



The _____
First Congregational Church
of Woodstock _____

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

October 25th, 2020

The Order of Morning Worship

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

October 25th, 2020

Ten-thirty

Welcome

Pastor Doug Warren

Prelude & Silent Prayer

❖ Call to Worship

Psalm 34

Pastor: I will bless the LORD at all times

Congregation: His praise shall continually be in my mouth.

Pastor: My soul makes its boast in the LORD; let the humble hear
and be glad.

**Congregation: Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his
name together.**

❖ Hymn of Exultation

Number 1

All People That on Earth Do Dwell

All People That on Earth Do Dwell

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. Ps. 100:1

1. All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, sing
2. The Lord ye know is God in - deed; with -
3. O en - ter then his gates with praise, ap -
4. For why? The Lord our God is good, his

to the Lord with cheer - ful voice; him serve with fear, his
out our aid he did us make; we are his folk, he
proach with joy his courts un - to; praise, laud, and bless his
mer - cy is for - ev - er sure; his truth at all times

praise forth - tell, come ye be - fore him and re - joice.
doth us feed, and for his sheep he doth us take.
name al - ways, for it is seem - ly so to do.
firm - ly stood, and shall from age to age en - dure.

Scriptural Call to Repentance

1 John 1: 8 – 9

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

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.

Proclamation of Forgiveness

Jeremiah 33:8

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.

Scripture Reading

Matthew 10: 16 – 22

¹⁶ "Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. ¹⁷ Beware of men, for they will deliver you over to courts and flog you in their synagogues, ¹⁸ and you will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them and the Gentiles. ¹⁹ When they deliver you over, do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour. ²⁰ For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. ²¹ Brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death, ²² and you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.
Congregation: Thanks be to God.

Historical Reflection

Reformation Sunday

❖ Hymn

Number 92

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Ps. 46:1

1. A might - y for - tress is our God, a bul - wark nev - er
 2. Did we in our own strength con - fide, our striv - ing would be
 3. And though this world, with dev - ils filled, should threat - en to un -
 4. That Word a - bove all earth - ly pow'rs, no thanks to them, a -

fail - ing; our help - er he a - mid the flood of
 los - ing; were not the right man on our side, the
 do us, we will not fear, for God hath willed his
 bid - eth; the Spir - it and the gifts are ours through

mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing. For still our an - cient foe
 man of God's own choos - ing. Dost ask who that may be?
 truth to tri - umph through us. The prince of dark - ness grim,
 him who with us sid - eth. Let goods and kin - dred go,

doth seek to work us woe; his craft and pow'r are great;
 Christ Je - sus, it is he, Lord Sa - ba - oth his name
 we trem - ble not for him; his rage we can en - dure,
 this mor - tal life al - so; the bod - y they may kill:

and armed with cru - el hate, on earth is not his e - - qual.
 from age to age the same, and he must win the bat - tle.
 for lo! his doom is sure; one lit - tle word shall fell him.
 God's truth a - bid - eth still; his king - dom is for - ev - er.

Based on Psalm 46
 Martin Luther, 1529
 Tr. by Frederick H. Hedge, 1853

EIN' FESTE BURG 8.7.8.7.6.6.6.7.
 Martin Luther, 1529

Pastoral Prayer

The Sermon

Pastor Doug Warren

“Contrast of Kings”

Acts 12: 18 – 25

¹⁸ Now when day came, there was no little disturbance among the soldiers over what had become of Peter. ¹⁹ And after Herod searched for him and did not find him, he examined the sentries and ordered that they should be put to death. Then he went down from Judea to Caesarea and spent time there.

²⁰ Now Herod was angry with the people of Tyre and Sidon, and they came to him with one accord, and having persuaded Blastus, the king's chamberlain, they asked for peace, because their country depended on the king's country for food. ²¹ On an appointed day Herod put on his royal robes, took his seat upon the throne, and delivered an oration to them. ²² And the people were shouting, “The voice of a god, and not of a man!” ²³ Immediately an angel of the Lord struck him down, because he did not give God the glory, and he was eaten by worms and breathed his last.

