



The _____
First Congregational Church
of Woodstock _____

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

November 15th, 2020

The Order of Morning Worship

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

November 15th, 2020

Ten-thirty

Welcome

Pastor Doug Warren

Prelude & Silent Prayer

❖ Call to Worship

Psalm 19

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

Number 310

Rejoice, the Lord Is King

Rejoice, the Lord Is King

310

After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. Heb. 1:3

1. Re - joi - ce, the Lord is King: your Lord and King a - dore! Re -
 2. Je - sus the Sav - ior reigns, the God of truth and love; when
 3. His king - dom can - not fail, he rules o'er earth and heav'n; the
 4. He sits at God's right hand till all his foes sub - mit, and
 5. Re - joi - ce in glo - rious hope! Our Lord, the Judge, shall come, and

REFRAIN

joice, give thanks, and sing, and tri - umph ev - er - more.
 he had purged our stains, he took his seat a - bove.
 • keys of death and hell are to our Je - sus giv'n. Lift up your
 bow to his com - mand, and fall be - neath his feet.
 take his ser - vants up to their e - ter - nal home.

heart, lift up your voice! Re - joi - ce, a - gain I say, re - joi - ce!

Scriptural Call to Repentance

Habakkuk 2:14, 18 – 20

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

Psalms 25

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

Proclamation of Forgiveness

Romans 8:1

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

Scripture Reading

1 Corinthians 2: 1 – 13

And when I came to you, brothers *and sisters*, I did not come as *someone* superior in speaking ability or wisdom, as I proclaimed to you the testimony of God.² For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.³ I also was with you in weakness and fear, and in great trembling,⁴ and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power,⁵ so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of mankind, but on the power of God.

⁶ Yet we do speak wisdom among those who are mature; a wisdom, however, not of this age nor of the rulers of this age, who are passing away;⁷ but we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the hidden *wisdom* which God predestined before the ages to our glory;⁸ *the wisdom* which none of the rulers of this age has understood; for if they had understood it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory;⁹ but just as it is written:

“THINGS WHICH EYE HAS NOT SEEN AND EAR HAS NOT HEARD,
AND *WHICH* HAVE NOT ENTERED THE HUMAN HEART,
ALL THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM.”

¹⁰ For to us God revealed *them* through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. ¹¹ For who among people knows the *thoughts* of a person except the spirit of the person that is in him? So also the *thoughts* of God no one knows, except the Spirit of God. ¹² Now we have not received the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God. ¹³ We also speak these things, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual *thoughts* with spiritual *words*.

Pastor: The grass withers, the flower fades,

Congregation: But the word of our God will stand forever.

Pastoral Prayer

❖ Hymn of Reflection

Number 75

O Father, You Are Sovereign

O Father, You Are Sovereign

The LORD Almighty has purposed, and who can thwart him? His hand is stretched out, and who can turn it back? Is. 14:27

1. O Fa - ther, you are sov - ereign in all the worlds you made;
 2. O Fa - ther, you are sov - ereign in all af - fairs of man;
 3. O Fa - ther, you are sov - ereign, the Lord of hu - man pain,
 4. O Fa - ther, you are sov - ereign! We see you dim - ly now,

your might - y word was spo - ken and light and life o - beyed.
 no pow'rs of death or dark - ness can thwart your per - fect plan.
 trans - mut - ing earth - ly sor - rows to gold of heav'n - ly gain.
 but soon be - fore your tri - umph earth's ev - ery knee shall bow.

Your voice com - mands the sea - sons and bounds the o - cean's shore,
 All chance and change tran - scend - ing, su - preme in time and space,
 All e - vil o - ver - rul - ing, as none but Con - qu'ror could,
 With this glad hope be - fore us our faith springs up a - new:

sets stars with - in their cours - es and stills the tem - pest's roar.
 you hold your trust - ing chil - dren se - cure in your em - brace.
 your love pur - sues its pur - pose—our souls' e - ter - nal good.
 our sov - ereign Lord and Sav - ior, we trust and wor - ship you!

“*Message of This Salvation*”

Acts 13: 26 – 43

²⁶ “Brothers, sons of Abraham’s family, and those among you who fear God, to us the message of this salvation has been sent. ²⁷ For those who live in Jerusalem, and their rulers, recognizing neither Him nor the declarations of the prophets which are read every Sabbath, fulfilled *these* by condemning *Him*. ²⁸ And though they found no grounds for *putting Him to death*, they asked Pilate that He be executed. ²⁹ When they had carried out everything that was written concerning Him, they took Him down from the cross and laid Him in a tomb. ³⁰ But God raised Him from the dead; ³¹ and for many days He appeared to those who came up with Him from Galilee to Jerusalem, the very ones who are now His witnesses to the people. ³² And we preach to you the good news of the promise made to the fathers, ³³ that God has fulfilled this *promise* to those of us *who are the* descendants by raising Jesus, as it is also written in the second Psalm: ‘YOU ARE MY SON; TODAY I HAVE FATHERED YOU.’ ³⁴ *As for the fact* that He raised Him from the dead, never again to return to decay, He has spoken in this way: ‘I WILL GIVE YOU THE HOLY AND FAITHFUL *MERCIES* OF DAVID.’ ³⁵ Therefore, He also says in another *Psalm*: ‘YOU WILL NOT ALLOW YOUR HOLY ONE TO UNDERGO DECAY.’ ³⁶ For David, after he had served God’s purpose in his own generation, fell asleep, and was buried among his fathers and underwent decay; ³⁷ but He whom God raised did not undergo decay. ³⁸ Therefore let it be known to you, brothers, that through Him forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, ³⁹ and through Him everyone who believes is freed from all things, from which you could not be freed through the Law of Moses. ⁴⁰ Therefore, see that the thing spoken of in the Prophets does not come upon *you*:

