



The _____
First Congregational Church
_____ of Woodstock _____

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

January 15th, 2023

The Order of Morning Worship

January 15th, 2023

Ten-thirty

Welcome

Elder Tom Johnston

Prelude & Silent Prayer

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| ❖ Call to Worship | Psalm 122:1-4 | Elder |
| ❖ Hymn of Exultation #53 | <i>Praise to the Lord,
the Almighty</i> | Congregation |
| Scriptural Call to Repentance | Matthew 5:13-16 | Elder |

Prayer of Collective Confession based on Ezra 10:2-3 Congregation

We have broken faith with our God and have disobeyed His holy commands, but even now there is hope for God's People in spite of our sin. Therefore let us make a covenant with our God to flee from sin, according to the counsel of my lord and of those who tremble at the commandment of our God, and let it be done according to the Law.

Silent Reflection and Confession

Proclamation of Forgiveness Psalm 32:1-2 Elder

Offering (collected from back to front) Congregation

Pastoral Prayer Elder

Affirmation of Faith *The Nicene Creed*¹ Congregation

Elder: Christian, what is it that we believe?

Congregation: We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven, and

¹ The Nicene Creed originated at the Council of Nicea (325). It was formulated to answer heresies that denied the biblical doctrine of the Trinity and of the person of Christ.

was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets; and we believe in one holy catholic² and apostolic church; we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

❖ Old Testament Reading	Genesis 1:1-5	Elder
❖ Creedal Song	<i>Barocha</i>	Congregation
❖ Scripture Reading	Ephesians 2:7-9	Elder
❖ Hymn of Reflection #55	<i>To God Be the Glory</i>	Congregation
The Sermon	Psalm 100:1-5	Elder
	<i>“A Psalm of Praise in All of Life”</i>	
❖ Hymn of Response #1	<i>All People That On Earth Do Dwell</i>	Congregation
❖ Benediction	Numbers 6:24-26	Elder
	The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.	

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

Postlude

² The term “catholic” here means universal and does not mean any particular denomination.

~~ Organist: Jonathan Denham ~~
~~ Please ensure cell phones are off ~~
Prelude: *Can it Be, Jesu, from Highest Heaven (J. S. Bach)*
- Tune in pedal is *LOBE DEN HERREN, or Praise to the Lord* -
Offertory: *O God Beyond All Praising (Cherwien)*
Postlude: *Praise to the Lord (Hildebrand)*

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Young Adult Fellowship Group will meet tonight  
at 6 pm in the church library.  
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Women's Ministry Outing

Ladies, please join us for a walk on Saturday, January 21st. We will meet at East End Park at 8:30 am. Please contact Annie Denham at a.denham356@gmail.com or 607-838-3334.

Baby Shower

All are invited to stay after the worship service on Sunday January 22nd in the Billings Room for an informal baby shower for the Bauers, the Lins, and the Sterlings.

Please join our church family in celebrating these families God has blessed us with!

We will have a communal gift and card from the church in honor of these new babies and ask that any additional gifts/cards you would like to give be given at a separate time. Thank you all!

Nursery Volunteers Needed

Can you give one Sunday this spring to help minister to the youngest members of our church family? We have a full-time nursery attendant, but we need a volunteer to help her each Sunday from 10-12. If you are willing to help one Sunday or more, or if you have questions, please contact Karis Warren at karis.warren@gmail.com or (207) 329-4190. Thank you!

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The January Prayer letter is available in the narthex.  
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## Guest Speaker: Ernest Shipman

I was born in 1959 & grew up in Atlanta, GA. I was raised in a Christian home and came to faith at age 14. I moved to NH in 1985 to get married. I have been married to Wendy since 1986. We have two adult children: Sam, who lives in Chattanooga, and Emma, who is married & lives near us.

I have two other connections to the church! In the mid 1990's, Wendy's sister took a job at Dartmouth Hospital and she attended the church. We used to visit her often and Sunday mornings were always a treat. We got to be friends of the Koops as well. I am an ordained ruling elder in the Presbyterian Church in America, and I am friends with Pastor Warren as he and I are both members of the same presbytery.

