



The _____
First Congregational Church
of Woodstock _____

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

September 6th, 2020

The Order of Morning Worship

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

September 6th, 2020

Nine-thirty

Welcome

Pastor Doug Warren

Prelude & Silent Prayer

❖ Call to Worship

Isaiah 6: 1 – 3

In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. ² Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. ³ And one called to another and said:

“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory!”

❖ Hymn of Exultation

Number 296

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!

God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name.
Phil. 2:9

1. All hail the pow'r of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels pros - trate fall;
2. Crown him, ye mar - tyrs of your God, who from his al - far call;
3. Ye seed of Is - rael's cho - sen race, ye ran - somed of the fall,
4. Sin - ners, whose love can ne'er for - get the worm - wood and the gall,

bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem, and crown him Lord of all;
ex - tol the Stem of Jes - se's rod, and crown him Lord of all;
hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all;
go, spread your tro - phies at his feet, and crown him Lord of all;

bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem, and crown him Lord of all.
ex - tol the Stem of Jes - se's rod, and crown him Lord of all.
hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all.
go, spread your tro - phies at his feet, and crown him Lord of all.

5. Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe,
on this terrestrial ball,
to him all majesty ascribe,
and crown him Lord of all;
to him all majesty ascribe,
and crown him Lord of all.

6. O that with yonder sacred throng
we at his feet may fall;
we'll join the everlasting song,
and crown him Lord of all;
we'll join the everlasting song,
and crown him Lord of all.

St. 1-5, Edward Perronet, 1779; alt.
St. 6, John Rippon, 1787

CORONATION C.M. rep.
Oliver Holden, 1793

- ¹⁵ For thus said the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel,
“In returning and rest you shall be saved;
in quietness and in trust shall be your strength.”
But you were unwilling, ¹⁶ and you said,
“No! We will flee upon horses”;
therefore you shall flee away;
and, “We will ride upon swift steeds”;
therefore your pursuers shall be swift.
- ¹⁷ A thousand shall flee at the threat of one;
at the threat of five you shall flee,
till you are left
like a flagstaff on the top of a mountain,
like a signal on a hill.
- ¹⁸ Therefore the LORD waits to be gracious to you,
and therefore he exalts himself to show mercy to you.
For the LORD is a God of justice;
blessed are all those who wait for him.

Collective Confession

Psalm 51: 1 – 4

Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out our transgressions. Wash us thoroughly from our iniquity, and cleanse us from our sin! For we know our transgressions, and our sin is ever before us. Against you, you only, have we sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.

Proclamation of Forgiveness

Romans 8: 1 – 4

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. ³ For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. 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.

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

Pastoral Prayer

The Sermon

Acts 10: 17 – 29

Pastor Doug Warren

“Peter: A Perplexed But Willing Subject”

Acts 10: 17 – 29

¹⁷ Now while Peter was inwardly perplexed as to what the vision that he had seen might mean, behold, the men who were sent by Cornelius, having made inquiry for Simon's house, stood at the gate ¹⁸ and called out to ask whether Simon who was called Peter was lodging there. ¹⁹ And while Peter was pondering the vision, the Spirit said to him, “Behold, three men are looking for you. ²⁰ Rise and go down and accompany them without hesitation, for I have sent them.” ²¹ And Peter went down to the men and said, “I am the one you are looking for. What is the reason for your coming?” ²² And they said, “Cornelius, a centurion, an upright and God-fearing man, who is well spoken of by the whole Jewish nation, was directed by a holy angel to send for you to come to his house and to hear what you have to say.” ²³ So he invited them in to be his guests.

The next day he rose and went away with them, and some of the brothers from Joppa accompanied him. ²⁴ And on the following day they entered Caesarea. Cornelius was expecting them and had called together his relatives and close friends. ²⁵ When Peter entered, Cornelius met him

and fell down at his feet and worshiped him. ²⁶ But Peter lifted him up, saying, “Stand up; I too am a man.” ²⁷ And as he talked with him, he went in and found many persons gathered. ²⁸ And he said to them, “You yourselves know how unlawful it is for a Jew to associate with or to visit anyone of another nation, but God has shown me that I should not call any person common or unclean. ²⁹ So when I was sent for, I came without objection. I ask then why you sent for me.”

