

The _____
First Congregational Church
of Woodstock _____

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

August 29th, 2021

The Order of Morning Worship

August 29th, 2021

Nine-thirty

Welcome

Pastor Doug Warren

Prelude & Silent Prayer

❖ Call to Worship

Zephaniah 3: 14 – 15

Congregation

Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! 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 #98

Now Thank We All Our God

Congregation

Now Thank We All Our God

Now, our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name. 1 Chron. 29:13

1. Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voic - es,
 2. O may this boun - teous God through all our life be near us,
 3. All praise and thanks to God the Fa - ther now be giv - en,

who won - drous things hath done, in whom his world re - joic - es;
 with ev - er - joy - ful hearts and bless - ed peace to cheer us;
 the Son, and him who reigns with them in high - est heav - en -

who from our moth - ers' arms, hath blessed us on our way
 and keep us in his grace, and guide us when per - plexed,
 the one e - ter - nal God, whom earth and heav'n a - dore;

with count - less gifts of love, and still is ours to - day.
 and free us from all ills in this world and the next.
 for thus it was, is now, and shall be ev - er - more.

Knowing that we have a great High Priest who has entered the inmost heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us therefore approach the throne of grace with fullest confidence, that we may receive mercy for our failures and grace to help in the hour of need. *In the strength of this assurance, let us confess our sins to God.*

Collective Confession

Congregation

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.

Silent Reflection and Confession

Proclamation of Forgiveness

Acts 13:38; Ephesians 1:7

Pastor

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

Ephesians 2: 13 – 22

Pastor

¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴ For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility ¹⁵ by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, ¹⁶ and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. ¹⁷ And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸ For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, ²¹ in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows

into a holy temple in the Lord.²² In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

Pastor: The grass withers, the flower fades,

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

Pastoral Prayer

Pastor

❖ Hymn of Reflection #644

*May the Mind of Christ
My Savior*

Congregation

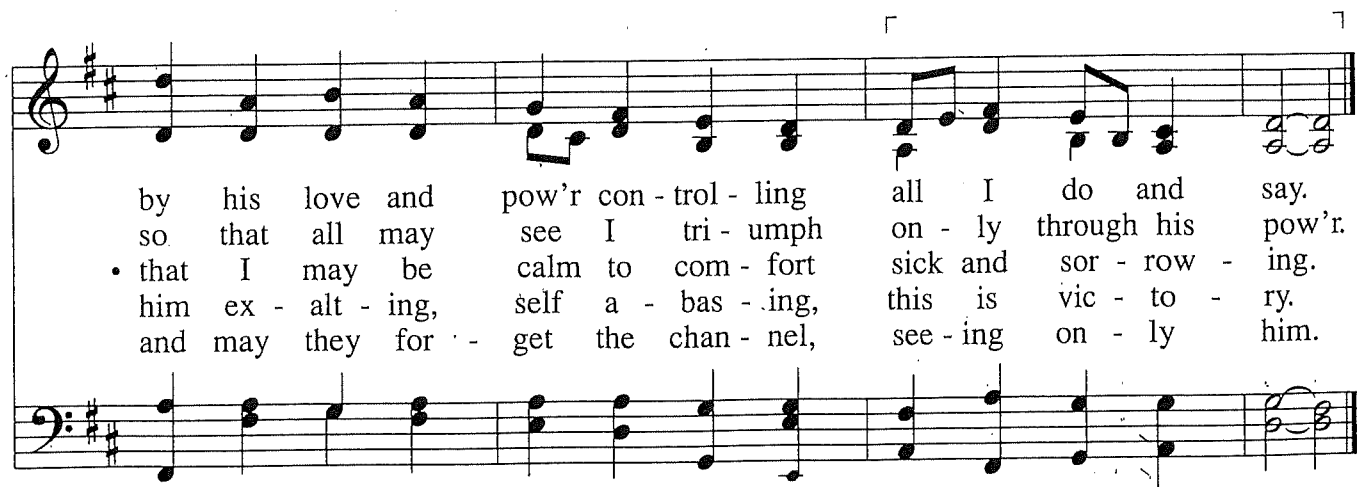
May the Mind of Christ My Savior

644

Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus. Phil. 2:5



1. May the mind of Christ my Sav - ior live in me from day to day,
2. May the Word of God dwell rich - ly in my heart from hour to hour,
3. May the peace of God my Fa - ther rule my life in ev - ery - thing,
4. May the love of Je - sus fill me as the wa - ter's fill the sea;
5. May his beau - ty rest up - on me as I seek the lost to win,



by his love and pow'r con - trol - ling all I do and say.
so that all may see I tri - umph on - ly through his pow'r.
• that I may be calm to com - fort sick and sor - row - ing.
him ex - alt - ing, self a - bas - ing, this is vic - to - ry.
and may they for - get the chan - nel, see - ing on - ly him.

