctuary and the Billings Room has recently been updated and re-certified. We are currently looking for folks who are certified in the use of it or are interested in GETTING certified, to be designated as the church's "first responders" in the case of a cardiac event.

If you are interested, please contact Terri at fccwinfo@gmail.com or 802 – 457 – 9818.

Setting the Stage Part II

God Is Preparing Cornelius for a Dramatic Shift (1-8).

Peter Is Prepared to Welcome Cornelius as Brother (9-16).

Christ's Sacrifice Has Radically Transformed Reality (15).

A. Christ's Kingdom Has Been Inaugurated (Acts 2:29-36).

B. The Focus of His Kingdom Is No Longer Geo-Political Israel.

C. How Are We to Live in This New Reality?

God has been patiently waiting for this moment to bring about the inclusion of the Gentiles to His family en masse. At every step along the way He has been faithful. Now with patience and skill He prepares His people for this new stage in the advancement of His Kingdom. Let us praise Him who alone is King of Kings!

Acts 2: 29 – 36

“Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne, he foresaw and spoke about *the resurrection of the Christ*, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. Being therefore *exalted at the right hand of God*, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing. For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says,

“The Lord said to my Lord,

“Sit at my right hand,

until I make your enemies your footstool.”

Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that *God has made him both Lord and Christ*, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

Romans 10: 8 – 13

But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. For the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.” For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

Isaiah 49: 6

He says: “It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to bring back the preserved of Israel; I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”

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

The best mystery books are those where all the pieces you need to figure it out are present, but you are still surprised by the final revelation of who done it. God weaves together a masterful story of His work in salvation history that puts all others to shame. This week let us notice carefully His great skill in revealing how Christ has done it!

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 10:1-16; Acts 2:29-36; Romans 11:1-24**. DISCUSS, What did God promise to do with the Gentiles? How does that bring Him glory? How does that bring us comfort? How does it convict us? PRAY “Lord King, You are entirely sovereign in all things, including salvation. Teach us to respect and honor You as King of Kings.”

Sunday Evening

Young Adults' Fellowship at 7:30 pm. Please come if you are able.

Monday

READ **Acts 10:1-16; Genesis 12:3 Isaiah 42:6; 49:6; 61:6** DISCUSS, What is the relationship between Israel and the nations in salvation? MEDITATE on **Isaiah 49:6**. PRAY, “Lord God, You deserve all the praise for salvation. We were not only lost, but entirely lost with no hope of redemption. Thank You for loving and saving us.”

Tuesday

READ **Acts 10:1-16; Isaiah 49:6; Galatians 3:8**. DISCUSS, What is the new thing that the inauguration of Jesus' Kingdom now opens up? How is God faithful to all His promises in Christ? PRAY, “Jesus, You have been given the name that is above every other name. We praise You. You have fulfilled all that You promised and are now drawing men and women, boys and girls from every tribe, nation, and language into Your Kingdom. Help us to serve You and Your Kingdom with joy and obedience in every aspect of our lives.”

Wednesday

READ **Acts 10:1-16; Isaiah 42:1-25; Matthew 12:15-21; Romans 11:1-24**. DISCUSS, What did God warn Israel about here in Isaiah? How does Matthew say Jesus fulfilled this? How does that relate to the Romans passage? PRAY, “Lord, we Your people have been continually rebellious. Thank You for doing what we could not. Teach us to be faithful.”

Thursday

READ **Acts 10:1-16; Romans 11:17-24**. DISCUSS, What are we supposed to do with the knowledge that God has grafted us into His people? What should that encourage us to do and not do? Why? How is this a guard against presumption? How does this help us to rest in Christ? PRAY, “Lord, You went to the cross in our place. Help us to depend entirely on You rather than our own efforts.”

Friday

READ **Acts 10:1-16; Acts 2:29-36; Romans 11:1-24**. DISCUSS, How has God been teaching you from these passages this week? REJOICE if you have the privilege of being Christ’s beloved! PRAY for renewal and revival across our land.

Saturday

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

READ **Acts 10:1-48; Colossians 1:24-29**. Invite others to join you for either the *live-stream or in-person service* tomorrow. Ask Jesus to help us love our neighbors well.

Galatians 3: 8

The Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, “All the nations will be blessed in you.”