²⁴ But the word of God increased and multiplied.

²⁵ And Barnabas and Saul returned from Jerusalem when they had completed their service, bringing with them John, whose other name was Mark.

❖ Hymn of Commitment

Before The Throne Of God Above

Words by
Charitie Lees Bancroft
and Vikki Cook

Music by
Vikki Cook

$\text{♩} = 76$

VERSE

D Em/D D

1. Be - fore the throne of God a - bove I have a strong and per - fect
2. When Sa - tan tempts me to de - spair, and tells me of the guilt with -
3. Be - hold Him there, the ris - en Lamb, my per - fect spot - less right - eous -
4. I bow be - fore the cross of Christ, and mar - vel at this love di -

4 F#m G A Bm G Em G/A

plea, a great High Priest whose name is love, who ev - er lives and pleads for
-in, up - ward I look and see Him there, who made an end to all my
-ness, the great un - change - a - ble "I Am", the King of glo - ry and of
-vine, God's per - fect Son was sac - ri - ficed to make me right - eous in God's

8 D G D/F# A^{sus} A D G D/F#

me. My name is grav - en on His hands, my name is writ - ten on His
sin. Be - cause the sin - less Sav - iour died my sin - ful soul is count - ed
grace. One with Him - self I can - not die, my soul is pur - chased with His
eyes. This riv - er's depths I can - not know, but I can glo - ry in its

12 Bm G D/F# A Bm Bm/A G Em G/A

heart; I know that while in heav'n He stands, no tongue can bid me thence de -
 free, for God the Just is sat - is - fied to look on Him and par - don
 blood; My life is hid with Christ on high, with Christ, my Sav - iour and my
 flood; The Lord Most High has bowed down low, and poured on me His glo - rious

16 Bm G Em G/A D **CHORUS** Am C

-part, no tongue can bid me thence de - part. Hal - le - lu - jah, my life is
 me, to look on Him and par - don me.
 God, with Christ, my Sav-iour and my God.
 love, and poured on me His glo - rious love.

21 G D Am

found in Je - sus Christ. Hal - le - lu -

24 C G D

-jah, for I am His and He is mine.

Benediction

John 14: 27

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 ~~

Creative Vesper Services

You are invited to a hymn sing! The Deaconesses are thinking of creative ways to serve our brothers and sisters at The Homestead and Merten's House since our Vesper's service has been placed on indefinite hold. We will video our "Volunteer Choir" on Sunday, November 8, immediately following the Worship Service, in the Billings Room. Hymns will be provided. Let us sing praises to our King and bring joy to our brethren!

Since capacity is restricted, please rsvp to Judy Stabolepszy if you are interested in attending at judystabo@yahoo.com or 802-299-9074.

Fall Back – Spring Ahead

Next Saturday, October 31 we will return to standard time. Set your clocks back before bed on Saturday night and enjoy an extra hour of sleep.

Reception for Tom and Karen Evans

The Deaconesses will host a farewell reception for Tom and Karen Evans on November 1 after the morning worship service. There will be a basket for cards and notes from their FCCW family.

Men's Fellowship Hike

Date: Sunday November 1st immediately following the morning Worship Service

Location: hike to the Cloudland lean-to from Cloudland Road in South Pomfret.

Time commitment: roughly 30 – 45 minute hike each way to and from the lean-to (partially on the AT), 1.5 hours for a meal and a discussion. Total time is expected to be 3 – 3.5 hours, including travel to the trailhead.

Food: Free bratwurst and hot dogs (pre-ordered) with the fixin's and a side dish. Each man will cook his own meat over a fire. The side dish will be precooked and ready to eat. Bring your own drinks.

