



The _____
First Congregational Church
of Woodstock _____

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

November 22nd, 2020

The Order of Morning Worship

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

November 22nd, 2020

Ten-thirty

Welcome

Pastor Doug Warren

Prelude & Silent Prayer

❖ Call to Worship

Psalm 95 – 96

Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come before Him with thanksgiving, and extol Him with music and song.

Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord all the earth. Sing to the Lord, praise His name; proclaim His salvation day after day.

For the Lord is the great God, the great King above all gods.

Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker; for He is our God and we are the people of His pasture, the flock under His care.

❖ Hymn of Exultation

Number 64

God, the Lord, A King Remaineth

God, the Lord, a King Remaineth

The LORD reigns, He is robed in majesty; the LORD is robed in majesty and is armed with strength. Ps. 93:1

Capo 1: ♮ (A) (A) 7 (D) (A) (F♯m) (E⁷) (A)

1. God, the Lord, a King re-main-eth; robed in his own glo-ri-ous light;
 2. In her ev-er-last-ing sta-tion earth is poised, to swerve no more:
 3. Lord, the wa-ter-floods have lift-ed, o-cean floods have lift their roar;
 4. With all tones of wa-ters blend-ing, glo-ri-ous is the break-ing deep;
 5. Lord, the words thy lips are tell-ing are the per-fect ver-i-ty:

(A) (F♯m) (C♯m) (F♯m) (C♯m) (F♯m) (E) (B⁷) (E)

God hath robed him and he reign-eth; he hath gird-ed him with might.
 thou hast laid thy throne's foun-da-tion from all time where thought can soar.
 • now they pause where they have drift-ed, now they burst up-on the shore.
 glo-ri-ous, beau-teous with-out end-ing, God who reigns on heav'ns high steep.
 of thine high e-ter-nal dwell-ing ho-li-ness shall in-mate be.

(E) (A⁷) (D) ♮ (Bm) (C♯m) (Bm) (F♯m) (E) (A) 7

Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! God is King in depth and height.
 Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Lord, thou art for-ev-er-more.
 • Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! For the o-cean's sound-ing store.
 Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Songs of o-cean nev-er sleep.
 Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Pure is all that lives with thee.

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

Romans 10: 1 – 4

Brothers *and sisters*, my heart's desire and my prayer to God for them is for *their* salvation. ² For I testify about them that they have a zeal for God, but not in accordance with knowledge. ³ For not knowing about God's righteousness and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God. ⁴ For Christ is the end of the Law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

Pastoral Prayer

How Sweet and Awesome Is the Place

1. How sweet and awe - some is the place
 2. While all our hearts and all our songs
 3. "Why was I made to hear your voice,
 4. 'Twas the same love that spread the feast

with Christ with - in the doors, while ev - er - last - ing
 join to ad - mire the feast, each of us cries, with
 and en - ter while there's room, when thou - sands make a
 that sweet - ly drew us in; else we had still re -

love dis - plays the choic - est of her stores.
 thank - ful tongue, "Lord, why was I a guest?
 wretch - ed choice, and rath - er starve than come?"
 fused to taste, and per - ished in our sin.

5. Pity the nations, O our God,
 constrain the earth to come;
 send your victorious Word abroad,
 and bring the strangers home.

6. We long to see your churches full,
 that all the chosen race
 may, with one voice and heart and soul,
 sing your redeeming grace.

“Jealousy or Joy”

Acts 13: 42 – 52

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.

⁴⁴ The next Sabbath nearly all the city assembled to hear the word of the Lord. ⁴⁵ But when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and *began* contradicting the things spoken by Paul, and were blaspheming. ⁴⁶ Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly and said, “It was necessary that the word of God be spoken to you first. Since you repudiate it and consider yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles. ⁴⁷ For so the Lord has commanded us,

‘I HAVE APPOINTED YOU AS A LIGHT TO THE GENTILES,
THAT YOU MAY BRING SALVATION TO THE END OF THE EARTH.’”