⁴¹ ‘LOOK, YOU SCOFFERS, AND BE ASTONISHED, AND PERISH; FOR I AM ACCOMPLISHING A WORK IN YOUR DAYS, A WORK WHICH YOU WILL NEVER BELIEVE, THOUGH SOMEONE SHOULD DESCRIBE IT TO YOU.’”

⁴² As Paul and Barnabas were going out, *the people repeatedly* begged to have these things spoken to them the next Sabbath. ⁴³ Now when *the meeting of the synagogue* had broken up, many of the Jews and the God-

fearing proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas, who were speaking to them and urging them to continue in the grace of God.

❖ Hymn of Response

Number 320

Rejoice, All Ye Believers

Rejoice, All Ye Believers

Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him! Matt. 25:6

1. Re - joice, all ye be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
 2. See that your lamps are burn - ing; re - plen - ish them with oil;
 3. Ye saints, who here in pa - tience your cross and suf - f'ring bore,
 4. Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;

the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near:
 and wait for your sal - va - tion, the end of earth - ly toil.
 shall live and reign for - ev - er, when sor - row is no more:
 a - rise, thou sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.

the Bride - groom is a - ris - ing, and soon he draw - eth nigh;
 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the Bride - groom near;
 a - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb ye shall be - hold,
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see

up, pray, and watch, and wres - tle: at mid - night comes the cry.
 go meet him as he com - eth, with al - le - lu - ias clear.
 in tri - umph cast be - fore him your di - a - dems of gold.
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion that brings us un - to thee.

Benediction

2 Corinthians 13:14

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 ~~

Thanksgiving Service

This year we will not be having the traditional Thanksgiving Dinner on the Sunday before Thanksgiving. We are sorry for the disappointment. We do not have the space to provide it with adequate safeguards and so we will forego the dinner this year. We WILL still have the Thanksgiving Hymn Sing that Sunday, 11/22 at 6pm which will also be in lieu of the regular Young Adults' Fellowship.

Thank You from the Evans

To our FCCW family,

We would like to thank the congregation for your prayers, cards and good wishes for us as we leave VT to embark on a new journey. And a special thank you to the Deaconess Board for the reception last week. We have grown spiritually, been honored to serve in different capacities and have enjoyed being part of the caring, loving and supportive family at FCCW over the past several years. We will miss you all. You will be in our prayers and will always hold a special place in our hearts.

Love in Christ,

Tom and Karen Evans

Deacons' Offering – November 15

This month's Deacons' offering will be the Pastor Emeritus Collection. Twice a year, in May and November, the Pastor Emeritus offering is taken for Doris Johnston. David and Doris faithfully served this church for 24 years. The Pastor Emeritus Collection helps off-set unexpected expenses that Doris might incur in her retirement. This month's collection will take place on Sunday, November 15.

Ministry Personnel Update

The names and location of this month's Ministry Personnel of the Month have been kept private to protect their identity and location.

For 50 years, the Annoor Sanatorium for Chest Diseases has been treating tuberculosis among the Bedouin people of Jordan. Founded by Dr. Eleanor Soltau and nurse Aileen Coleman in 1965, they had particular compassion for the Bedouin people because their nomadic lifestyle often prevented a complete recovery from this chronic disease. So, the simple labor of love began with a dedication to serving God and a commitment to healing men, women, and children in body, mind and spirit. Annoor means "The Light", in honor of the Light of the World. In 1973, the sanatorium expanded into a 50-bed facility. The hospital is located on a 25-acre plot of land in the desert, a few kilometers outside the town of Mafraq. In God's providence, Annoor Sanatorium management was able to drill two deep wells. These wells provide water for the hospital and surrounding olive orchards, creating a pleasant environment conducive to recuperation.

As the only hospital in Jordan fully dedicated to serving TB patients, Annoor Sanatorium treats difficult TB cases, especially MDR TB (Multiple Drug Resistant TB). The Sanatorium works with the Ministry of Health to ensure adherence to WHO (World Health Organization) standards. There are only token charges for outpatient services and hospitalization. If patients can afford it, only a minimal cost is required for inpatient services. All TB patients are treated free of cost. Annoor Sanatorium is registered in the country as a charitable organization, providing inexpensive medical care for low-income patients.

In 2013, HKM and HKF took up leadership roles at Annoor Sanatorium for Chest Diseases. HKF is the Director of Nursing and HKM is the General Director. The Lord has given them the privilege of serving in leadership over a

season of changes at Annoor. They are still amazed that they get to share the Good News openly every day with Bedouin patients and in recent years with patients from around the world.

