



The _____
First Congregational Church
of Woodstock _____

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

September 26th, 2021

The Order of Morning Worship

September 26th, 2021

Ten-thirty

Welcome

Pastor Doug Warren

Prelude & Silent Prayer

- ❖ Call to Worship Psalm 67 and 1 Chronicles 16 Congregation
- Pastor: Let the peoples praise You, O God; let all the peoples praise You. Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for You rule the peoples justly and guide the nations of the earth. Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let them say among the nations, "The LORD reigns!" Give thanks to the LORD,

Congregation: He is good; His love endures forever.

- ❖ Hymn of Exultation #347 *The Church's One Foundation* Congregation

Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. Eph. 2:20

1. The church - 's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;
 2. E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, yet one o'er all - the earth,
 3. Though with a scorn - ful won - der men see her sore op - pressed,
 4. The church shall nev - er per - ish! Her dear Lord to de - fend,

she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the Word;
 her char - ter of sal - va - tion one Lord, one faith, one birth;
 by schis - ms rent a - sun - der, by her - e - sies dis - tressed,
 to guide, sus - tain, and cher - ish, is with her to the end;

from heav'n he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;
 one ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,
 yet saints their watch are keep - ing, their cry goes up, "How long?"
 though there be those that hate her, and false sons in her pale,

with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
 and to one hope she press - es, with ev - 'ry grace en - dued.
 And soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.
 a - gainst or foe or trai - tor she ev - er shall pre - vail.

5. 'Mid toil and tribulation,
 and tumult of her war,
 she waits the consummation
 of peace forevermore;
 till with the vision glorious
 her longing eyes are blest,
 and the great church victorious
 shall be the church at rest.

6. Yet she on earth hath union
 with God the Three in One,
 and mystic sweet communion
 with those whose rest is won:
 O happy ones and holy!
 Lord, give us grace that we,
 like them, the meek and lowly,
 on high may dwell with thee.

God’s Word warns us, “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.” It also provides the wonderful truth found only in Christ saying, “If we confess our sins, He who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” In humility and faith let us confess our sin to God.

Collective Confession

Luther’s Prayer

Congregation

O Lord, merciful and mighty, we unworthy sinners, come to You in humble repentance and confess how we have transgressed Your holy Law. We are guilty of sins of omission and commission, evil thoughts, improper words, and wrong deeds. Forgive our iniquity and short-comings for the sake of the suffering and death of our Savior Jesus Christ. Let His obedience cover our disobedience, let His righteousness atone for our unrighteousness. Great God and Helper, You alone can forgive. With all our hearts we thank You for Your boundless mercy. Grant us grace with which we might accept Your gift of forgiveness with true faith and look upon the word of pardon as a message coming from You, assuring us and consoling our hearts before You. Let us treasure Your forgiveness and freely extend it to others by the power of Your resurrection. We pray in the name of our Redeemer, Jesus Christ.

Silent Reflection and Confession

Proclamation of Forgiveness

Jeremiah 33: 8

Pastor

I will cleanse them from all the guilt of their sin against me, and I will forgive all the guilt of their sin and rebellion against me.

Offering

(collected from back to front)

Congregation

Affirmation of Faith

*The Heidelberg Catechism*¹

Congregation

Pastor: What is your only comfort in life and in death?

Congregation: That I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, in life and in death—to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ.

He has fully paid for all my sins with His precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of

¹ Catechisms are a question and answer format used for teaching in the church. The Heidelberg Catechism was written in 1563 and approved by the Church at the Synod of Dort (1618-1619).

my Father in heaven: in fact, all things must work together for my salvation.

Because I belong to Him, Christ, by His Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for Him.

Pastor: What must you know to live and die in the joy of this comfort?

Congregation: Three things: first, how great my sin and misery are; second, how I am set free from all my sins and misery; third, how I am to thank God for such deliverance.

