

The _____
First Congregational Church
of Woodstock _____

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

October 17th, 2021

The Order of Morning Worship

October 17th, 2021

Ten-thirty

Welcome

Pastor Doug Warren

- ❖ Call to Worship Psalm 19 Congregation
- Pastor: The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim
 the work of His hands.
- Congregation: Day after day they pour forth speech; night after
 night they acknowledge His glory.**
- Pastor: There is no land or nation where their voice is not heard.
- Congregation: Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to
 the ends of the world.**
- ❖ Hymn of Exultation #642 *Be Thou My Vision* Congregation

Be Thou My Vision

642

Whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. Phil. 3:7

Unison

1. Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart; naught be all
 2. Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word; I ev - er
 3. Be thou my bat - tle shield, sword for my fight; be thou my
 4. Rich - es I heed not, nor man's emp - ty praise, thou mine in -
 5. High King of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won, may I reach

else to me, save that thou art— thou my best thought by
 with thee and thou with me, Lord; thou my great Fa - ther,
 dig - ni - ty, thou my de - light, thou my soul's shel - ter,
 her - i - tance, now and al - ways: thou and thou on - ly,
 heav - en's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun! Heart of my own heart, what -

day or by night, wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 I thy true son; thou in me dwell - ing, and I with thee one.
 thou my high tow'r: raise thou me heav'n-ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
 first in my heart, High King of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
 ev - er be - fall, still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Ancient Irish poem, ca. 8th cent.
 Tr. by Mary E. Byrne, 1905
 Versified by Eleanor H. Hull, 1912

Tune arr. © 1927 from the *Revised Church Hymnary* by permission of Oxford University Press.

SLANE 10.10.10.
 Traditional Irish melody
 Arr. by David Evans, 1927

For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea... “Of what value is an idol, since a man has carved it? Or an image that teaches lies? For he who makes it trusts in his own creation; he makes idols that cannot speak. Woe to him who says to wood, ‘Come to life!’ Or to lifeless stone, ‘Wake up!’ Can it give guidance? It is covered with gold and silver; there is no breath in it. But the LORD is in his holy temple; let all the earth be silent before him.”

Collective Confession

Psalm 25

Congregation

Remember Your mercy, O LORD, and Your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. Remember not the sins of our youth or our transgressions; according to Your steadfast love remember us, for the sake of Your goodness, O LORD! For Your name's sake, O LORD, pardon our guilt, for it is great. Turn to us and be gracious to us, for we are lonely and afflicted. The troubles of our hearts are enlarged; bring us out of our distresses. Consider our affliction and our trouble, and forgive all our sins.

Silent Reflection and Confession

Proclamation of Forgiveness

Romans 8:1

Pastor

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Offering

(collected from back to front)

Congregation

Affirmation of Faith

*The Nicene Creed*¹

Congregation

Pastor: Christian, what is it that we believe?

Congregation: We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us

¹ The Nicene Creed originated at the Council of Nicea (325). It was formulated to answer heresies that denied the biblical doctrine of the Trinity and of the person of Christ.

under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets; and we believe in one holy catholic² and apostolic church; we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

❖ Creedal Song

Barocha

Congregation

² The term "catholic" here means universal and does not mean any particular denomination.

Barocha

Words and Music by
Michael Card

B \flat 7
E \flat
B \flat
E \flat /B \flat
E \flat
A \flat

1. The Lord _____ bless you and keep _____ you. The Lord make His
 (2. The) Lord be gra - cious to _____ you. The Lord turn His

6
E \flat
B \flat
A \flat /B \flat
B \flat

face shine up - on _____ you, and give you peace, and give you
 face _____ to - wards _____ you, and give you peace, and give you

12
B \flat 7
E \flat
A \flat /E \flat
E \flat
B \flat
1. E \flat
2. B

peace, and give you peace _ for - ev - er. 2. The er. The
 peace, and give you peace _ for - ev -

18
E
B
E/B
E
A
E/A
F#m/A
E
D#°/E
C#m/E

Lord bless you and keep _____ you. The Lord make His face shine up -

24
B
C#m/B
B
N.C.
B
B7(no3)

-on _____ you, and give you peace, and give you peace,

30
E
A/E
E
D#°/E
C#m/E
B
B^{9sus}
E
B

and give you peace _ for - ev - er. And give you peace,

36
N.C.
B
E
B
E

and give you peace, and give you peace _ for - ev - er.