❖ Hymn of Commitment

Number 308

Jesus Paid It All

Jesus Paid It All

308

Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool. Is. 1:18

D G D A Bm A D

1. I hear the Sav - ior say, "Your strength in - deed is small,
 2. Lord, now in - deed I find your power, and yours a - lone,
 3. For noth - ing good have I where - by your grace to claim—
 4. And when, be - fore the throne, I stand in him com - plete,

G D G D/A A⁷ D

child of weak - ness, watch and pray, find in me your all in all."
 can change the lep - er's spots, and melt the heart of stone.
 I'll wash my gar - ments white in the blood of Cal - v'ry's Lamb.
 "Je - sus died my soul to save," my lips shall still re - peat.

REFRAIN
 D G D A

Je - sus paid it all, all to him I owe;

D G D D⁷ G E⁷ D/A A⁷ D⁷

sin had left a crim - son stain, he washed it white as snow.

❖ Hymn

Number 421

“Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness”

“Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come.”
... “Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!” Rev. 19:7, 9

1. Soul, a - dorn your-self with glad - ness, leave the gloom-y haunts of sad - ness,
 2. Has - ten as a bride to meet him, ea - ger - ly and glad-ly greet him.
 3. Now in faith I hum-bly pon - der o - ver this sur-pass-ing won - der
 4. Je - sus, source of last-ing plea - sure, tru - est friend and dear-est trea - sure,

come in - to the day-light's splen - dor, there with joy your prais-es ren - der.
 There he stands al - read - y knock - ing; quick - ly, now, your gate un - lock - ing,
 that the bread of life is bound-less though the souls it feeds are count - less;
 peace be - yond all un - der - stand - ing, joy in - to all life ex - pand - ing:

Bless the One whose grace un - bound - ed this a - maz - ing ban-quet found-ed;
 o - pen wide the fast-closed por - tal, say - ing to the Lord im - mor - tal:
 with the choic - est wine of heav - en Christ's own blood to us is giv - en.
 hum - bly now, I bow be - fore you, love in - car - nate, I a - dore you;

he, though heav'n-ly, high, and ho - ly, deigns to dwell with you most low - ly.
 “Come, and leave your loved one nev - er; dwell with - in my heart for - ev - er.”
 Oh, most glo - rious con - so - la - tion, pledge and seal of my sal - va - tion.
 wor - thi - ly let me re - ceive you, and, so fa-vored, nev - er leave you.

Benediction

Hebrews 13: 20 – 21

²⁰ Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, ²¹ equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

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

Postlude

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

Deacons' Offering Next Sunday

This month's Deacons' offering will go towards the work of the Community Outreach Team. The Community Outreach Team reaches into the community with Food Drives for local food shelves, Free Books, Dinner To-Go and much more. What defines the Woodstock Community? As defined by the Woodstock Listserv, the Woodstock Community is defined as the town of Woodstock and each town which has a border with the town of Woodstock. What is our Church Community? Anywhere a Christian lives. It does not matter where you live, you can bring the work of the Community Outreach Team to your local community by being involved, by sharing the gospel with your friends and neighbors, and by inviting your friends and neighbors to participate in the events the COT offers. If you any questions about the COT, please speak to a Community Outreach Team Member – Jennifer Barnes, Hayley Bauer, Ruth Brisson (Co – Chair), Keri Bristow, Brenda Byrne, Jeff DeDell (Co – Chair), Sheryl Hoehner, or Lisa Kaija.

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.

Tuesday Morning Ladies Bible Study

The Tuesday morning ladies Bible study will resume meeting on September 15th. For more details, please contact Bonnie Atwood at 802 – 457 – 4120 or email her at bonhope2@gmail.com.

Leadership Training

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN. Calling all men willing to consider serving in the church! We will be holding two more leadership training sessions in the next few months. Please plan on participating if you are able. It is necessary for current and potential officers, but helpful for any guy wanting to walk more closely with Christ.

September 12 Loving the Congregation with Servant Leadership
October 10 Pastoral Care

All four sessions will be held at FCCW on Saturdays from 9-noon. Please RSVP to fccwinfo@gmail.com.