❖ Creedal Song #735

Gloria Patri

Congregation

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 a 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, concluding the piece. The treble staff continues the vocal melody with lyrics 'shall be, world with - out end. A - men, a - men.' The bass staff concludes with a final chord and a double bar line.

⁷ Thus says the LORD,
the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,
to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nation,
the servant of rulers:
“Kings shall see and arise;
princes, and they shall prostrate themselves;
because of the LORD, who is faithful,
the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.”

⁸ Thus says the LORD:
“In a time of favor I have answered you;
in a day of salvation I have helped you;
I will keep you and give you
as a covenant to the people,
to establish the land,
to apportion the desolate heritages,
⁹ saying to the prisoners, ‘Come out,’
to those who are in darkness, ‘Appear.’
They shall feed along the ways;
on all bare heights shall be their pasture;
¹⁰ they shall not hunger or thirst,
neither scorching wind nor sun shall strike them,
for he who has pity on them will lead them,
and by springs of water will guide them.
¹¹ And I will make all my mountains a road,
and my highways shall be raised up.
¹² Behold, these shall come from afar,
and behold, these from the north and from the west,
and these from the land of Syene.”
¹³ Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth;
break forth, O mountains, into singing!
For the LORD has comforted his people
and will have compassion on his afflicted.

Pastor: The grass withers, the flower fades,

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

My Jesus, I Love Thee

We love because he first loved us. 1 John 4:19

1. My Je - sus, I love thee, I know thou art mine;
 2. I love thee be - cause thou hast first lov - ed me;
 3. I'll love thee in life, I will love thee in death;
 4. In man - sions of glo - ry and end - less de - light,

for thee all the fol - lies of sin I re - sign.
 and pur - chased my par - don on Cal - va - ry's tree.
 and praise thee as long as thou lend - est me breath;
 I'll ev - er a - dore thee in heav - en so bright;

My gra - cious Re - deem - er, my Sav - ior art thou;
 I love thee for wear - ing the thorns on thy brow;
 and say, when the death - dew lies cold on my brow;
 I'll sing with the glit - ter - ing crown on my brow:

if ev - er I loved thee, my Je - sus, 'tis now.
 if ev - er I loved thee, my Je - sus, 'tis now.
 if ev - er I loved thee, my Je - sus, 'tis now.
 if ev - er I loved thee, my Je - sus, 'tis now.

“Paul Held by Felix for Two Years”

Acts 24: 1 – 27

“Since through you we enjoy much peace, and since by your foresight, most excellent Felix, reforms are being made for this nation,³ in every way and everywhere we accept this with all gratitude.⁴ But, to detain you no further, I beg you in your kindness to hear us briefly.⁵ For we have found this man a plague, one who stirs up riots among all the Jews throughout the world and is a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes.⁶ He even tried to profane the temple, but we seized him.⁸ By examining him yourself you will be able to find out from him about everything of which we accuse him.”

⁹ The Jews also joined in the charge, affirming that all these things were so.

¹⁰ And when the governor had nodded to him to speak, Paul replied:

“Knowing that for many years you have been a judge over this nation, I cheerfully make my defense.¹¹ You can verify that it is not more than twelve days since I went up to worship in Jerusalem,¹² and they did not find me disputing with anyone or stirring up a crowd, either in the temple or in the synagogues or in the city.¹³ Neither can they prove to you what they now bring up against me.¹⁴ But this I confess to you, that according to the Way, which they call a sect, I worship the God of our fathers, believing everything laid down by the Law and written in the Prophets,¹⁵ having a hope in God, which these men themselves accept, that there will be a resurrection of both the just and the unjust.¹⁶ So I always take pains to have a clear conscience toward both God and man.¹⁷ Now after several years I came to bring alms to my nation and to present offerings.¹⁸ While I was doing this, they found me purified in the temple, without any crowd or tumult. But some Jews from Asia—¹⁹ they ought to be here before you and to make an accusation, should they have anything against me.²⁰ Or else let these men themselves say what wrongdoing they found when I stood before the council,²¹ other than this one thing that I cried out while standing among them: ‘It is with respect to the resurrection of the dead that I am on trial before you this day.’”