Scripture Reading

Job 19:25-27

Pastor

For I know that my Redeemer lives,
and at the last he will stand upon the earth.
²⁶ And after my skin has been thus destroyed,
yet in my flesh I shall see God,
²⁷ whom I shall see for myself,
and my eyes shall behold, and not another.
My heart faints within me!

Pastor: The grass withers, the flower fades,

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

Pastoral Prayer

Pastor

❖ Hymn of Reflection #644

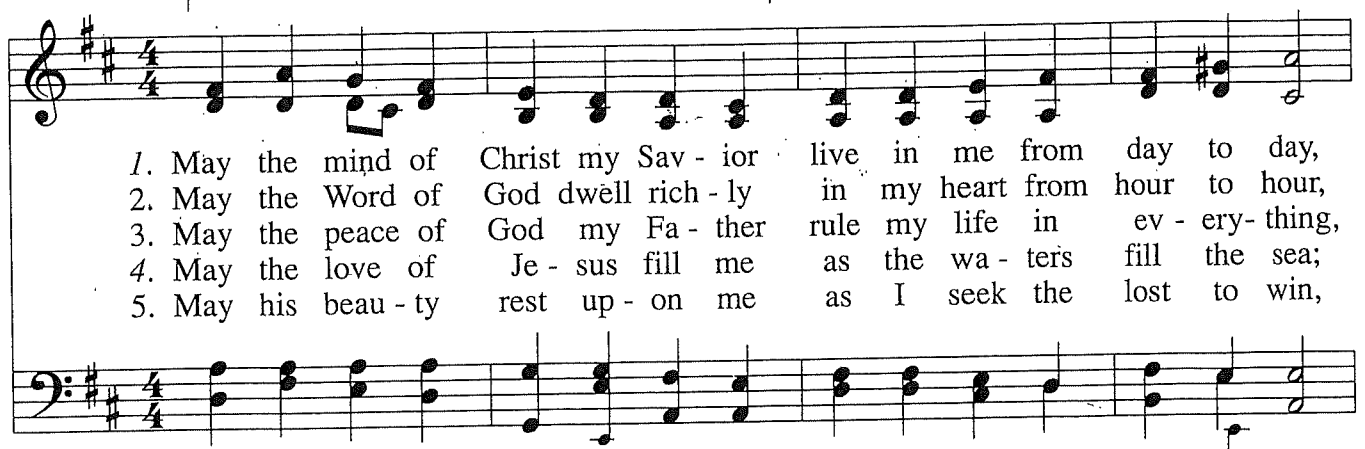
*May the Mind of
Christ My Savior*

Congregation

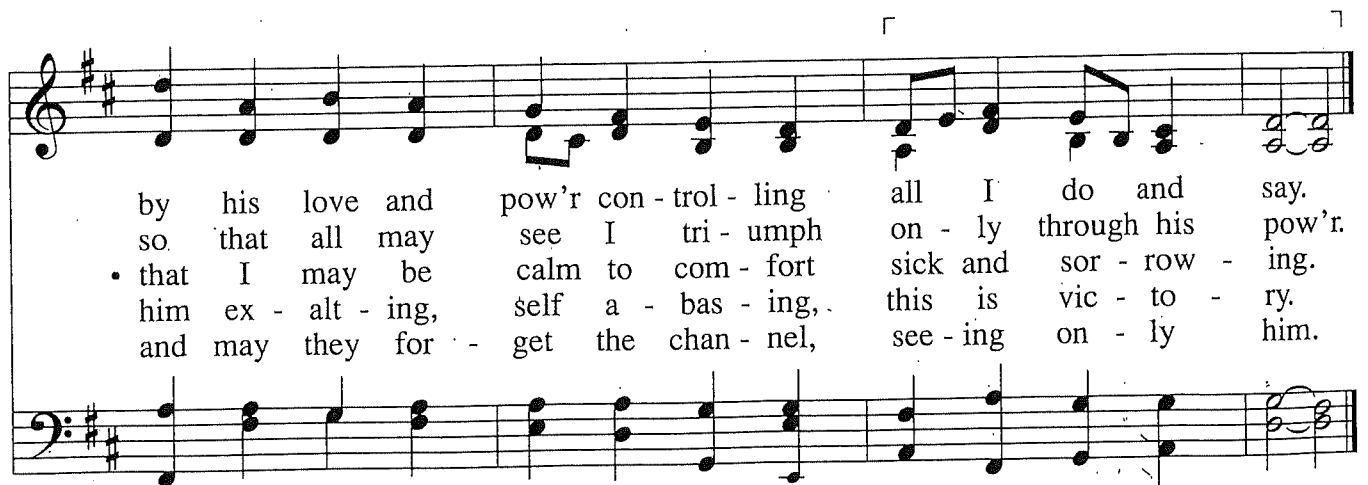
May the Mind of Christ My Savior

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 - ters 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.

“Paul’s Testimony: Hopeful Obedience”

Acts 26:1-32

So Agrippa said to Paul, “You have permission to speak for yourself.” Then Paul stretched out his hand and made his defense:

²“I consider myself fortunate that it is before you, King Agrippa, I am going to make my defense today against all the accusations of the Jews,³ especially because you are familiar with all the customs and controversies of the Jews. Therefore I beg you to listen to me patiently.

⁴“My manner of life from my youth, spent from the beginning among my own nation and in Jerusalem, is known by all the Jews. ⁵They have known for a long time, if they are willing to testify, that according to the strictest party of our religion I have lived as a Pharisee. ⁶And now I stand here on trial because of my hope in the promise made by God to our fathers, ⁷to which our twelve tribes hope to attain, as they earnestly worship night and day. And for this hope I am accused by Jews, O king! ⁸Why is it thought incredible by any of you that God raises the dead?

⁹“I myself was convinced that I ought to do many things in opposing the name of Jesus of Nazareth. ¹⁰And I did so in Jerusalem. I not only locked up many of the saints in prison after receiving authority from the chief priests, but when they were put to death I cast my vote against them. ¹¹And I punished them often in all the synagogues and tried to make them blaspheme, and in raging fury against them I persecuted them even to foreign cities.