Other considerations: Hunting season will close for muzzleloaders on the 1st and open deer season begins on the 14th. The hike will still be held during moderately inclement weather – snow or rain. I will have a fire going for men to dry out and warm themselves and we will have a dry three-sided lean-to for our use. Bring extra warm clothing.

What is required from you?

1. Sign up in advance so we can make food purchases. Let me know what your preference is, hot dogs or bratwurst.
2. Sign up in advance so we can organize carpooling to the very small trailhead parking area.
3. **Sign up in advance** (see the theme?) **no later than Tuesday October 27th**. Contact me directly via email at dedellcrew@gmail.com or call me at 457-3773. **There will be NO Billings Room signup sheet.**

I'm hoping that you can join us. We truly need to reconnect as men with a shared faith,

Jeff DeDell

New Ladies Bible Study

The Peace that Passes Understanding | YouTube Bible Study for Women presented by Robyn Huck

How are you doing these days?

When I ask that question to friends and people I counsel, they often respond with a description of being worried and tired out. Anxiety and weariness are what many people are feeling during this strange and complicated time. In this study series we'll examine God's Word and discover what is said about both anxiety and weariness. We'll find out how faith in Christ can be the ultimate antidote to anxiety and weariness because faith allows us to cultivate true peace.

The first session of the study is now available on YouTube. This session actually contains three separate videos. The first video is the Bible study session. The second video is an introduction to the ideas behind the practice of Christian meditation for the purpose of relaxation. The third video is a guided Christian meditation that can be used to help those who are experiencing sleeplessness as a symptom of anxiety. The meditation portion will not appeal to everyone — and that's okay. Feel free to participate in the study and dismiss the meditation video entirely. People with more severe anxiety and insomnia may enjoy it very much and can return to it as frequently as desired.

This study will be rolled out over the fall of 2020. The goal is to have new study and meditation videos uploaded to the church's YouTube channel on Monday mornings — but, the way life is right now, that can't be guaranteed! Subscribing to the channel and paying attention to the emails from Terri are your best ways of finding out when a new session is available. Once they are on the channel you can access them at any time of day or night you choose. Feel free to share the links and invite friends to participate. Anxiety is a global experience right now, and Scripture contains the one perfect antidote.

This link will take you to the full playlist:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLEkz5rDRznqhfJCK2HCORci4QS7mioiQP>

May God bless us with His perfect peace.

Any questions please contact Robyn at 802-457-3072 or email her at robynhuck@gmail.com

Substitutes Needed

The WCCC is in need of more substitute teachers and assistants. 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 center, staff, and the families.

Sunday School Collection

The Sunday School offering goes towards supporting Joram Serwanga and Habibah Komugave in Uganda. Our support helps provide food, clothing, and school fees for the children. There is a box on the table behind the last pews to drop your Sunday School offering into. You can also give online at <http://www.fccw.net/donate>.

Looking Ahead – Mark Your Calendars

November 5 – Fall Virtual Supper Talk with John Meinen. See your October Newsletter or the weekly reminders for more details.

November 12 – Annual Meeting

November 14 - Coat/Gloves/Hat Drive, more details to come in the November Newsletter

Contrast of Kings

- 1. King Jesus Deliveres While Herod Kills.**
- 2. Herod's Words Bring Death, God's Word Brings Life.**
- 3. King Jesus' Reign Frees Us to Serve Him as He Calls Us.**

This chapter (and the whole first half of Acts) closes with the death of Herod as a clear indication of the sovereign reign of King Jesus through His judgment. Their rule and kingdoms are contrasted to show us not only Christ's superiority, but to encourage us to trust our Lord in all that He has promised. His kingdom is expanding throughout all the earth until He comes again just like He said. He is in charge at every step along the way so that we can joyfully yield to His leading and do our King's bidding faithfully.

Isaiah 48: 9 – 15

“For my name’s sake I defer my anger;
for the sake of my praise I restrain it for you,
that I may not cut you off.