“Dual Citizenship to the Glory of King Jesus”

Acts 22: 22-30

²² Up to this word they listened to him. Then they raised their voices and said, “Away with such a fellow from the earth! For he should not be allowed to live.” ²³ And as they were shouting and throwing off their cloaks and flinging dust into the air, ²⁴ the tribune ordered him to be brought into the barracks, saying that he should be examined by flogging, to find out why they were shouting against him like this. ²⁵ But when they had stretched him out for the whips, Paul said to the centurion who was standing by, “Is it lawful for you to flog a man who is a Roman citizen and uncondemned?” ²⁶ When the centurion heard this, he went to the tribune and said to him, “What are you about to do? For this man is a Roman citizen.” ²⁷ So the tribune came and said to him, “Tell me, are you a Roman citizen?” And he said, “Yes.” ²⁸ The tribune answered, “I bought this citizenship for a large sum.” Paul said, “But I am a citizen by birth.” ²⁹ So those who were about to examine him withdrew from him immediately, and the tribune also was afraid, for he realized that Paul was a Roman citizen and that he had bound him.

³⁰ But on the next day, desiring to know the real reason why he was being accused by the Jews, he unbound him and commanded the chief priests and all the council to meet, and he brought Paul down and set him before them.

❖ Hymn of Response #196

*Come, Thou Long-
Expected Jesus*

Congregation

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

196

Waiting for the consolation of Israel. Luke 2:25

1. Come, thou long - ex - spect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
 2. Joy to those who long to see thee, Day-spring from on high, ap - pear;
 3. Come to earth to taste our sad - ness, he whose glo - ries knew no end;
 4. Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,

from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
 come, thou prom - ised Rod of Jes - se, of thy birth we long to hear!
 by his life he brings us glad - ness, our Re - deem - er, Shep - herd, Friend.
 born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.

Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
 O'er the hills the an - gels sing - ing news, glad tid - ings of a birth:
 Leav - ing rich - es with - out num - ber, born with - in a cat - tle stall;
 By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;

dear De - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
 "Go to him, your prais - es bring - ing; Christ the Lord has come to earth."
 this the ev - er - last - ing won - der, Christ was born the Lord of all.
 by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it, raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

Pastor

Pastor: May the Lord bless you and keep you; may the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; may the Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace.

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 ~~*

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

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.

FCCW Nursery Reopening!

The sweet music of babies' voices can be heard in our sanctuary these days. We are always excited to welcome young families to FCCW and to have the privilege of teaching both parents and their children about the sustaining love of Christ. In order to best nurture the young children (ages 0-5), we would like to once again provide a Nursery program from 9 am-12 noon each Sunday.

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." Mark 9:36-37

We are pleased to announce that Jean Panoushek, a familiar face at WCCC (and the first weekly FCCW Nursery Attendant back in the 1980's!), will oversee the Nursery on Sunday mornings once again. She will be the consistent, loving adult who greets the children each week, but we will also need volunteers to support her. Some of the children will require holding, feeding and rocking, but others will spend the entire time playing and engaging with their peers and/or the adults in the room.

The plan is to reopen the FCCW Nursery on **Sunday, September 5**. Please prayerfully consider how you might contribute to the reopening of our Nursery. Even if it is only one Sunday, we'll be grateful for your participation. We'll provide a user-friendly, Bible-based curriculum for Jean and the volunteer to facilitate each week (with no prep necessary by the volunteers). Ideally, we'll be looking for adults who can summon their playful side to assist Jean with sharing a Bible story and possibly playing a game or making a simple craft each week.

This labor of love is guaranteed to make you smile and to lift the heart of a young child and a parent or two. If you are able to help, contact one of the Nursery Committee members listed below as soon as possible. May this ministry be a blessing to all!

With many thanks,

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

Save the Date!

