



The \_\_\_\_\_  
First Congregational Church  
of Woodstock \_\_\_\_\_

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

*December 12th, 2021*

# *The Order of Morning Worship*

December 12th, 2021

*The Third Sunday in Advent*

Ten-thirty

Welcome

Pastor

Moment for Missions

Scott Rancourt, Elevation Academy

Prelude & Silent Prayer

❖ Call to Worship

Psalm 86

Congregation

Pastor: We will praise You, O Lord our God, with our whole 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.**

Pastor: All the nations You have made will come and worship 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 #196

*Come, Thou Long-  
Expected Jesus*

Congregation

# Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

196

*Waiting for the consolation of Israel. Luke 2:25*

1. Come, thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;  
 2. Joy to those who long to see thee, Day-spring from on high, ap - pear;  
 3. Come to earth to taste our sad - ness, he whose glo - ries knew no end;  
 4. Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,

from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.  
 come, thou prom - ised Rod of Jes - se, of thy birth we long to hear!  
 by his life he brings us glad - ness, our Re - deem - er, Shep - herd, Friend.  
 born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.

Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,  
 O'er the hills the an - gels sing - ing news, glad tid - ings of a birth:  
 Leav - ing rich - es with - out num - ber, born with - in a cat - tle stall;  
 By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;

dear De - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.  
 "Go to him, your prais - es bring - ing; Christ the Lord has come to earth."  
 this the ev - er - last - ing won - der, Christ was born the Lord of all.  
 by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it, raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

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

Congregation

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.

Silent Reflection and Confession

Proclamation of Forgiveness

Psalm 130

Pastor

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.

Offering

(collected from back to front)

Congregation

- ❖ Affirmation of Faith *The Westminster Shorter Catechism*<sup>1</sup> Congregation
  - Pastor: What is the chief end of man?
  - Congregation: Man's chief end is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.**
  - Pastor: What rule has God given to direct us in how to glorify and enjoy Him?
  - Congregation: The Word of God, which is contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, is the only rule to direct us as to how we may glorify and enjoy Him.**

❖ Creedal Song #735

*Gloria Patri*

Congregation

<sup>1</sup> A catechism is a question and answer format for teaching the truths contained in Scripture. The Westminster Shorter Catechism was written in 1647 in England primarily as an aid for teaching children. It has been used by congregations and families in both worship and instruction for the past 350 years.

735

## Gloria Patri

*Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor  
of his holiness. Ps. 29:2*

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the

Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in

the be - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er

shall be, world with - out end. A - men, a - men.

<sup>6</sup> And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. <sup>7</sup> And he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne. <sup>8</sup> And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. <sup>9</sup> And they sang a new song, saying,

“Worthy are you to take the scroll  
and to open its seals,  
for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God  
from every tribe and language and people and nation,  
<sup>10</sup> and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God,  
and they shall reign on the earth.”

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

**Congregation: Thanks be to God.**

Pastoral Prayer

Pastor

❖ Hymn of Reflection #216

*Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

Congregation

# Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

216

*He is Lord of lords and King of kings—and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers. Rev. 17:14*

1. In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat - tle stall;  
2. Flocks were sleep - ing: shep - herds keep - ing vig - il till the morn - ing new

ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know - ing Christ, the babe, is Lord of all.  
saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, tid - ings of a gos - pel true.

Swift are wing - ing an - gels sing - ing, no - els ring - ing, tid - ings bring - ing:  
Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row, prais - es voic - ing, greet the mor - row:

Christ the babe is Lord of all. Christ the babe is Lord of all.  
Christ the babe was born for you. Christ the babe was born for you.

*“The Coming King and His Kingdom”*

Isaiah 11:1-10

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

2 And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him,  
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the Spirit of counsel and might,  
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

3 And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide disputes by what his ears hear,

4 but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;  
and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

5 Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

6 The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,  
and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat,  
and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together;  
and a little child shall lead them.

7 The cow and the bear shall graze;  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

8 The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra,  
and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.

9 They shall not hurt or destroy  
in all my holy mountain;  
for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord  
as the waters cover the sea.

10 In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—  
of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.



## Angels, from the Realms of Glory

218

*They saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him.*  
Matt. 2:11

1. An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
2. Shep - herds in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,  
3. Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;  
4. Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, watch - ing long in hope and fear,  
5. All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son;

ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:  
God with man is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant Light:  
• seek the great De - sire of na - tions; ye have seen his na - tal star:  
sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing, in his tem - ple shall ap - pear:  
ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to th'e - ter - nal Three in One:

REFRAIN

Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

Benediction

Jude 24-25

Pastor

Pastor: 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

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~~ Organist: Jonathan Denham ~~

~~ Violinist: Beth Telford ~~

~~ Please ensure cell phones are off ~~

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### Guest Violinist—Beth Telford

Beth Telford has been playing and performing traditional music since the 1980's. She began by playing New England contra-dance music in southern New England, playing for dances, and at coffeehouses and festivals. In addition to performing, Beth has taught fiddle to scores of students of all ages.

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### 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 service. To order a 6" red or white Poinsettia call Carol Powell at 457-3833 before Dec. 13th.

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

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## Christmas Eve

FCCW will have two in-person Christmas Eve services this year, at 5:00 pm and 7:00 pm. Reserved seating is required. Seats may be reserved at [www.fccw.net/ChristmasEve](http://www.fccw.net/ChristmasEve). The services will also be streamed live. Nursery will be available for the 5:00 service.

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## Nursery Volunteers Needed!

We are so thankful that we have been able to reopen the nursery and have received much appreciation from the families who benefit from it. However, we are very much in need of additional helpers! If you can help one Sunday or several please sign up on the schedule in the Billings Room or contact Karis at (207) 329-4190 or [karis.warren@gmail.com](mailto:karis.warren@gmail.com).

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The December prayer letter is on the table in the narthex.

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## Property Manager/Custodian Position

We are looking for a Property Manager and Custodian for FCCW as Justin & Stephanie Sterling are transitioning out of the position after three years of exceptional service. This position requires the person to work a flexible schedule, be able to handle a variety of tasks, and be a good steward of FCCW property. Please contact Karl Huck at 802-457-3072 or e-mail him at [karlhuck@gmail.com](mailto:karlhuck@gmail.com) for more details or to submit an application. Thank you.

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## Teachers Needed

WCCC is in need of **Teachers/Assistants**, and **Substitutes**. Please contact Ruth Brisson at [rbrissonwccc@gmail.com](mailto:rbrissonwccc@gmail.com) or 410-925-7959, if you are interested in serving in any of these roles.

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