The daily ministry challenges at Annoor have been compounded during the recent COVID season, with protecting the TB patients a primary concern. The COVID situation has also limited their ability to receive the short and long-term volunteer staff that Annoor is dependent on. But the Good News of the Gospel is not bound by circumstances and they are seeing lives changed and transformed during this unanticipated season. Jesus said He would build His church and the gates of Hell would not prevail over it. They have seen this happen in the lives of so many over the years.

Their heart's desire is to see the Body of Christ take root in the isolated tribes of the deserts of Jordan. This is still an uncompleted task among a resistant and isolated people. May God advance His Kingdom and may His will be done for these people in this time.

The Annoor Sanatorium's vision is to see the ministry continue as a channel to demonstrate the grace of Christ to Bedouin tribes from the deserts of Jordan as well as thousands of Arabs from Jordan and surrounding countries. The original goal of the sanatorium was to meet the needs of the under-served Bedouin tribes. With time, the sanatorium has grown to include a much larger patient base. As a small Christian medical facility, the staff now treats nearly 20,000 people each year, serving patients in the Middle East and from around the world.

Family Update:

Life has changed for HKM and HKF. Their two children have both married and moved away. Their son and his wife welcomed twin boys this last summer, and their daughter and her husband will welcome a new baby later this winter – early spring. Currently, HKF feels privileged to be providing personal nursing care to Miss Aileen Coleman at this point in Miss Aileen's lifetime of serving the Bedouins with the Good News of the Gospel.

HKM and HKF want to thank the FCCW family for standing with them for these past decades. May we together rejoice in all that God is doing in these days for Bedouins and all the peoples of the Middle East.

A Message of This Salvation

1. This Salvation in Jesus Was Long Foretold.

2. But They Didn't Understand It.

3. So God Has Sent Us to Explain It to You.

The condemnation, death on a tree, and burial of Jesus are not evidences against His being the promised Messiah, but rather demonstration of God's fulfillment of His promise. Even the misunderstanding and disbelief of His people was part of what God used to bring it about. God the Father raised Jesus from the grave and He has appeared before many witnesses. This good news has now come to you. Will you believe and rejoice that Christ has come?

1 Corinthians 2: 1 – 13

And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. ²For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.³ And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, ⁴and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

⁶Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. ⁷But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. ⁸None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the heart of man imagined,
what God has prepared for those who love him”—

¹⁰these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹For who knows a person’s thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. ¹²Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God.¹³ And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.

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

The God of the Bible is eternally faithful. He has kept all of His promises in Jesus, whose life, death, and resurrection testify to His integrity. His resurrection life is now empowering all who trust in Him. Let us live in the power of His might!

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 13:26-43; Romans 1:1-7; First Corinthians 2:1-13. DISCUSS, God uses all things (including our disbelief) to accomplish His purposes. How does God use His people's ignorance to fulfill His promise? How does His sovereignty give us comfort? How are you submitting to His lordship today? Be specific. **PRAY** "Risen Lord, thank You for conquering death. Enable us to joyfully submit to Your holy rule and reign over all things!"

Sunday Evening

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

Monday

READ Acts 13:26-43; Psalm 2:9-13; 16:10; Isaiah 55:1-5. DISCUSS, How does God's faithfulness in fulfilling His promised redemption comfort and encourage us? How can you comfort others with this truth today? **PRAY**, "Jesus, You are the King of History. You orchestrate all things to bring glory to Your name and the salvation of Your people. Teach us to trust in You!"

Tuesday

READ Acts 13:26-43; Isaiah 55:1-5; Habakkuk 1:5. DISCUSS, How is God's faithful love for David demonstrated in Christ? How does that help you understand His lovingkindness for you? **PRAY**, "Jesus, thank You for Your faithful love for us as Your people. We love You and thank You for Your fidelity to us always"

Wednesday

READ **Acts 13:26-43; Rom 1:1-7; 2Cor 13:1-4.** DISCUSS, What difference does the resurrection of Jesus make? How does it validate Jesus' identity as King? How does it give us power to follow Him? How are you operating in that power? PRAY, "Lord Jesus, we thank You for conquering death for us."

Thursday

READ **Acts 13:26-43; 2Cor 13:1-4; Eph 1:15-23.** DISCUSS, What is the result of God raising Christ from the dead and seating Him on His throne? How does that give you comfort? How does it call you to greater obedience of our King? PRAY, "Jesus, You are our King. Teach us to obey You absolutely with great joy."

Friday

READ **Acts 13:26-43; Romans 1:1-7; First Corinthians 2:1-13.** DISCUSS, How has God been teaching you from these passages this week? REJOICE if by God's grace you are able to praise the King! 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 13:1-52.** Invite others to join you tomorrow for either the *live-stream or in-person service.* Ask Jesus to help us love our neighbors well.

Habakkuk 1:5

"Look among the nations, and see;
wonder and be astounded.
For I am doing a work in your days
that you would not believe if told.

Psalms 16:10

For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol,
or let your holy one see corruption.