Behold, I have refined you, but not as silver;
I have tried you in the furnace of affliction.
For my own sake, for my own sake, I do it,
for how should my name be profaned?

My glory I will not give to another.

“Listen to me, O Jacob & Israel, whom I called!
I am he; I am the first, and I am the last.
My hand laid the foundation of the earth,
and my right hand spread out the heavens;
when I call to them, they stand forth together.

Zechariah 14: 1 – 21

Behold, a day is coming for the Lord,
And **the Lord will be king over all the earth**. On that day the Lord will
be one and his name one ...

And this shall be the plague with which the Lord will strike all the peoples
that wage war against Jerusalem: **their flesh will rot while they are still
standing on their feet**, their eyes will rot in their sockets, and their tongues
will rot in their mouths.

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

All the kingdoms of this earth will eventually come to nothing. Food for worms. But there is one Kingdom that will remain forever. There is one King who reigns with justice and mercy and whose rule brings life rather than death. Come and bow before that King! Let us give Him all of our lives together, for He alone is the Lord worthy of all praise.

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 12:18-25; Luke 10:17-20; Matthew 10:16-22**. DISCUSS, How does King Jesus' Word bring life? How does Herod's bring death? How does Herod's kingdom represent all earthly kingdoms? What are the ways you typically rely too much on earthly kingdoms? PRAY "Lord King, we praise You as our King. We thank You for already winning the war against evil and death. Help us now to stand strong in Your truth and love."

Sunday Evening

Young Adults' Fellowship at **6:00** tonight in the FCCW library.

Monday

READ **Acts 12:18-25; Isaiah 48:9-15**. DISCUSS, Why is God so jealous for His glory? How is this not a weakness for God whereas it is for any earthly king? How are we most apt to steal His glory? PRAY, "Jesus, You are the King of Kings. Teach us to give You alone all glory, honor, and praise!"

Tuesday

READ **Acts 12:18-25; Zechariah 14:1-21**. DISCUSS, What will happen in the day of the Lord to all earthly kingdoms? Why? How does Christ's rule enable us to walk by faith now? PRAY, "Jesus, thank You for protecting us and ruling over Your Kingdom expansion with grace and truth. Teach us to be faithful ambassadors of Your Kingdom."

Wednesday

READ **Acts 12:18-25; Isaiah 14:9-11; Second Peter 1:3-21**. DISCUSS, How do these passage contrast Christ's Kingdom with those of this world? PRAY, "Lord Jesus, You are our King. We praise and honor You and ask that You would help us follow You faithfully."

Thursday

READ **Acts 12:18-25; Luke 10:17-20; Hebrews 12:18-29**. DISCUSS, King Jesus will one day definitively put down all other rulers and be shown to be the only King. How are you waiting on that day? What is your confidence on this earth? PRAY, “Lord, Jesus, come quickly, Lord. Help us as we wait on You.”

Friday

READ **Acts 12:18-25; Luke 10:17-20; Matthew 10:16-22**. DISCUSS, How has God been teaching you from these passages this week? REJOICE if God has been generous to you in faith in Christ! PRAY for renewal and revival across our land.

Saturday

PREPARE today for the worship service tomorrow. *Both live-stream & in-person services are available.*

READ **Acts 13:1-15:35**. Invite others to join you for either the *live-stream or in-person service* tomorrow. Ask Jesus to help us love our neighbors well.

Luke 10:17 – 20

The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!” And he said to them, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”

Isaiah 14: 9 – 11

Sheol beneath is stirred up to meet you when you come;
it rouses the shades to greet you,
all who were leaders of the earth;
it raises from their thrones all who were kings of the nations.

All of them will answer and say to you:

‘You too have become as weak as we!

You have become like us!’

Your pomp is brought down to Sheol, the sound of your harps;
maggots are laid as a bed beneath you,
and worms are your covers.