²² But Felix, having a rather accurate knowledge of the Way, put them off, saying, “When Lysias the tribune comes down, I will decide your case.”²³ Then he gave orders to the centurion that he should be kept in

custody but have some liberty, and that none of his friends should be prevented from attending to his needs.

²⁴ After some days Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish, and he sent for Paul and heard him speak about faith in Christ Jesus. ²⁵ And as he reasoned about righteousness and self-control and the coming judgment, Felix was alarmed and said, “Go away for the present. When I get an opportunity I will summon you.” ²⁶ At the same time he hoped that money would be given him by Paul. So he sent for him often and conversed with him. ²⁷ When two years had elapsed, Felix was succeeded by Porcius Festus. And desiring to do the Jews a favor, Felix left Paul in prison.

❖ Hymn of Response #441

Jesus Shall Reign

Congregation

Jesus Shall Reign

He will rule from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth. Ps. 72:8

Γ D A⁷ D G C^{#dim} D A E⁷ A 7 D 1

1. Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does his suc -
 2. To him shall end - less prayer be made, and prais - es
 3. Peo - ple and realms of ev - ery tongue dwell on his
 4. Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns; the pris - 'ner
 5. Let ev - ery crea - ture rise and bring pe - cu - liar

G D Em D A D A⁷ D G D A⁷ D

ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from shore to
 throng to crown his head; his name, like sweet per - fume, shall
 • love with sweet - est song; and in - fant voic - es shall pro -
 leaps to lose his chains, the wea - ry find e - ter - nal
 hon - ors to our King; an - gels de - scend with songs a -

A Γ D G C^{#dim} D Em⁷ D Em D A⁷ D 7

shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.
 rise with ev - ery morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
 • claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.
 rest, and all the sons of want are blest.
 gain, and earth re - peat the loud a - men!

Benediction

John 14: 27

Pastor

Pastor: Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives, do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.

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 ~~

Women's Ministry

Ladies, there will be a short meeting immediately after the service today to hear from our Women's Ministry Coordinator, Annie Denham. If you haven't yet filled out a Women's Ministry survey they are available on the back table. Please take a few minutes to let us know how our FCCW Women's Ministry can best serve you. Thank you!

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

Sunday School Teachers Needed

We are still in need of Sunday School teachers for the elementary age class. 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

The last day for Market on the Green this season will be Wednesday, October 13. This has been such a great opportunity to reach out to children and families in our community. Haven't had a chance to be a part of the fun yet? It's not too late—come join us for one of the remaining three Wednesdays! We'll be there from 3-6 pm and we'd love to see you. Contact Hayley for more information at (785) 727-0756 or hayleylgriffith@gmail.com.

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.

Paul Held by Felix for Two Years

- 1. The Case Against Paul Is Respun by a Hired Gun (1-9).**
- 2. Paul's Defense Is a Careful Presentation of Facts (10-21).**
- 3. Felix Uses Paul to His Own Advantage (22-27).**

CONCLUSION: Truth and Timing. So much depends on knowing the truth and then acting on it in a timely way. The Sanhedrin keeps spinning false claims and hoping that something will stick so they can be rid of that pesky Paul who keeps confronting them with the truth that they do NOT want to hear. And Paul simply keeps proclaiming the truth of the resurrection of Jesus. Day in and day out. Felix hears it and is terrified, but he doesn't act upon the truth. He procrastinates. Delays and focuses on lining his pockets instead of unburdening his soul. What about us? How will we respond to conviction of sin today?

Second Corinthians 6:1-2

Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. ² For he says, “*In a favorable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you.*”

Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

Isaiah 49:7-13

Thus says the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nation, the servant of rulers: “Kings shall see and arise; princes, and they shall prostrate themselves; because of the Lord, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.”

