



The _____
First Congregational Church
of Woodstock _____

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

*November 6th, 2022
Reformation Sunday*

The Order of Morning Worship

November 6th, 2021

Reformation Sunday

Ten-thirty

Welcome & Announcements

Elder Tom Johnston

Prelude & Silent Prayer

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| ❖ Call to Worship | Psalm 34 | Elder |
| ❖ Hymn of Exultation #92 | <i>A Mighty Fortress is Our God</i> | Congregation |
| Scriptural Call to Repentance | Isaiah 55:6-7 | Elder |
| Prayer of Collective Confession | Psalm 25 | Congregation |

Be mindful of Your mercy, O Lord, and of Your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. Do not remember the sins of our youth or our transgressions; according to Your steadfast love remember us, for Your goodness' sake, O Lord! Good and upright is the Lord; therefore He instructs sinners in the way. 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. Relieve the troubles of our hearts, and bring us out of our distress. Consider our affliction and our trouble, and forgive all our sins.

Silent Reflection and Confession

Proclamation of Forgiveness Colossians 2:13-14 Elder

Pastoral Prayer Elder

Offering (collected from back to front) Congregation

Affirmation of Faith *The Apostles' Creed* Congregation

Pastor: Christian, what do you believe concerning God, the Father?

Congregation: I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

Pastor: What do you believe concerning Jesus?

Congregation: I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was

crucified, died, and buried; He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

Pastor: Christian, what do you believe concerning the Holy Spirit and His work?

Congregation: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic¹ church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

❖ Creedal Song #731	<i>Doxology</i>	Congregation
❖ Scripture Reading	Second Corinthians 4:13-18	Elder
❖ Hymn of Reflection	<i>O Church, Arise</i>	Congregation
The Sermon	Philippians 4:14-18 <i>“Gospel Partnership”</i>	Pastor Doug Warren
❖ Hymn of Response #455	<i>And Can It Be</i>	Congregation
Communion		Congregation
❖ Communion Hymn #420	<i>At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing</i>	Congregation
❖ Benediction	Romans 15:13	Pastor

The Congregation may be seated after the Benediction for silent prayer.

Postlude

~~ Organist: Jonathan Denham ~~
~~ Please ensure cell phones are off ~~
Prelude: Holy Jesus is Risen from the Dead (Dupre)
Abide With Us, Lord Jesus Christ (Dupre)
Offertory: Glorious Day (Chapman/Hall/Bleeck)
Postlude: Prelude in F Major (J. S. Bach)

¹ The term “catholic” is used here in its generic sense of the universal church, not to refer to a denomination.

~~~~~

## Annual Meeting Warning

Notice: The members of the First Congregational Church of Woodstock, Vermont, Inc., are called to meet on Thursday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 7:00 pm to conduct the following business:

1. To vote on a motion to suspend the bylaw-required Board and Committee number requirements for 2023;
2. To vote on the Elders' nomination of:
  - a) Stephen Briggs to a first four-year term on the Board of Elders
  - b) Dennis Snider to a first four-year term on the Board of Elders
  - c) Karl Huck to a second four-year term on the Board of Deacons
  - d) Mike Burnett to a first four-year term on the Board of Deacons;
3. To vote on the Nominating Slate as proposed by the Nominating Committee;
4. To review and vote on the 2023 Budgets, including the normal operating budget, major expense budget and Woodstock Christian Child Care budget, as proposed by the Board of Deacons;
5. To vote and approve the minutes of the November 11, 2021 Annual Congregational Meeting;
6. To address any other business that is properly brought before the membership;
7. To join in a closing prayer.

~~~~~

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

~~~~~

## Thanksgiving Fellowship

Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup> will mark the return of our Thanksgiving Fellowship Meal and special Service of Thanksgiving. Mark your calendars and stay tuned for details.

~~~~~

~~~~~  
Nominating Committee Slate for 2023

**Christian Education**

25 Preston Bristow (2)  
25 Cora Koop (2)

**Christian Missions**

25 Anne Koop (2)  
25 Charlotte Gomo

**Deaconesses**

23 Diana Snider  
23 Heidi Tucker  
24 Alison Briggs  
25 Rosmarie Vanderhoof

**Flower**

24 Elaine Johnston

**Library**

25 Carol Williams

**Outreach**

25 Keri Bristow (2)  
25 Sheryl Hoehner (2)

**Nominating**

25 Robyn Huck

~~~~~

Women's Lunch after Church - December 4th

Dear Women of FCCW, please join us after church on December 4th for lunch of soups, breads, and salads. It will be a time for fellowship and chance to reflect together about the Advent season.

~~~~~

Tuesday Morning Ladies' Bible Study

The Ladies' Bible Study meets in person at 10:00 am each Tuesday at the Thompson Senior Center and via Zoom. Contact Bonnie Atwood at (802) 457-4120 or [bonhope2@gmail.com](mailto:bonhope2@gmail.com) for more information.