¹²“In this connection I journeyed to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests. ¹³At midday, O king, I saw on the way a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, that shone around me and those who journeyed with me. ¹⁴And when we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew language, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.’ ¹⁵And I said, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ And the Lord said, ‘I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. ¹⁶But rise and stand upon your feet, for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you as a servant and witness to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you, ¹⁷delivering you from your people and from the Gentiles—to whom I am sending you ¹⁸to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may

receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.’

¹⁹“Therefore, O King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, ²⁰but declared first to those in Damascus, then in Jerusalem and throughout all the region of Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds in keeping with their repentance. ²¹For this reason the Jews seized me in the temple and tried to kill me. ²²To this day I have had the help that comes from God, and so I stand here testifying both to small and great, saying nothing but what the prophets and Moses said would come to pass: ²³that the Christ must suffer and that, by being the first to rise from the dead, he would proclaim light both to our people and to the Gentiles.”

²⁴And as he was saying these things in his defense, Festus said with a loud voice, “Paul, you are out of your mind; your great learning is driving you out of your mind.” ²⁵But Paul said, “I am not out of my mind, most excellent Festus, but I am speaking true and rational words. ²⁶For the king knows about these things, and to him I speak boldly. For I am persuaded that none of these things has escaped his notice, for this has not been done in a corner. ²⁷King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know that you believe.” ²⁸And Agrippa said to Paul, “In a short time would you persuade me to be a Christian?” ²⁹And Paul said, “Whether short or long, I would to God that not only you but also all who hear me this day might become such as I am—except for these chains.”