⁴⁸ When the Gentiles heard this, they *began* rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord; and all who had been appointed to eternal life believed. ⁴⁹ And the word of the Lord was being spread through the whole region. ⁵⁰ But the Jews incited the devout women of prominence and the leading men of the city, and instigated a persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and drove them out of their region. ⁵¹ But they shook off the dust *from their feet in protest* against them and went to Iconium. ⁵² And the disciples were continually filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

❖ Hymn of Response

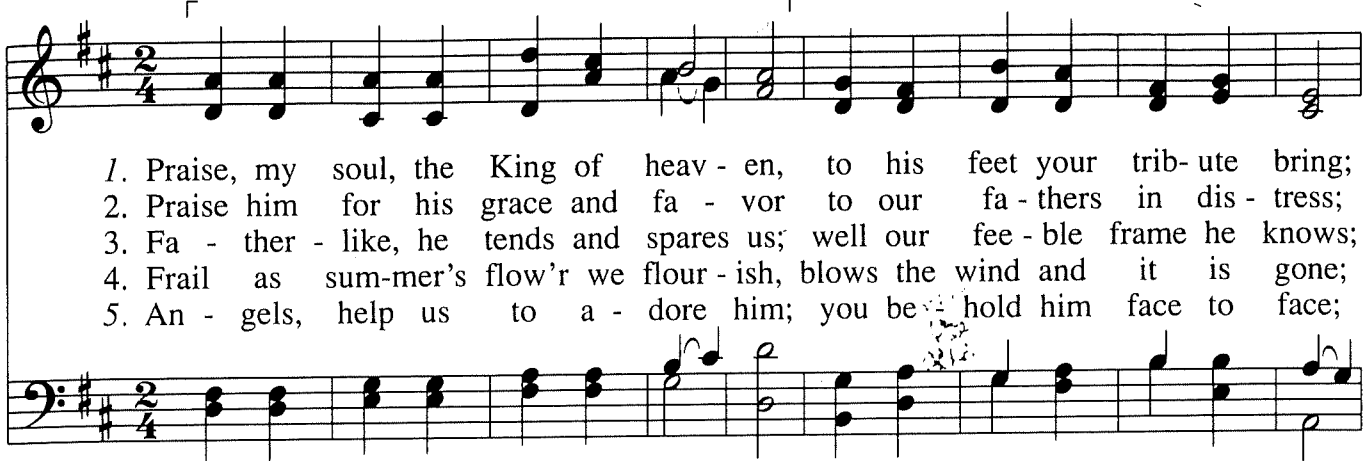
Number 76

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

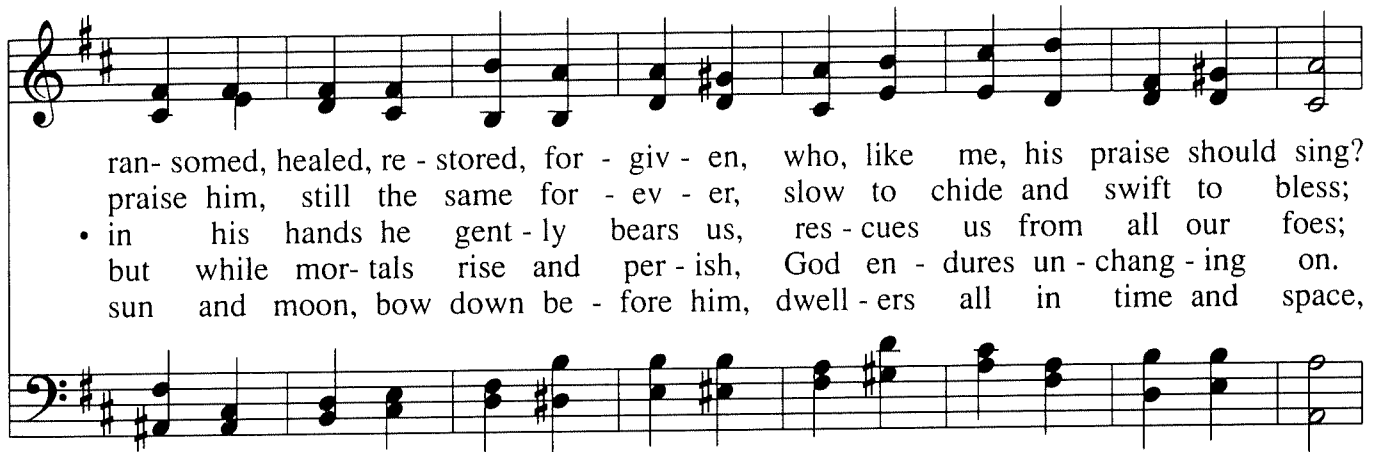
Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

