



The \_\_\_\_\_  
First Congregational Church  
of Woodstock \_\_\_\_\_

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

*September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023*



**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.**

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

**Congregation: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic<sup>1</sup> church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

|                         |  |                    |
|-------------------------|--|--------------------|
| ❖ Creedal Song #731     | <i>Doxology</i>                              | Congregation       |
| ❖ Scripture Reading     | John 15:12-17                                | Elder              |
| ❖ Hymn of Reflection    | <i>Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing</i>     | Congregation       |
| The Sermon              | Psalm 143:1-12<br><i>"A Servant's Song"</i>  | Pastor Doug Warren |
| ❖ Hymn of Response #498 | <i>Jesus! What a Friend<br/>for Sinners!</i> | Congregation       |
| Communion               |  | Congregation       |
| ❖ Communion Hymn #500   | <i>Rock of Ages</i>                          | Congregation       |
| ❖ Benediction           | Romans 15:13                                 | Pastor             |

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

Postlude

---

*~~ Organist: Jonathan Denham ~~  
~~ Please ensure cell phones are off ~~  
Prelude: A Mighty Fortress (Pachelbel)  
Offertory: Jesus Messiah (Arr. Leatherman)  
Postlude: Hyfrydol (Johnson)*

---

<sup>1</sup> The term "catholic" is used here in its generic sense of the universal church, not to refer to a denomination.

~~~~~

## Save the Date!

**Saturday, September 9** — 11:00 am-1:00 pm Alice Frick Memorial Service

**Sunday, September 10** — Sunday School begins at 9:00; Worship Service at 10:30 am.

**Tuesday, September 12** — 10:00 am Ladies' Bible Study resumes

**Saturday, September 16** — Family Hike up Mt. Ascutney

**Friday, September 22** — 5:00-7:00 pm COT Hot Dogs & S'mores on the FCCW lawn

**Sunday, October 29** — Missionary Visit with the Klassens (stay tuned for details!)

~~~~~

## Nursery Volunteers Needed

Can you give one Sunday to help minister to the youngest members of our church family? If you are willing to help one Sunday or more, you can find the sign-up sheet in the Billings Room, or contact Karis Warren at [karis.warren@gmail.com](mailto:karis.warren@gmail.com) or (207) 329-4190. Thank you!

~~~~~

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

~~~~~

## Adult Sunday School--begins September 10

**Sunday, September 10** - Adult Sunday School begins at 9:00 AM, with a special 12 lesson study "Who is the Holy Spirit?" from Ligonier Ministries. In this video-based lecture series, Dr. Sinclair Ferguson will deepen our understanding of this Person of the Holy Trinity in such a way that we may come to know, not only the mighty works that He has done, but also how we may have fellowship with Him as He continues to work in the lives of God's children. The nature and character of the Holy Spirit is wonderful to behold; please join with us, for this amazing study is sure to be of great benefit to the Christian.

~~~~~

~~~~~

## Tuesday Morning Ladies' Bible Study

The Ladies' Bible Study will be resuming on Tuesday September 12<sup>th</sup> after their summer hiatus. The study meets in person at 10:00 am at the Thompson Senior Center and via Zoom. Contact Bonnie Atwood at (802) 457-4120 or [bonhope2@gmail.com](mailto:bonhope2@gmail.com) for more information.

~~~~~

## Join the WCCC Teaching Team!

Are you looking for rewarding work with young children, part or full time? Woodstock Christian Child Care (WCCC) has immediate openings for part-time or full-time Trainees, Teacher Assistants, or Teachers for our full-day program for ages 6 weeks to PreK, and our After School Program for PreK to Grade 2. This is a great opportunity for college students interested in ECE, nursing, or human services to gain experience. WCCC has been serving children and families in the area for 29 years. If you are 18 years old or older, enjoy children, or would like to explore a career in early childhood education, please contact the WCCC Executive Director Ruth Brisson at [rbrissonwccc@gmail.com](mailto:rbrissonwccc@gmail.com). Thank you!

~~~~~

## Family Hike

A family hike is being planned for September 16<sup>th</sup> up Mount Ascutney Vermont. Please let Joe Trottier or Dan Bruce know if you would like to join. Joe's number is 603-729-7104. Dan's number is 802-345-8870. Ascutney is a small mountain but depending on age, experience and the shape you are in, it will get your attention.

~~~~~

The September Prayer Letter is available on the back table.

~~~~~

## **A Servant's Song**

**1. Psalmist Approaches God Based on God's Character.**

**2. Psalmist Cries Out to God Based on His Relationship.**

**3. What Does All This Mean for Us in Christ?**

**CONCLUSION:** How can we ever approach a righteous and faithful God in all our sinfulness? David, inspired by the Holy Spirit, not only saw a way, but rejoiced in it amidst his troubles and humbly called upon God to hear and answer his cry for deliverance. We have been given even more confidence in God's trustworthiness and holiness because of Christ. Let us cry out to God Himself, that He might hear us and answer us in His mercy.

