



The _____
First Congregational Church
of Woodstock _____

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

December 26th, 2021

The Order of Morning Worship

December 26th, 2021

Ten-thirty

Welcome

Pastor Doug Warren

Prelude & Silent Prayer

❖ Call to Worship Psalm 67 and 1 Chronicles 16 Congregation

Pastor: Let the peoples praise You, O God; let all the peoples praise You. Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for You rule the peoples justly and guide the nations of the earth. Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let them say among the nations, "The LORD reigns!" Give thanks to the LORD,

Congregation: He is good; His love endures forever.

❖ Hymn of Exultation #214 *Angels We Have Heard on High* Congregation

Angels We Have Heard on High

214

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.
Luke 2:14

1. An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2. Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3. Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o back their joy - ous strains.
Say what may the tid - ings be, which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.

REFRAIN

Glo - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o,

glo - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

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

Congregation

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.

Silent Reflection and Confession

Proclamation of Forgiveness

Jeremiah 33: 8

Pastor

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.

Offering

(collected from back to front)

Congregation

❖ Affirmation of Faith

*The Heidelberg Catechism*¹

Congregation

Pastor: What is your only comfort in life and in death?

Congregation: That I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, in life and in death—to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ.

He has fully paid for all my sins with His precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of

¹ Catechisms are a question and answer format used for teaching in the church. The Heidelberg Catechism was written in 1563 and approved by the Church at the Synod of Dort (1618-1619).

my Father in heaven: in fact, all things must work together for my salvation.

Because I belong to Him, Christ, by His Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for Him.

Pastor: What must you know to live and die in the joy of this comfort?

Congregation: Three things: first, how great my sin and misery are; second, how I am set free from all my sins and misery; third, how I am to thank God for such deliverance.

❖ Creedal Song

Holy Holy Holy is the Lord of Hosts

Congregation

Holy Holy Holy Is The Lord Of Hosts

Words and Music by
Nolene Prince

$\text{♩} = 72$

CHORUS

C Am Dm⁷ G⁷ C F Dm⁷ G

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.

5 C Am Dm⁷ G⁷ C F Dm⁷ G⁷

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts. The

9 C C⁷ F D D⁷ G

whole earth is full of His glo - ry, the whole earth is full of His glo - ry, the

13 E E⁷ Am F Dm⁷ G C

whole earth is full of His glo - ry, Ho - ly is the Lord. Fine

❖ Scripture Reading

Colossians 1:15-20

Pastor

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶ For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. ¹⁷ And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

Pastor: The grass withers, the flower fades,

Congregation: but the Word of our God will stand forever.

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 Greater Son Has Come”

Isaiah 9:6-7

⁶For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷Of the increase of his government and of peace
there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

❖ Hymn of Response #200 *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear* Congregation

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

200

An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them.
Luke 2:9

1. It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,
2. Still through the clo - ven skies they come, with peace - ful wings un - furled,
3. And ye, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,
4. For lo, the days are has - t'ning on, by proph - et bards fore - told,

from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
and still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world:
who toil a - long the climb - ing way with pain - ful steps and slow,
when with the ev - er - cir - cling years comes round the age of gold;

"Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heav'n's all - gra - cious King";
a - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - 'ring wing,
look now! for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing:
when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling,

the world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.
and ev - er o'er its Ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.
O rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels sing.
and the whole world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

Benediction

John 14: 27

Pastor

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: Anne Hablitzel ~~

~~ Please ensure cell phones are off ~~

Property Manager Position

FCCW is looking for a Property Manager. This part-time 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 for more details or to submit an application. Thank you.

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.

There will be no Young Adult Fellowship Group this week.

There will be no Sunday School on December 26 and January 2.

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

Teachers Needed

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