76

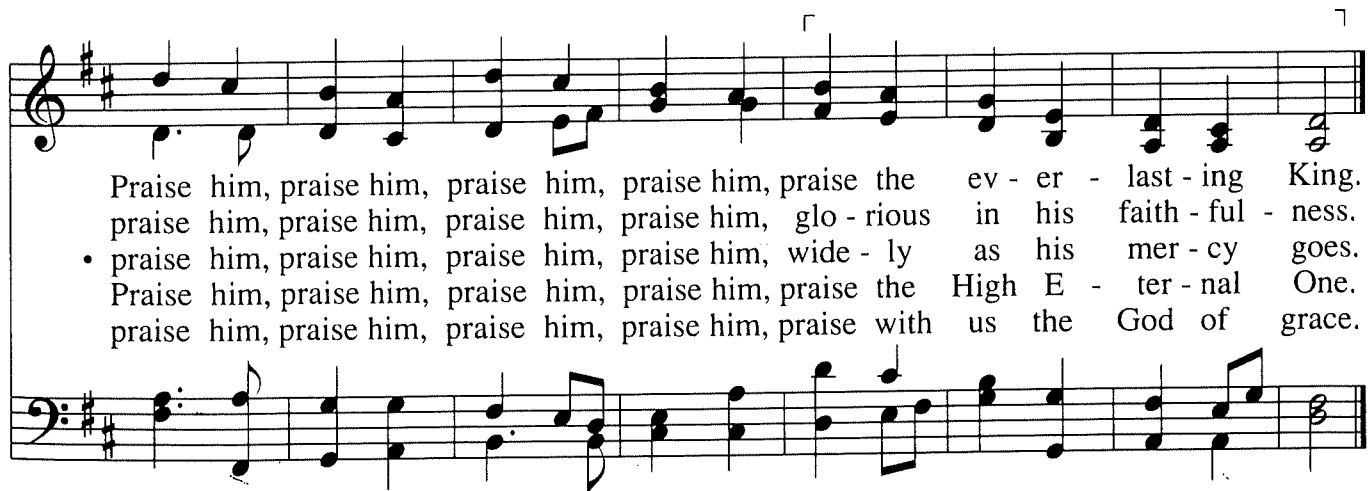
*Praise the LORD, all his works everywhere in his dominion. Praise the LORD,
O my soul. Ps. 103:22*



1. Praise, my soul, the King of heav - en, to his feet your trib - ute bring;
2. Praise him for his grace and fa - vor to our fa - thers in dis - tress;
3. Fa - ther - like, he tends and spares us; well our fee - ble frame he knows;
4. Frail as sum - mer's flow'r we flour - ish, blows the wind and it is gone;
5. An - gels, help us to a - dore him; you be - hold him face to face;



ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en, who, like me, his praise should sing?
praise him, still the same for - ev - er, slow to chide and swift to bless;
• in his hands he gent - ly bears us, res - cues us from all our foes;
but while mor - tals rise and per - ish, God en - dures un - chang - ing on.
sun and moon, bow down be - fore him, dwell - ers all in time and space,



Praise him, praise him, praise him, praise him, praise the ev - er - last - ing King.
praise him, praise him, praise him, praise him, glo - rious in his faith - ful - ness.
• praise him, praise him, praise him, praise him, wide - ly as his mer - cy goes.
Praise him, praise him, praise him, praise him, praise the High E - ter - nal One.
praise him, praise him, praise him, praise him, praise with us the God of grace.

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 ~~

TONIGHT – Thanksgiving Hymn Sing, 6:00 pm

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 tonight, 11/22 at 6pm which will also be in lieu of the regular Young Adults' Fellowship.