Substitutes Needed

The Woodstock Christian Childcare is planning to reopen the end of August. 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 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 disciples a Young Adult Fellowship Group to grow the faith of the 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.

Peter: A Perplexed But Willing Subject

1. Peter Is Perplexed (17-19).
2. The Holy Spirit Leads Peter to Obey (20-29; Romans 8:26-30).
3. Jesus Is Reigning So that We Would All Joyfully Obey Him.

The Lord is preparing Peter for an enormous shift in how He will expand His Kingdom beyond Israel to include men and women from every tribe, tongue, and nation in the whole earth. While Peter struggles mightily with doubt, by the power of the Holy Spirit he follows the Lord by faith. Following Jesus can be terrifying. Yet He holds on to us and leads us on to trust Him more and more each day.

Luke 22: 31 – 34

³¹ “Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, ³² **but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail.** And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.”³³ Peter said to him, “Lord, I am ready to go with you both to prison and to death.” ³⁴ Jesus said, “I tell you, Peter, the rooster will not crow this day, until you deny three times that you know me.”

Romans 8: 26 – 30

²⁶ Likewise **the Spirit helps us in our weakness.** For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. 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.

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

Peter was so stupid! He just couldn't seem to get it. Jesus had to die to save us from our sin. Jesus kept telling Him. Kept showing him. But he was dense. He even went so far as to rebuke Jesus. But God would not leave Peter in his foolishness. Yet, even after the resurrection and the Holy Spirit coming, Peter still struggled with doubt. Praise the Lord, God will not leave him (or us) there forever. Jesus is redeeming us.

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 10:17-29; Mark 9:24; Luke 22:31-34; Romans 8:26-30.** DISCUSS, What do you do with your doubts? How does the promise of Christ to sustain our faith bring you comfort? What are you doing to ponder the wonder of the gospel? How are you praising Christ? PRAY "Lord King, faith is a gift from you. Even so we struggle to believe You in our daily lives. Help us Lord to *truly trust You entirely* moment by moment."

Sunday Evening

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

Monday

READ **Acts 10:17-29; Luke 17:5-6 Mark 8:1-26.** DISCUSS, The disciples cried out, "Increase our faith!" when faced with the daunting challenge of loving others as Christ loves us. But Christ's focus was not on the *amount* of faith, but the *object* of our faith. He is able! How does Mark show the same struggle? PRAY, "Jesus, teach us to trust You and to remember Your eternal faithfulness."

Tuesday

READ **Acts 10:17-29; Mark 8:27-38; Second Timothy 1:8-12.** DISCUSS, What are "God's interests" that Peter is not following in Mark? How does that relate to our struggle with faith? How has Jesus secured us? PRAY, "Jesus, thank You for holding on to us even when we cannot hold on to You. Thank You for *faithfully securing us forever.*"

Wednesday

READ **Acts 10:17-29; Mark 9:1-16; Romans 14:1-4**. DISCUSS, Who enabled the disciples to stand on the mountain before the Lord in Mark? Who will enable the weak in faith to stand (Romans)? Notice how quickly the disciples go from the mountaintop experience to being overwhelmed with the clamor of the crowd. What tends to distract you? PRAY, “Lord, forgive us for all the ways we doubt and disobey You. Enable us to trust You, to live our daily lives in ways that demonstrate that trust.”

Thursday

READ **Acts 10:17-29; Mark 9:17-32; Luke 22:31-32**. DISCUSS, Have you found yourself crying out, “I believe; help my unbelief!” like the father in Mark? Or find yourself doubting like Peter? How do you depend upon Christ especially in those moments? 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 10:17-29; Mark 9:24; Luke 22:31-34; Romans 8:26-30**. DISCUSS, How has God been teaching you from these passages this week? REJOICE if God has granted you the gift of faith in Christ! 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; First Corinthians 15:1-8**. Invite others to join you for either the *live-stream or in-person service* tomorrow. Ask Jesus to help us love our neighbors well.

Mark 9: 24, 32

Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, “I believe; help my unbelief!” ... But they did not understand ... and were afraid to ask him.