³⁰Then the king rose, and the governor and Bernice and those who were sitting with them. ³¹And when they had withdrawn, they said to one another, “This man is doing nothing to deserve death or imprisonment.” ³²And Agrippa said to Festus, “This man could have been set free if he had not appealed to Caesar.”

❖ Hymn of Response #521

*My Hope Is Built
on Nothing Less*

Congregation

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

No one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.

1 Cor. 3:11

Capo 3: F(D) C(A) F(D) B \flat (G)

1. My hope is built on noth - ing less than Je - sus' blood and
 2. When dark - ness veils his love - ly face, I rest on his un -
 3. His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood - sup - port me in the
 4. When he shall come with trum - pet sound, O may I then in

C(A) F(D) C(A) F(D)

right - teous - ness; I dare not trust the sweet - est frame, but
 chang - ing grace; in ev - ery high and storm - y gale, my
 whelm - ing flood; when all a - round my soul gives way, he
 him be found; dressed in his right - teous - ness a - lone, fault -

B \flat (G) C(A) F(D) REFRAIN B \flat (G)

whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
 an - chor holds with - in the veil. On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; all
 then is all my hope and stay.
 less to stand be - fore the throne.

F(D) C(A) F(D) B \flat (G) F(D) C 7 (A 7) F(D)

oth - er ground is sink - ing sand, all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

Benediction

2 Corinthians 13: 14

Pastor

Pastor: The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

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 ~~

Congregational Family Meeting

There will be a special Congregational Family Meeting today, immediately following the worship service.

The elders and deacons will present the budget process for 2022 and there will be time for Questions & Answers as well as discussion.

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

Women's Ministry Survey

Ladies, 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. Return completed surveys to Annie Denham. Thank you!

Save the Date:

The Annual Meeting will be held Thursday, November 11th, 7:00-9:00 pm.

FCCW Library is Online!

The library committee is pleased to announce the new online access to the FCCW library catalog. You will find the link at the bottom of the library page on the church website <https://fccw.net/church-library/>

The service can be used on a smartphone or computer.

Type in a name or topic.

Presently the online catalog can only tell you if we own an item- it will not tell you if the item has been checked out. You will have to come to the library to check the shelf.

Click on “grid” to see a screen showing of all the items we have that match you search. The “list” choice gives a one item at a time view.

You will have to cut and paste a subject heading from a particular item into the search box if you want to find out if we have other items that share the subject.

When you do check out an item, please include the year in the date column of the card at the back of the item. A calendar is found at the checkout area. Please also include either a phone number or email address in the appropriate column of the card. You will see a basket in which to leave the completed card.

Questions? fccwoodstocklibrary@gmail.com

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.

Teachers Needed

WCCC is in need of **Teachers/Assistants**, and **Substitutes**. Please contact Ruth Brisson at rbrissonwccc@gmail.com or 410-925-7959, if you are interested in serving in any of these roles.

The October newsletter is on the table in the narthex.

Paul's Testimony: Hopeful Obedience

- 1. Paul Is On Trial for His Hope in God's Promise (1-8).**
- 2. Paul Testifies to the Risen Jesus Who Delivers from Sin (9-23).**
- 3. How Did Festus and Agrippa Respond? (24-32)**

CONCLUSION: Paul is giving his defense of his belief in the risen Lord Jesus. He makes the case that everything he is doing completely makes sense in light of the resurrection of Jesus. His words are convicting. So much so that Festus declares that he is crazy and Agrippa withdraws to avoid conversion. What about you? Is the resurrection of Jesus your only hope? And if He is our only hope are we living our whole lives in conformity with that truth?

Why surprised? The *Resurrection* is the central hope of Judaism.

Job 19:25-27

For I know that my Redeemer lives,
and at the last he will stand upon the earth
And after my skin has been thus destroyed, *yet in my flesh I shall see God,*
whom I shall see for myself,
and my eyes shall behold, and not another. My heart faints within me!

