



The _____
First Congregational Church
of Woodstock _____

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

September 12th, 2021

All People That on Earth Do Dwell

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. Ps. 100:1

1. All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, sing
2. The Lord ye know is God in - deed; with -
3. O en - ter then his gates with praise, ap -
4. For why? The Lord our God is good, his

to the Lord with cheer - ful voice; him serve with fear, his
out our aid he did us make; we are his folk, he
proach with joy his courts un - to; praise, laud, and bless his
mer - cy is for - ev - er sure; his truth at all times

praise forth - tell, come ye be - fore him and re - jice.
doth us feed, and for his sheep he doth us take.
name al - ways, for it is seem - ly so to do.
firm - ly stood, and shall from age to age en - dure.

The nations rage, the kingdoms totter; He utters His voice, the earth melts. The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. Come, behold the works of the LORD, how he has brought desolations on the earth; he breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the chariots with fire.

Collective Confession

Congregation

Holy Father, we long to have you change our hearts. We confess to You that we do not obey You as we should. We don't think Your thoughts, speak Your truth, or do the good that You command. We do not love our neighbors as You have loved us. We bend the truth to our own purposes. We harbor bitterness when we don't get our own way. We neglect and leave the oppressed with no defender. We break Your holy law and delight in what You have forbidden. Merciful Lord, we humbly ask that You would forgive us and change our hearts. Conform us to the image of Your Son. Holy Spirit, work in us we pray, that we might be like You.

Silent Reflection and Confession

Proclamation of Forgiveness

Psalm 130

Pastor

If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand? O Israel, put your hope in the Lord, for with the Lord is unfailing love and with Him is full redemption. He Himself will redeem Israel from all their sins.

Offering

(collected from back to front)

Congregation

Affirmation of Faith

*The Westminster Shorter Catechism*¹

Congregation

Pastor: What is the chief end of man?

Congregation: Man's chief end is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.

Pastor: What rule has God given to direct us in how to glorify and enjoy Him?

Congregation: The Word of God, which is contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, is the only rule to direct us as to how we may glorify and enjoy Him.

¹ 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.

735

Gloria Patri

*Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor
of his holiness. Ps. 29:2*

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the

The first system of musical notation for 'Gloria Patri'. It consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff, both in 4/4 time and B-flat major. The treble staff contains the vocal melody with lyrics 'Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the'. The bass staff provides harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes.

Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in

The second system of musical notation. The treble staff continues the vocal melody with lyrics 'Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in'. The bass staff continues the accompaniment.

the be - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er

The third system of musical notation. The treble staff continues the vocal melody with lyrics 'the be - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er'. The bass staff continues the accompaniment.

shall be, world with - out end. A - men, a - men.

The fourth system of musical notation. The treble staff concludes the vocal melody with lyrics 'shall be, world with - out end. A - men, a - men.' and ends with a double bar line. The bass staff concludes the accompaniment with a final chord and a double bar line.

²⁸ And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? ³³ Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

Deacons' Offering (collected from back to front) Congregation

Pastoral Prayer Pastor

❖ Hymn of Reflection *Before the Throne of God Above* Congregation

Before The Throne Of God Above

Words by
Charitie Lees Bancroft

Music by
William Batchelder Bradbury

♩ = 74

VERSE 1

D



1. Be - fore the throne of God a - bove I have a strong and per - fect

4

F#m

G

Bm

G

D



plea; A great High Priest whose name is love, who ev - er lives and pleads for me. My name is

9

G

F#m

Em/D

Bm/D

G



grav - en on His hands; My name is writ - ten on His heart. I know that while in heav'n He

14

Bm⁷

Em/G

Bm

A⁷sus

G/D



stands, no tongue can bid me thence de - part, no tongue can bid me thence de - part.