### First Kings 8:44-45; 9:3

“If your people go out to battle against their enemy, by whatever way you shall send them, and *they pray to the LORD* toward the city that you have chosen and the house that I have built for your name, then *hear in heaven their prayer* and their plea, *and maintain their cause* ... <sup>3</sup> And the LORD said to him, “*I have heard your prayer and your plea*, which you have made before me. I have consecrated this house that you have built, by putting my name there forever. *My eyes and my heart will be there for all time.*”

### John 15:12-17

<sup>12</sup> “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup> Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. <sup>14</sup> You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup> *No longer do I call you servants*, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. <sup>16</sup> You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that *whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.* <sup>17</sup> These things I command you, so that you will love one another.

### Jude 1:25-27

Jude, a *servant* of Jesus Christ and brother of James, to those who are called, *beloved in God the Father* and kept for Jesus Christ: May mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you. Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for *the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints*. For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

### Hebrews 6:17-20

So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath, so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us. We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

### Psalms 89:14

<sup>14</sup> **Righteousness** and justice are the foundation of your throne; steadfast love and **faithfulness** go before you.

### Isaiah 11:1-5

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,

and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

<sup>2</sup> And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him,

the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,

the Spirit of counsel and might,

the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of

the LORD.

<sup>3</sup> And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,

or decide disputes by what his ears hear,

<sup>4</sup> but with *righteousness* he shall judge the poor,

and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;

and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,

and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

<sup>5</sup> *Righteousness* shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

# Taking Gathered Worship Home

By God's grace David understood himself as a servant of the LORD. In facing his fears, difficulties, and enemies, he called out to his Lord based on God's character and the relationship he enjoyed in God's mercy. How does God's kindness and righteousness so evident in Christ affect our prayers and songs to God?

*Please use the devotional material below each day this week to praise Christ.*

## Sunday Morning

READ **Psalm 143:1-12; First Kings 8:44-45; 9:3; John 15:12-17; Jude 1:25-27; Hebrews 6:17-20; Isaiah 11:1-5; Psalm 89:14.** DISCUSS How do you typically call out to God for deliverance? How is that prayer informed by Scripture? By Christ? MEDITATE on **Proverbs 15:29; Philippians 3:8b-11.** PRAY "O Lord, *You are our God.* Not because of anything in us, but solely because of Your mercy."

## Sunday Evening

**Young Adult Fellowship** meets at 6pm in the church library.

## Monday

READ **Psalm 143:1-12; First Kings 8:44-45; 9:3.** DISCUSS How does Solomon instruct God's people to pray? Why? How is that different for us now? How is it the same? How does God answer him? SERVE by taking time to help someone! MEDITATE on **Proverbs 15:29; Philippians 3:8b-11.** PRAY, "O Lord, save us! We have no hope except You."

## Tuesday

READ **Psalm 143:1-12; John 15:12-17; Jude 1:25-27.** DISCUSS How does Jesus modify how we ought to understand ourselves compared to David? Why? What does John mean saying we in Christ are friends with God? How is that to affect our prayers? How does Jude use both servant and beloved of God? MEDITATE on **Proverbs 15:29; Philippians 3:8b-11.** PRAY, "O Lord, deliver us from our own pride and idiocy. There is none but You who can save us. Thank You for Your matchless mercy in Christ."



### Wednesday

READ **Psalm 143:1-12; Hebrews 6:17-20**. DISCUSS What does it mean for us to be co-heirs with Christ? Why does the Father hear us? MEDITATE on **Proverbs 15:29; Philippians 3:8b-11**. PRAY, “O Lord, forgive us our forgetfulness. Teach us to remember Your faithfulness and righteousness in all our prayers.”

### Thursday

READ **Psalm 143:1-12; Psalm 89:14; Isaiah 11:1-5**. DISCUSS What is the role of righteousness and faithfulness in Isaiah’s image of the Branch? SERVE by putting someone else’s interests *above your own!* MEDITATE on **Proverbs 15:29; Philippians 3:8b-11**. PRAY, “Lord, let us ever praise Your righteousness and faithfulness.”

### Friday

READ **Psalm 143:1-12; First Kings 8:44-45; 9:3; John 15:12-17; Jude 1:25-27; Hebrews 6:17-20; Isaiah 11:1-5; Psalm 89:14**. DISCUSS What has God been teaching you this week? SERVE by *caring for someone in need!* MEDITATE on **Proverbs 15:29; Philippians 3:8b-11**. PRAY that we at FCCW would *trust Christ together*.

### Saturday

PREPARE today for *gathered Sunday worship tomorrow*. CONSIDER Why has God called us to gather with God’s people tomorrow? READ **Exodus 20:1-21**. *Invite others to join you tomorrow for the worship service @ 10:30 am*. PRAY, “Lord, gather us together *to delight in You*.”

## Proverbs 15:29; Philippians 3:8b-11

*The Lord is far from the wicked, but he hears the prayer of the **righteous**.*

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.