⁸ Thus says the Lord: “In a time of favor I have answered you;

in a day of salvation I have helped you;

I will keep you and give you as a covenant to the people, to establish the land, to apportion the desolate heritages,

⁹ saying to the prisoners, ‘Come out,’ to those who are in darkness, ‘Appear.’

They shall feed along the ways; on all bare heights shall be their pasture;

¹⁰ they shall not hunger or thirst, neither scorching wind nor sun shall strike them, for he who has pity on them will lead them, and by springs of water will guide them.

¹¹ And I will make all my mountains a road, and my highways shall be raised up.

¹² Behold, these shall come from afar, and behold,

these from the north and from the west, and these from the land of Syene.”

¹³ Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth; break forth, O mountains, into singing!

Second Thessalonians 2:1-12

Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we ask you, brothers, ² not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. ³ Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, ⁴ who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God. ⁵ Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? ⁶ And you know what is restraining him now so that he may be revealed in his time. ⁷ For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work. Only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way. ⁸ And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming. ⁹ The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, ¹⁰ and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. ¹¹ Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, ¹² in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

Taking Gathered Worship Home

Tomorrow. It can wait until tomorrow, right?! Except some things cannot wait. When the God of the universe reveals truth to you, it is not a time to procrastinate. Jesus is risen! Follow Him today!

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 24:1-27; Isaiah 49:7-13; Second Corinthians 6:1-2; Second Thessalonians 2:1-12; Hebrews 3:1-15. DISCUSS How is King Jesus establishing His Kingdom on earth? How does His sovereignty comfort you? Challenge you? PRAY “Lord Christ, thank You for preserving and protecting us. Thank You for faithfully doing exactly as You promised to save us.”

Sunday Evening

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

Monday

READ Acts 24:1-27; Hebrews 3:1-15; Proverbs 6:6-11. DISCUSS How is our hope in the future supposed to affect us now? Why? What do you need to deal with before God today? Don't put it off! MEDITATE on **Hebrews 3:13.** PRAY, “Lord Jesus, reveal to me anything that I have been putting off. Give me the faith in You that I need to deal with it now.”

Tuesday

READ Acts 24:1-27; Isaiah 49:7-13; Proverbs 6:6-11. DISCUSS Who upholds all things? How are they upheld? Who is ruling and reigning now? Is He trustworthy? MEDITATE on **Hebrews 3:13.** PRAY, “Lord, You have ordained all our days. Teach us to use every one to Your glory.”

Wednesday

READ **Acts 24:1-27; Second Corinthians 6:1-2; Psalm 90:12-17.** DISCUSS, What does it mean that “now is the acceptable time” in Corinthians? How has God brought salvation to them? What are they supposed to do? When? What have you been putting off? MEDITATE on **Hebrews 3:13.** PRAY “Lord, forgive us for our procrastination. Teach us to respond to You immediately.”

Thursday

READ **Acts 24:1-27; Second Thessalonians 2:1-12; Psalm 90:12-17.** DISCUSS, How can incorrect information about the Day of the Lord lead us astray? What are we waiting for? How certain are we that it will come? Why does that matter? MEDITATE on **Hebrews 3:13.** PRAY “Father, make us long for Christ’s return. Teach us to number our days as we look to You in faith through our faithful use of all the days You give us.”

Friday

READ **Acts 24:1-27; Isaiah 49:7-13; Second Corinthians 6:1-2; Second Thessalonians 2:1-12; Hebrews 3:1-15.** DISCUSS, How has God been teaching you from these passages this week? REPENT of whatever the Holy Spirit is pointing out in your life! MEDITATE on **Hebrews 3:13.** PRAY for repentance for all of us.

Saturday

PREPARE today for the worship service tomorrow. *There will be both the in-person and live-stream services available.* READ **Acts 25:1-27.** Invite others to join you for either *in-person or live-stream service* tomorrow. Ask Jesus to be glorified in our testimony of Him.

Hebrews 3:13

“But exhort one another every day,
as long as it is called ‘today,’
that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.”