VERSE 2

19

Dmaj⁷

G/D

D

D

G/D

D²



2. When Sa - tan tempts me to des - pair and tells me

24

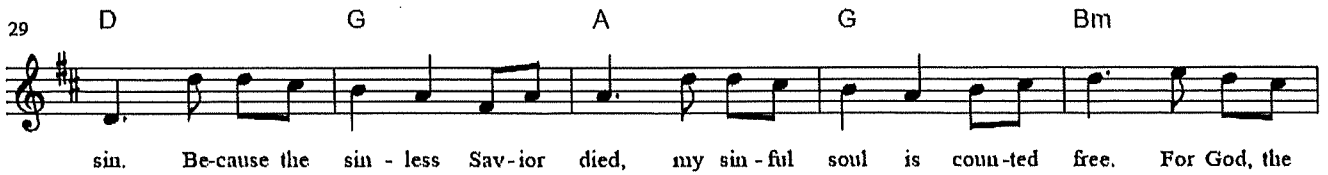
D

Em/D



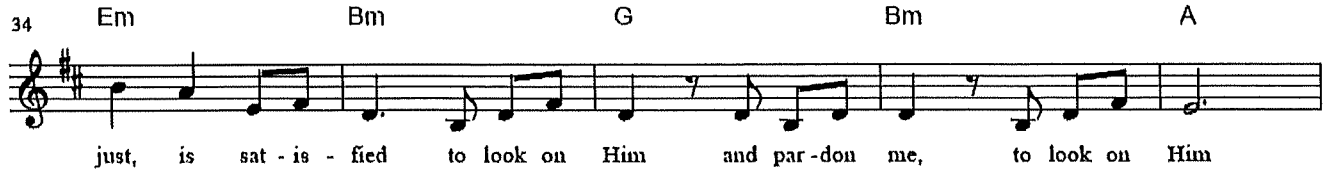
of my guilt with - in, up - ward I look and see Him there who made an end of all my

29 D G A G Bm



sin. Be-cause the sin-less Sav-ior died, my sin-ful soul is coun-ted free. For God, the

34 Em Bm G Bm A



just, is sat-is-fied to look on Him and par-dou me, to look on Him

INSTRUMENTAL

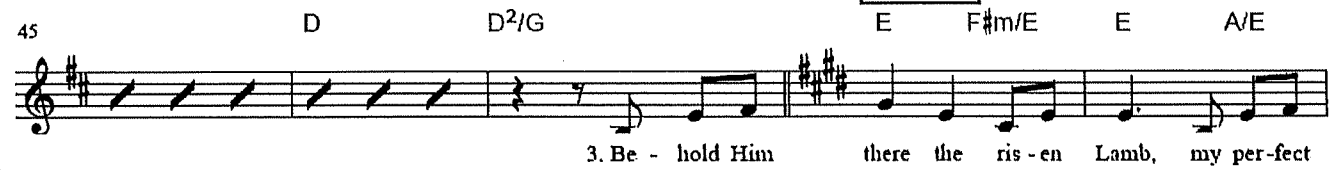
39 A^{sus} G A G/B G



and par-dou me.

VERSE 3

45 D D²/G E F#m/E E A/E



3. Be-hold Him there the ris-en Lamb, my per-fect

50 E C#m B E/G# A B C#m G#m A A/B



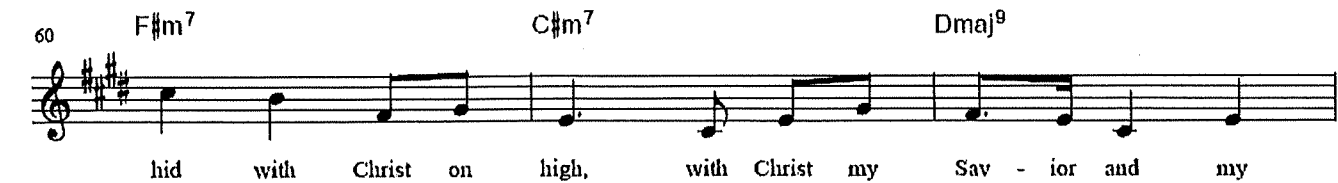
spot-less, right-eous-ness. The great un-change-a-ble I Am, the King of Glo-ry and of

55 E A/E C#m/E B/E G#m/E A/E G#m/E A²



grace. One with Him-self; I can-not die, my soul is pur-chased by His blood. My life is

60 F#m⁷ C#m⁷ Dmaj⁹



hid with Christ on high, with Christ my Sav-ior and my

63 A² F#m E



God, with Christ my Sav-ior and my God.

