



The _____
First Congregational Church
of Woodstock _____

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

January 10th, 2021

The Order of Morning Worship

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

January 10th, 2021

Ten-thirty

Welcome

Elder Keith Tallon

Prelude & Silent Prayer

❖ Call to Worship

Psalm 86

We will praise you, O Lord our God, with our whole
Elder: hearts; we will glorify your name forever; for you have
delivered us from the power of death.

**Congregation: Bring joy to your servants, O Lord, for to you we lift
up our souls. There is none like you; no deeds can
compare with yours.**

All the nations you have made will come and worship
Elder: before you. They will bring glory to your name, for you
alone are God.

**Congregation: Teach us now your way, O Lord, and we will live in
your truth. Give us undivided hearts that we may fear
and praise your great name.**

❖ Hymn of Exultation

Number 660

O God beyond All Praising

O God beyond All Praising

I will praise you, O LORD, with all my heart. Ps. 138:1

Unison

1. O God be - yond all prais - ing, we wor - ship you to - day
2. Then hear, O gra - cious Sav - ior, ac - cept the love we bring,

and sing the love a - maz - ing that songs can - not re - pay;
that we who know your fa - vor may serve you as our King;

for we can on - ly won - der at ev - ery gift you send,
and wheth - er our to - mor - rows be filled with good or ill,

at bless - ings with - out num - ber and mer - cies with - out end:
we'll tri - umph through 'our sor - rows and rise to bless you still:

we lift our hearts be - fore you and wait up - on your word,
to mar - vel at your beau - ty and glo - ry in your ways,

we hon - or and a - dore you, our great and might - y Lord.
and make a joy - ful du - ty our sac - ri - fice of praise.

Michael Perry, 1982

THAXTED 13.13.13.13.13.13.
From Gustav Holst, *The Planets*, 1918

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Scriptural Call to Repentance

Psalm 46: 8 – 9

The nations rage, the kingdoms totter; He utters His voice, the earth melts. The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. Come, behold the works of the LORD, how he has brought desolations on the earth; he breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the chariots with fire.

Collective Confession

Holy Father, we long to have you change our hearts. We confess to You that we do not obey You as we should. We don't think Your thoughts, speak Your truth, or do the good that You command. We do not love our neighbors as You have loved us. We bend the truth to our own purposes. We harbor bitterness when we don't get our own way. We neglect and leave the oppressed with no defender. We break Your holy law and delight in what You have forbidden. Merciful Lord, we humbly ask that You would forgive us and change our hearts. Conform us to the image of Your Son. Holy Spirit, work in us we pray, that we might be like You.

Proclamation of Forgiveness

Psalm 130: 3, 7 – 8

If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand? O Israel, put your hope in the Lord, for with the Lord is unfailing love and with Him is full redemption. He Himself will redeem Israel from all their sins.

Scripture Reading

John 14: 10

Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own, but the Father, as He remains in Me, does His works.

Elder: The Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

Pastoral Prayer

❖ Hymn of Reflection

Number 486

God, Be Merciful to Me

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love. Ps. 51:1

1. God, be mer - ci - ful to me, on thy grace I rest my plea;
 2. My trans - gres - sions I con - fess, grief and guilt my soul op - press;
 3. I am e - vil, born in sin; thou de - sir - est truth with - in.
 4. Bro - ken, hum - bled to the dust by thy wrath and judg - ment just,

plen - teous in com - pas - sion thou, blot out my trans - gres - sions now;
 I have sinned a - gainst thy grace and pro - voked thee to thy face;
 Thou a - lone my Sav - ior art, teach thy wis - dom to my heart;
 let my con - trite heart re - joice and in glad - ness hear thy voice;

wash me, make me pure with - in, cleanse, O cleanse me from my sin.
 I con - fess thy judg - ment just, speech - less, I thy mer - cy trust.
 make me pure, thy grace be - stow, wash me whit - er than the snow.
 from my sins O hide thy face, blot them out in bound - less grace.

5. Gracious God, my heart renew,
 make my spirit right and true;
 cast me not away from thee,
 let thy Spirit dwell in me;
 thy salvation's joy impart,
 steadfast make my willing heart.

6. Sinners then shall learn from me
 and return, O God, to thee;
 Savior, all my guilt remove,
 and my tongue shall sing thy love;
 touch my silent lips, O Lord,
 and my mouth shall praise accord.

“The Supremacy of Christ”

Hebrews 3: 1 – 6

Therefore, holy brothers *and sisters*, partakers of a heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession: Jesus; ²He was faithful to Him who appointed Him, as Moses also was in all His house. ³For He has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses, by just so much as the builder of the house has more honor than the house. ⁴For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God. ⁵Now Moses was faithful in all God’s house as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken *later*; ⁶but Christ *was faithful* as a Son over His house—whose house we are, if we hold firmly to our confidence and the boast of our hope.

Colossians 1: 15 – 20

¹⁵He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation: ¹⁶for by Him all things were created, *both* in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones, or dominions, or rulers, or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. ¹⁸He is also the head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹For it was the *Father’s* good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, ²⁰and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.