Psalms 73:23-26

Nevertheless, I am continually with you; you hold my right hand.
²⁴ You guide me with your counsel, and *afterward you will receive me to glory.*
²⁵ Whom have I in heaven but you?
And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you.
²⁶ My flesh and my heart may fail,
but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

Isaiah 26:19-21

Your dead shall live; their bodies shall rise.
You who dwell in the dust, awake and sing for joy!
For your dew is a dew of light, and the earth will give birth to the dead.
²⁰ Come, my people, enter your chambers,
and shut your doors behind you; hide yourselves for a little while
until the fury has passed by.
²¹ For behold, the Lord is coming out from his place
to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity,
and the earth will disclose the blood shed on it,
and will no more cover its slain.

Daniel 12:1-2

“At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book. And *many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.*

Taking Gathered Worship Home

How would you summarize Christianity? One way is living in light of the hope of Christ's resurrection. This week we see Paul giving expression to this hope as central to everything that it means to trust in Jesus. Let's look deeper into what he means and how we might do the same.

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 26:1-32; Job 19:25-27; Psalm 73:23-26; Isaiah 26:19-21; Daniel 12:1-2; First Corinthians 1:18-25.** DISCUSS Why is the resurrection so central to Judaism/Christianity? How are you depending on Jesus alone? MEDITATE on **Matthew 22:29-33.** PRAY "Lord Jesus, *You alone have conquered death.* We praise You!"

Sunday Evening

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

Monday

READ **Acts 26:1-32; Job 19:25-27; Psalm 17:15; First John 3:1-3.** DISCUSS What does it mean "And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God"? When is the Psalmist expecting to see God? What has yet to be revealed? What does John's hope lead him to do? Why? MEDITATE on **Matthew 22:29-33.** PRAY "Lord Jesus, thank You for Your promise to return for us. We long to see You face-to-face and to be transformed into Your likeness when we will sin no more. Allow this hope to drive us always."

Tuesday

READ **Acts 26:1-32; Psalm 16:9-11; 49:14-15; 73:23-26.** DISCUSS How is the Psalmist's hope in the resurrection central to his song? How does this same hope inform what you do? What other false hopes compete for your trust? MEDITATE on **Matthew 22:29-33.** PRAY "Lord, keep us from bowing to idols. Teach us to trust in You alone with all that we think, say, and do."

Wednesday

READ **Acts 26:1-32; Isaiah 26:19-21; Daniel 3:1-2**. DISCUSS Everyone who has ever lived will be raised, either to eternal life or everlasting death. Why? How does this provide hope? Terror? How does Jesus make all the difference? MEDITATE on **Matthew 22:29-33**. PRAY “Lord, You are the Judge of all the earth. You have created all that there is and we will all answer You with our lives. Have mercy on us, we pray.”

Thursday

READ **Acts 26:1-32; First Corinthians 1:18-25; Colossians 2:1-10**. DISCUSS How does the world tend to reckon wisdom? How does God see wisdom differently? How does God use the foolish things of this world to show His wisdom? How are you living in resurrection power today? MEDITATE on **Matthew 22:29-33**. PRAY “Jesus, help us to trust You in life and death.”

Friday

READ **Acts 26:1-32; Job 19:25-27; Psalm 73:23-26; Isaiah 26:19-21; Daniel 12:1-2; First Corinthians 1:18-25**. DISCUSS What have you been learning from these passages this week? REPENT of ways that you don't obey Christ's Word! MEDITATE on **Matthew 22:29-33**. PRAY for FCCW.

Saturday

PREPARE today for the worship service tomorrow. READ **Acts 27:1-28:31**. Invite others to join you for either *in-person or live-stream service* tomorrow. Ask Jesus to empower us with His life.

Matthew 22:29-33

But **Jesus answered them**, “You are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God. For **in the resurrection** they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. And as for the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was said to you by God: ‘I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? **He is not God of the dead, but of the living.**” And when the crowd heard it, they were astonished at his teaching.