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.

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.

More information will be forthcoming. Watch for the sign-up in the Billings room and (perhaps) online.

Please direct all inquiries to Jeff DeDell at dedellcrew@gmail.com

August Newsletter is on the Table in the Narthex.

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.

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.

Dual Citizenship to the Glory of King Jesus

1. The Crowd Came Unhinged in Their Hatred of Paul (22-24).

2. Paul Claimed His Rights as a Roman Citizen (25-29).

3. God Had Perfectly Prepared Paul for His Calling.

4. He Has Likewise Prepared Us for Ours.

CONCLUSION: This is the second time Paul has offered his Roman citizenship to protest his treatment by government authorities. How would Christ have us use our blessings, status, privilege, etc. to honor His name? When is self-preservation warranted? When is it not? How do you tell the difference? How does Paul's situation remind us of God's faithfulness? Why can we trust Him with our lives?

Acts 16:35-40

But when it was day, the magistrates sent the police, saying, "Let those men go." And the jailer reported these words to Paul, saying, "The magistrates have sent to let you go. Therefore come out now and go in peace." But Paul said to them, "They have beaten us publicly, uncondemned, men who are Roman citizens, and have thrown us into prison; and do they now throw us out secretly? No! Let them come themselves and take us out." The police reported these words to the magistrates, and they were afraid when they heard that they were Roman citizens. So they came and apologized to them. And they took them out and asked them to leave the city. So they went out of the prison and visited Lydia. And when they had seen the brothers, they encouraged them and departed.

Ephesians 2:13-22

But now in Christ Jesus *you who once were far off* have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

Hebrews 11:13-16

These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

Taking Gathered Worship Home

I am grateful to the Lord for what He has given me, I just wish He had also given me _____. Have you ever thought that? I confess that I have far too many times. But the second part of the statement negates the first part. Biblical gratitude expresses faith in Christ who has given us all that we have and has also decreed what we don't have. Let's look to Him in faith this week.

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 2:39; 16:35-40; 22:22-30; Ephesians 2:13-22; Hebrews 11:13-16; Jeremiah 29:10-14.** DISCUSS How had God prepared Paul before he was even born? How does God's provision for Paul encourage us now? PRAY "Lord Christ, teach us to trust You with all of our lives. Holy Spirit, open our eyes to Your purposes."

Sunday Evening

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

Monday

READ **Acts 22:22-30; Isaiah 66:18-19a; Ephesians 2:13-22.** DISCUSS How was God's plan for gathering the nations aided by Paul's citizenship? How is He gathering those who were far off? MEDITATE on **Acts 2:39.** PRAY, "Lord Jesus, thank You for Your faithfulness. By Your Holy Spirit help us to rest in Your faithfulness as You make us faithful too."

Tuesday

READ **Acts 22:22-30; 16:35-40; 23:26-30.** DISCUSS What is recorded about Paul's Roman citizenship? How does God use it to facilitate Paul's witness to Christ's resurrection? How are you trusting Christ's preparations in your life to step out in faith and do what He commands? MEDITATE on **Acts 2:39.** PRAY, "Lord, thank You for Your faithfulness in giving us all we need. Guide us, Holy Spirit. "

Wednesday

READ **Acts 22:22-30; Hebrews 11:13-16; Ephesians 2:13-22**. DISCUSS, What did the saints in Hebrews have? What were they lacking? Why? MEDITATE on **Acts 2:39**. PRAY, “Lord, thank You for providing us all that we need. Make our hearts truly grateful. Teach us joy that springs from trusting You with our whole lives.”

Thursday

READ **Acts 22:22-30; Jeremiah 29:10-14**. DISCUSS, What are the plans that God has for us? How can we trust Him with them? MEDITATE on **Acts 2:39**. PRAY, Lord You alone are Wise. Teach us to trust Your wisdom and rejoice in what You have planned for us.”

Friday

READ **Acts 22:22-30; 16:35-40; Ephesians 2:13-22; Hebrews 11:13-16; Jeremiah 29:10-14**. 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 **Acts 2:39**. 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 23:1-35**. Invite others to join you for either *the in-person or live-stream service* tomorrow. Ask Jesus to make us pure as doves and shrewd as serpents.

Acts 2:39

*“For the promise is for you and for your children
and for all who are far off,
everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.”*