In addition to being a ruling elder (and a member of Exeter Presbyterian church), I have been called to preach and have been licensed by the Presbytery. I do pulpit supply and preach as I am needed. To help facilitate this calling I have joined the staff of Reformed Evangelistic Fellowship as a missionary, non-ordained evangelistic worker. My passion is preaching the Gospel and doing one-on-one discipleship. I also recently published a book on discipleship for adults using the Westminster Shorter Catechism.

When not in ministry, Wendy & I have a mini farm (really a former blueberry farm) in New Durham, NH. I am now retired from the business world, having been self-employed since 1991. I recently sold both of my businesses: I used to own a commercial sign shop (my wife is very artistic), and I used to also own a small retail firearms store.

God has been very faithful to us!

My life verse is:

*Only fear the Lord and serve him faithfully with all your heart. For consider what great things he has done for you. 1st Samuel 12:24*

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A Psalm of Praise in All of Life

1. 'Make a joyful noise to the Lord'
2. 'Serve the Lord with gladness!'
3. 'Know that the Lord, He is God!'
4. 'Enter His gates with thanksgiving'
5. 'For the Lord is good'

SO WHAT (why do I need this sermon?)

OT Reading: **Genesis 1:1-5**

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.² The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

³ And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. ⁴ And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

NT Reading: **Revelation 22:12-13, 16-17**

¹² "Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done. ¹³ I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

¹⁶ "I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star."

¹⁷ The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.

Gospel Reading: **John 1:1-5, 9-17**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. ...

⁹ The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹² But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ (John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'") ¹⁶ For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

Taking Gathered Worship Home

This invitation to worship the true God with joy and delight brings us to the heart of the gospel. It is only through Christ that this is possible. And it is more than that. In Christ it is not only possible, but a certainty. All who put our trust and faith in Christ *will* serve the Lord with gladness for all eternity. Let's not wait until heaven. Let's do so now in all of life!

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 **Psalm 100:1-5; Genesis 1:1-5; Revelation 22:12-13, 16-17; John 1:1-5, 9-17.** DISCUSS How do we come into God's presence with joy? What barriers do we face? How does Christ remove them? MEDITATE on **John 15:9.** PRAY "Jesus, thank You for bringing us into Your presence through Your righteousness and sacrificial death on our behalf. Enable us to delight in You and joyfully sing Your praises."

Sunday Evening

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

Monday

READ **Psalm 100:1-5; Genesis 1:1-5; Philippians 2:9-11.** DISCUSS How are you (we) making a joyful noise to the Lord? SERVE by putting someone else's interests *above your own!* MEDITATE on **John 15:9.** PRAY, "Father, make us more like Christ. Enable us to love others as You have loved Christ."

Tuesday

READ **Psalm 100:1-5; 134:1-3; Romans 12:1-2; Colossians 3:16.** DISCUSS How are you (we) serving the Lord with gladness and entering His presence with singing? SERVE by considering someone else's needs *above your own!* MEDITATE on **John 15:9.** PRAY, "Jesus, You have delighted to do Your Father's will and have purchased our way into Your presence forever. Thank You for enabling us to serve You with joy."

Wednesday

READ **Psalm 100:1-5; Second Timothy 1:12-13**. DISCUSS How are you (we) increasing in the knowledge of God's goodness? How are you (we) demonstrating that we understand and believe that He is good? How do you need to repent? SERVE by *caring about someone else* more than yourself! MEDITATE on **John 15:9**. PRAY, "Lord, fill our minds with knowledge of Your goodness."

Thursday

READ **Psalm 100:1-5; Ephesians 2:7-9**. DISCUSS How are you (we) entering His presence with singing? How can dead people do *anything*?! What did Christ do to enable us to enter His presence at all? SERVE by putting someone else's interests *above your own*! MEDITATE on **John 15:9**. PRAY, "Lord, You give us all that we have. You are forever kind and gracious to Your people. Please receive our humble gratitude and forgive us our presumption."

Friday

READ **Psalm 100:1-5; John 15:10-11**. DISCUSS, How does Jesus singing this song show us God's goodness? How does Jesus' love for the Father free us to love Him too? MEDITATE on **John 15:9**. PRAY that we at FCCW would *truly delight in God's goodness together*.

Saturday

PREPARE for *gathered worship tomorrow*. READ **Ruth 1:1-22**. Invite others to join you tomorrow for the *worship service @ 10:30*. Ask Jesus to *help us praise Him as we gather*.

John 15:9

"As the Father has loved me, *so have I loved you*. Abide in my love."