❖ Hymn of Response

Number 459

I Am Not Skilled to Understand

God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior. Acts 5:31

1. I am not skilled to un - der - stand what God has willed, what God has
 2. I take him at his word in - deed: “Christ died for sin - ners,” this I
 3. That he should leave his place on high and come for sin - ful man to
 4. And oh, that he ful - filled may see the tra - vail of his soul in
 5. Yes, liv - ing, dy - ing, let me bring my strength, my sol - ace from thine

planned; I on - ly know at his right hand is One who is my Sav - ior!
 read; for in my heart I find a need of him to be my Sav - ior!
 • die, you count it strange? so once did I, be - fore I knew my Sav - ior!
 me, and with his work con - tent - ed be, as I with my dear Sav - ior!
 spring; that he who lives to be my King once died to be my Sav - ior!

Dora Greenwell, 1873

GREENWELL 8.8.8.7.
 William J. Kirkpatrick, 1885

Benediction

Jude 24 – 25

Elder: To Him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before His glorious presence without fault and with great joy—to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forever more.

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 ~~

Deacons' Offering

Today, we will be collecting for the monthly Deacons' Offering.

Our church receives many requests for help from not just within our church body but the community at large. The Deacons' have a great many opportunities to share God's love with folks in need, whether it is paying a bill for them or buying them a pair of glasses. This is a vital ministry that our church has to reach into our communities and share the gospel in a loving, gracious way. If you are in need or know someone who is, please contact Dan Bruce, the Deacons' Mercy Minister at 802-457-3975 or email him at rhondan08@myfairpoint.net.

Welcome Baby Joy

Jonathan and Annie Denham would like to announce the birth of Joy Amanda! She weighs 7 pounds 8 oz. – and her birthday is Wednesday, December 30th.

Christmas Eve Offering

This year's recipient of the Christmas Eve Offering will be Bethany Birches Camp in Plymouth, VT. They have many needs but in particular a new camp vehicle. Their old vehicle died, and they currently have a donated vehicle but that too is old. Through their virtual auction some funds were pledged to purchase a new camp vehicle but not enough. The Christmas Eve Offering will go towards helping to purchase the new camp vehicle. For more information about Bethany Birches, please go to <https://www.bethanybirches.org/>.

If you were unable to attend the Christmas Eve Service, but would like to give to the Christmas Eve Offering, you still can put your contribution in the offering box; mail it to FCCW at 36 Elm Street, Woodstock, VT 05091; or give online until January 10. Make checks payable to FCCW with a note in the memo line stating Christmas Eve Offering. Please put cash in an envelope with Christmas Eve Offering written on the outside of the envelope.

Any questions, please contact the Mission Board: Keri Bristow, Bonnie Atwood, Dave Christensen, Anne Koop, Stacy Selbo, or Nancy Stockwell.

No Young Adult Fellowship Group January 10.

Morning Worship Service: Hebrews 3: 1 – 6 and Colossians 1: 15 – 20

The Supremacy of Christ

1. What is the supremacy of Christ?

2. Is Christ Creator?

3. How should this reflect our view of the Savior?

Taking Gathered Worship Home

To whom do I give thanks in ALL things? Jesus Christ should be the complete focus of our affection and gratitude. It is only through the grace of Christ that we can receive all things with praise to Him.

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 Hebrews 3:1-6 and Colossians 1:15-20 Be prepared for the morning service. Are my thoughts on Jesus? Am I submitting to His way? PRAY “Risen Lord, thank You for conquering death. Enable us to joyfully submit to Your holy rule and reign over all things!”

Monday

READ Hebrews 3:1-6. Matthew 6:19-21 DISCUSS, What are the thoughts that Jesus thought? How do I live out my life that reflects the thoughts of Jesus? How does giving praise to our God honor Jesus? PRAY, “Jesus, as Your Kingdom expands according to Your proclamation, teach us to acknowledge You as the Sovereign One over all things!”

Tuesday

READ Hebrews 3:1-6; Numbers 12:3-8 DISCUSS, How am I living my life as a “house built by God”? Do I give thanks to God for ALL He has given me? Do I consider myself to be my own person or do I belong to God? Am I a humble person? PRAY, “Jesus, we Praise You for Your great love for Your people. Teach us to trust and obey You all our days. You have begun a work in us, let us trust you for everything?”

Wednesday

READ Hebrews 3:1-6; Colossians 1:15-20 DISCUSS, What exists in this world that Jesus did not have anything to do with? Do I trust Jesus with everything in my life? Why? Why not? Pray “Guide my thinking Lord, Holy Spirit show me and convict me of behavior that reveals to me my lack of trust in you Jesus? Teach me to live in the power of Your presence in me?”

Thursday

READ Hebrews 3:1-6; Colossians 1:15-20 DISCUSS, Who leads the church? Who leads our church, FCCW? Do I yield to the very God Who made us? Or Do I attempt to go my own way? Can I express my thankfulness for the lot that has been cast? Why? Why not? PRAY, “Jesus, You are our Lord and Savior. Thank you for Your love for us and Your desire for us to walk with You. Enable us to obey You absolutely with great joy and give praise appropriately.”

Friday

READ Hebrews 3:1-6; Colossians 1:15-20; John 5:21-23 DISCUSS, How has God been teaching you from these passages this week? What does the truth that Jesus came to redeem us and lived the perfect life, worthy of our praise and worship? REJOICE “Since we are in Christ Jesus, His house, guide us to listen to You and trust you in ALL things. PRAY for renewal and revival across our land.”

Saturday

PREPARE today for the worship service tomorrow, January 17. Both live-stream & in-person services are available.

READ Acts 14: 1-7 Invite others to join you tomorrow for either the live-stream or in-person service. Ask Jesus to help us love our neighbors well.

Matthew 6: 19 – 21

¹⁹ “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; ²¹ for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.