“The Plot Against Paul”

Acts 23:12-22

¹² When it was day, the Jews made a plot and bound themselves by an oath neither to eat nor drink till they had killed Paul. ¹³ There were more than forty who made this conspiracy. ¹⁴ They went to the chief priests and elders and said, “We have strictly bound ourselves by an oath to taste no food till we have killed Paul. ¹⁵ Now therefore you, along with the council, give notice to the tribune to bring him down to you, as though you were going to determine his case more exactly. And we are ready to kill him before he comes near.”

¹⁶ Now the son of Paul's sister heard of their ambush, so he went and entered the barracks and told Paul. ¹⁷ Paul called one of the centurions and said, “Take this young man to the tribune, for he has something to tell him.” ¹⁸ So he took him and brought him to the tribune and said, “Paul the prisoner called me and asked me to bring this young man to you, as he has something to say to you.” ¹⁹ The tribune took him by the hand, and going aside asked him privately, “What is it that you have to tell me?” ²⁰ And he said, “The Jews have agreed to ask you to bring Paul down to the council tomorrow, as though they were going to inquire somewhat more closely about him. ²¹ But do not be persuaded by them, for more than forty of their men are lying in ambush for him, who have bound themselves by an oath neither to eat nor drink till they have killed him. And now they are ready, waiting for your consent.” ²² So the tribune dismissed the young man, charging him, “Tell no one that you have informed me of these things.”

❖ Hymn of Response #131 *Children of the Heavenly Father* Congregation

Children of the Heavenly Father

As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him. Ps. 103:13

Chord progression: D A 7

1. Chil - dren of the heav'n - ly Fa - ther safe - ly
 2. God his own doth tend and nour - ish, in his
 3. Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er from the
 4. Praise the Lord in joy - ful num - bers, your Pro -

Chord progression: Em D G

in his bo - som gath - er; nest - ling bird nor star in
 ho - ly courts they flour - ish; from all e - vil things he
 Lord his chil - dren sev - er; un - to them his grace he
 tec - tor nev - er slum - bers; at the will of your De -

Chord progression: D F Em A7 D 7

heav - en such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.
 spares them, in his might - y arms he bears them.
 show - eth, and their sor - rows all he know - eth.
 fend - er ev - 'ry foe - man must sur - ren - der.

5. Though he giveth or he taketh,
 God his children ne'er forsaketh;
 his the loving purpose solely
 to preserve them pure and holy.

6. More secure is no one ever
 than the loved ones of the Savior;
 not yon star on high abiding
 nor the bird in home-nest hiding.

Benediction

Jude 24-25

Pastor

Pastor: To Him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before His glorious presence without fault and with great joy—to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forever more.

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 ~~*

Deacons' Offering – Today, September 12

Today's Deacons' Offering 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 the remainder of 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.

Fall Schedule Begins Today

Today we 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.

September Newsletter is on the Table in the Narthex.

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.

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.

Work Days

If you missed yesterday's Work Day you can still help on Saturday, September 25, 9:00-noon. We will be working on the renovation of our outdoor play area.

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.

Intro to FCCW Workshop

Interested in knowing more about FCCW? Want to explore questions about the Bible in a small group? What does it mean to be a member? What opportunities are there to serve at FCCW? Consider attending the *Intro to FCCW Workshop* being offered Friday night, October 15 and Saturday morning, October 16. This two-part workshop will give insight into how FCCW functions and the importance of membership. Please contact Kristen at fccwinfo@gmail.com to register.