Christmas Poinsettias

Poinsettias always add to the festive color of Christmas and can be given as a memorial to a loved one and taken home after the Christmas Eve or the next Sunday service. To order a 6" red or white poinsettia, contact Carol Powell at 457-3833 on or before Dec. 13.

Newsletter Articles are Due this Wednesday, November 25.

Winter Clothing Drive

THANK YOU SO MUCH for everyone's help with the coat drive and to all who donated! It was a huge success and took a team of us working together to make this possible. Thank you!

The donations will go directly to the following organizations:

1. Reading - West Windsor Food Shelf,
2. Woodstock Elementary School,
3. Woodstock Christian Child Care,
4. Upper Valley Haven,
5. ABC House,
6. Ottauquechee Health Center, and
7. David's House.

Total Donations:

- 217 Coats
- 82 Gloves
- 90 Hats
- 96 Scarves
- 4 Boots
- 19 Snow Pants
- 42 Sweaters
- 11 Socks
- 12 Pants
- 6 Skirts
- 25 Assorted Items

Thank you again,

The Community Outreach Team

Jealousy or Joy

1. The Older Brothers' Jealousy Blinds Them to Christ.

2. The Believing Gentiles Rejoice in Christ.

3. The Word of the Lord Reveals Eternal Life in Jesus.

Paul and Barnabas were celebrated at first for bringing the good news of King Jesus to the synagogue in Pisidian Antioch. But the overwhelmingly positive reception by their Gentile neighbors provokes them to jealousy and they turn against the gospel. What they reject, many of the Gentiles receive with joy. The God of Israel has brought salvation to the ends of the earth.

Galatians 5:1

For freedom Christ has set us free;
stand firm therefore,
and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

Romans 10: 1 – 4

“Brothers, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved. For I bear them witness that they have a **zeal for God, but not according to knowledge**. For, being ignorant of the righteousness of God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God’s righteousness. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.”

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

Have you had an experience when everything within you screams, “NO!” and you cannot see straight? The good news of King Jesus goes against every fiber of our being. It is only through the grace of Christ that we can receive it with joy. But that is exactly what God does. He gives eternal life in place of death. He transforms us from enemies to beloved sons and daughters, all to His glory and 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 13:42-52; Luke 15:1-2; 11-32; Romans 10:1-4**. 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

Thanksgiving Service at 6:00 pm. Please join in-person or on-line!

Monday

READ **Acts 13:42-52; Luke 9:1-6; 10:10-11; Nehemiah 5:9-13**. DISCUSS, How does the shaking off of dust convey the judgment of God? How does the use of this imagery demonstrate the continuity of the covenant between God and His people? PRAY, “Jesus, as Your Kingdom expands according to Your proclamation, teach us to acknowledge You as the Sovereign over all things!”

Tuesday

READ **Acts 13:42-52; Galatians 3:10-14; Romans 10:5-21**. DISCUSS, How has Christ redeemed us? What is the relationship between Israel and the nations? How does that point to Christ as the only King of Kings? PRAY, “Jesus, we Praise You for Your great love for Your people. Teach us to trust and obey You all our days.”

Wednesday

READ **Acts 13:42-52; Romans 11:1-10; Galatians 4:1-20**. DISCUSS, How does a rebellious human being receive pardon from King Jesus? How does a traitor become a child of God? How is this the same or different for Gentiles/Jews? PRAY, “Lord Jesus, we thank You for conquering death for us.”

Thursday

READ **Acts 13:42-52; Romans 11:11-36; Galatians 4:21-31**. DISCUSS, What is the difference between being born slave or free? What makes the difference? Which are you? PRAY, “Jesus, You are our elder brother if by faith we respond to You with joy. Enable us to obey You absolutely with great joy.”

Friday

READ **Acts 13:42-52; Luke 15:1-2; 11-32; Romans 10:1-4**. 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 14:1-28**. Invite others to join you tomorrow for either the *live-stream or in-person service*. Ask Jesus to help us love our neighbors well.

Galatians 3: 13 – 14

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree”—so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.