~~~~~

True Woman Bible Study

This Bible study is geared toward young moms although all women are welcome. The study meets on Thursday mornings from 10-11:30 am in the FCCW nursery; there is no childcare, but children ages infant to preschool are welcome to come along and play while the ladies meet. Contact Christine Morton at christinefmorton@gmail.com or (802) 591-1511 for more information.

~~~~~

## **Gospel Partnership**

1. **We Must *Share Together* in This Partnership in Christ (14-16).**

2. **Joyful Sharing with One Another Is Gospel Fruit (17).**

3. **We Must *Enjoy Offering Living Sacrifices of Fellowship* to God (18).**

CONCLUSION: Christ has joined us with Himself and with one another in a holy partnership. It is His doing for His purposes. He calls us into His Holy Family to partner with one another and this partnership involves our joyful sharing of all that He entrusts to our care. Blessings and sorrows. Abundance and need. It is the fruit that flows from our abiding in Christ. Not only are we required to share these things with one another, but we are bound to do so *joyfully* in Christ. Let us be a congregation, by His grace, who delights in one another because of His delight in us!

## Second Corinthians 4:13-18

Since we have the same spirit of faith according to what has been written, “I believed, and so I spoke,” we also believe, and so we also speak, knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus *will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into His presence*. For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God. So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, *our inner self is being renewed day by day*. For this light momentary affliction is *preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen*. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

## John 15:1-5

“*I am the true vine*, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, *that it may bear more fruit*. Already you are clean because of *the word that I have spoken to you*. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch *cannot bear fruit* by itself, *unless it abides in the vine*, neither can you, *unless you abide in me*. *I am the vine; you are the branches*. *Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.*”

## Romans 12:1-2

“I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a *living sacrifice*, holy and *acceptable to God*, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

## Acts 2:42-47

“And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and *had all things in common*. And they were *selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need*. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, *they received their food with glad and generous hearts*, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.”

## Mark 7:9-13

And he said to them, “You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God in order to establish your tradition! For Moses said, ‘*Honor your father and your mother*’; and, ‘*Whoever reviles father or mother must surely die.*’ But you say, ‘If a man tells his father or his mother, “*Whatever you would have gained from me is Corban*”’ (that is, *given to God*)—then you no longer permit him *to do anything for his father or mother*, thus making void the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down.”

# Taking Gathered Worship Home

Harvest oranges from apple trees?! No, the fruit proceeds from the branch according to its nature. The fruit God's people should be bearing is joyful sharing with one another as Christ has joyfully shared with us.

*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 **Philippians 4:14-18; Second Corinthians 4:13-18; John 15:1-5; Romans 12:1-2; Acts 2:42-47; Mark 7:9-13; Psalm 104:31-35.** DISCUSS How would you describe our partnership in Christ? How does your stewardship of your experiences and resources reflect this? How does Jesus delight you? MEDITATE on **Ephesians 2:4-7.** PRAY "Jesus, grow gospel fruit in us to rejoice in sharing all that You have entrusted to us together."

## Sunday Evening

The *Young Adults' Fellowship* will meet at **6pm** in the FCCW Library.

## Monday

READ **Philippians 4:14-18; Second Corinthians 4:13-18; John 15:1-5.** DISCUSS How is His grace abounding in us together? How do we view our circumstances according to God's goodness? SERVE by putting someone else's interests *above your own!* MEDITATE on **Ephesians 2:4-7.** PRAY, "Lord, use whatever You will to conform us to Christ. Empower us to rejoice in that good work."

## Tuesday

READ **Philippians 4:14-18; John 15:1-5; Romans 12:1-2.** DISCUSS What does it mean to abide in Christ as the true vine? Which false vines are you (we) tempted to abide in? How can we fix our eyes on Him? SERVE by considering someone else's needs *above your own!* MEDITATE on **Ephesians 2:4-7.** PRAY, "Jesus, we want to abide in You alone. We want to obey you joyfully. We long to love our brothers and sisters generously by faith in You. Make it so in us together we pray."



### Wednesday

READ **Philippians 4:14-18; Romans 12:1-2; Acts 2:42-47**. DISCUSS What living sacrifices are you (we) offering Christ? How does His sacrifice once for all free us to offer these living sacrifices joyfully? How do you need to repent from joyless sacrifice? SERVE by *caring about someone else* more than yourself! MEDITATE on **Ephesians 2:4-7**. PRAY, “Lord, make our hearts overflow with delight for You expressed through love for one another.”

### Thursday

READ **Philippians 4:14-18; Acts 2:42-47; Mark 7:9-13**. DISCUSS Why does money seem to mess everything up? How are you expressing faith in Christ through acts of love in giving and receiving? How does faith in Christ liberate us from our love for money? MEDITATE on **Ephesians 2:4-7**. PRAY, “Lord, You give us all that we have. Teach us to joyfully steward our experiences and resources by faith in You.”

### Friday

READ **Philippians 4:14-18; Second Corinthians 4:13-18; John 15:1-5; Romans 12:1-2; Acts 2:42-47; Mark 7:9-13; Psalm 104:31-35**. DISCUSS, What have you been learning from these passages? How has God been distressing and encouraging you in His Word this week? What do you need to change as a result? MEDITATE on **Ephesians 2:4-7**. PRAY that we at FCCW would *honor Christ in all that we think, say, and do*.

### Saturday

PREPARE *today* for the service *tomorrow*. READ **Philippians 4:1-23**. Invite others to join you tomorrow for *Sunday School at 9:00* and the *service @ 10:30*. Ask Jesus to *gather us together* to praise Him joyfully.

## Ephesians 2:4-7

“But God, being *rich in mercy*, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, *made us alive together with Christ*—by grace you have been saved—and *raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus*, so that in the coming ages *he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us* in Christ Jesus.”