The Plot Against Paul

1. Christ's Enemies Hate Paul Enough to Assassinate Him (12-15).

2. God Uses Paul's Unnamed Nephew to Preserve Him (16-21).

3. God Uses a Pagan Official to Save Him Again (22).

CONCLUSION: Why is this passage here? To explain Paul's transfer from Jerusalem to Caesarea? Sure that is part of it. But why the inclusion of the details without even naming Paul's nephew? God is showing us how He works through all these details to preserve and protect His people. He does so not just so that we can be safe, but so that we can testify about Christ. He uses anonymous boys and government officials to establish exactly what He has ordained to accomplish. Let us praise Him and trust Him with every detail of our lives!

Romans 8:28-39

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then shall we say to these things? *If God is for us, who can be against us?* He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. *For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Esther 4:13-17

Then Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, “Do not think to yourself that in the king's palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews. For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. And *who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?*” Then Esther told them to reply to Mordecai, “Go, gather all the Jews to be found in Susa, and hold a fast on my behalf, and do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my young women will also fast as you do. Then I will go to the king, though it is against the law, and if I perish, I perish.” Mordecai then went away and did everything as Esther had ordered him.

Philippians 3:7-11

But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. *For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things* and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Taking Gathered Worship Home

What is your confidence? Not just what you *say* is your bedrock. *What do you cling to when all else fails?* God's faithfulness to His people is most clearly on display at the cross of Christ. He gave everything to rescue and redeem us just as He promised. It is also beautifully on display through the details of how He delivers Paul here, working not through miraculous wonders, but through people doing what they ought to do.

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 23:12-22; Romans 8:28-39; Esther 4:13-17; Colossians 3:12-17.** DISCUSS How does God use all things to accomplish His purposes? How does this passage comfort you? Challenge you? PRAY "Lord Christ, teach us to trust that Your ways are perfect. Enable us to trust in Your sovereign care for us."

Sunday Evening

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

Monday

READ **Acts 23:12-22; John 15:18-27; Luke 24:44-49.** DISCUSS Why does the world hate us? What are we supposed to do? What does it mean to testify or give witness to Christ? Why do we need the Holy Spirit to do it? MEDITATE on **Romans 8:38-39.** PRAY, "Lord Jesus, thank You for entrusting us with Your truth. Embolden us to live and proclaim it with Your Holy Spirit."

Tuesday

READ **Acts 23:12-22; Romans 8:28-39; Ephesians 1:18-23.** DISCUSS What do we know? Why does Paul pray for those in Ephesus to have their eyes opened? How are these related? Ask the Lord to enable us to know the hope of our calling. MEDITATE on **Romans 8:38-39.** PRAY, "Lord, Your surpassing greatness works all things together for Your purposes. Teach us to trust You completely."

Wednesday

READ **Acts 23:12-22; Esther 4:13-17; Psalm 37:1-11**. DISCUSS, How was Esther to use her position? Why? How are we? How is it the same/different? What does it mean to “*befriend faithfulness*” (v. 3)? MEDITATE on **Romans 8:38-39**. PRAY “Lord, thank You for raising up queens like Esther and anonymous boys like Paul’s nephew. Enable us to be faithful and do as You command us day by day.”

Thursday

READ **Acts 23:12-22; Colossians 3:12-17; First Corinthians 10:31-11:1**. DISCUSS, What are we supposed to do? *How* are we supposed to do it? What are you wrestling with today? MEDITATE on **Romans 8:38-39**. PRAY “Lord, You call us to trust You and to demonstrate that through obedience. Make us faithful, Lord Christ, in all that we think, say, and do.”

Friday

READ **Acts 23:12-22; Romans 8:28-39; Esther 4:13-17; Colossians 3:12-17**. 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 **Romans 8:38-39**. 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 21:1-23:35**. Invite others to join you for either *in-person or live-stream service* tomorrow. Ask Jesus to be glorified in our testimony of Him.

Romans 8:38-39

*“For I am sure that neither death nor life,
nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come,
nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation
will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus
our Lord.”*