



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

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

*December 6th, 2020*

# *The Order of Morning Worship*

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

December 6th, 2020

Ten-thirty

Welcome

Elder Gil Emery

Christmas Eve Offering Announcement

Anne Koop

Prelude & Silent Prayer

❖ Call to Worship

Psalm 86

Elder: 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.**

Elder: 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

Number 247

*O Sacred Head, Now Wounded*

## O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

*He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities. Is. 53:5*

1. O sa - cred Head, now wound - ed, with grief and shame weighed down;  
 2. What thou, my Lord, hast suf - fered was all for sin - ners' gain:  
 3. What lan - guage shall I bor - row to - thank thee, dear - est Friend,

now scorn - ful - ly sur - round - ed with thorns, thine on - ly crown;  
 mine, mine was the trans - gres - sion, but thine the dead - ly pain.  
 for this, thy dy - ing sor - row, thy pit - y with - out end?

O sa - cred Head, what glo - ry, what bliss till now was thine!  
 Lo, here I fall, my Sav - ior! 'Tis I de - serve thy place;  
 O make me thine for - ev - er; and should I faint - ing be,

Yet, though de - spised and gor - y, I joy to call thee mine.  
 look on me with thy fa - vor, vouch - safe to me thy grace.  
 Lord, let me nev - er, nev - er out - live my love to thee.

## Scriptural Call to Repentance

Psalm 46: 8 – 9

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

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.

## Proclamation of Forgiveness

Psalm 130: 3, 7 – 8

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.

## Scripture Reading

Genesis 4: 1 – 7

Now the man had relations with his wife Eve, and she conceived and gave birth to Cain, and she said, "I have obtained a male *child* with *the help of the LORD.*"<sup>2</sup> And again, she gave birth to his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of flocks, but Cain was a cultivator of the ground.<sup>3</sup> So it came about in the course of time that Cain brought an offering to the LORD from the fruit of the ground.<sup>4</sup> Abel, on his part also brought *an offering*, from the firstborn of his flock and from their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering;<sup>5</sup> but for Cain and his offering He had no regard. So Cain became very angry and his face was gloomy.<sup>6</sup> Then the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why is your face gloomy?"<sup>7</sup> If you do well, will *your face* not be cheerful? And if you do not do well, sin is lurking at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it."

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

**Congregation: Thanks be to God!**

Pastoral Prayer

❖ Hymn of Reflection

Number 585

*Take My Life, and Let It Be*

# Take My Life, and Let It Be

585

*Just as you used to offer the parts of your body in slavery to impurity ... so now offer them in slavery to righteousness. Rom. 6:19*

♩ F C<sup>7</sup> F 7 Dm B<sup>b</sup> Gm

1. Take my life, and let it be con - se - crat - ed,  
 2. Take my hands, and let them move at the im - pulse  
 3. Take my voice, and let me sing, al - ways, on - ly,  
 4. Take my sil - ver and my gold; not a mite would

F C<sup>7</sup> F C C<sup>7</sup> F

Lord, to thee. Take my mo - ments and my days; let them  
 of thy love. Take my feet, and let them be swift and  
 for my King. Take my lips, and let them be filled with  
 I with - hold. Take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - 'ry

B<sup>b</sup> F C F C 7 Dm C F B<sup>b</sup> F C F 7

flow in cease - less praise, let them flow in cease - less praise.  
 beau - ti - ful for thee, swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.  
 mes - sag - es from thee, filled with mes - sa - ges from thee.  
 pow'r as thou shalt choose, ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

5. Take my will, and make it thine;  
 it shall be no longer mine.  
 Take my heart, it is thine own;  
 it shall be thy royal throne,  
 it shall be thy royal throne.

6. Take my love; my Lord, I pour  
 at thy feet its treasure-store.  
 Take my self, and I will be  
 ever, only, all for thee,  
 ever, only, all for thee.

“*Psalm 2*”

## Psalm 2

- 1 Why are the nations restless  
And the peoples plotting in vain?
- 2 The kings of the earth take their stand  
And the rulers conspire together  
Against the LORD and against His Anointed, *saying*,
- 3 “Let’s tear their shackles apart  
And throw their ropes away from us!”
- 4 He who sits in the heavens laughs,  
The Lord scoffs at them.
- 5 Then He will speak to them in His anger  
And terrify them in His fury, *saying*,
- 6 “But as for Me, I have installed My King  
Upon Zion, My holy mountain.”
- 7 “I will announce the decree of the LORD:  
He said to Me, ‘You are My Son,  
Today I have fathered You.
- 8 Ask *it* of Me, and I will certainly give the nations as Your  
inheritance,  
And the ends of the earth as Your possession.
- 9 You shall break them with a rod of iron,  
You shall shatter them like earthenware.”
- 10 Now then, you kings, use insight;  
Let yourselves be instructed, you judges of the earth.
- 11 Serve the LORD with reverence  
And rejoice with trembling.
- 12 Kiss the Son, that He not be angry and you perish *on* the way,  
For His wrath may be kindled quickly.  
How blessed are all who take refuge in Him!

# O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

164

*He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God. Acts 3:8*

Chords: G D G D G Em 7 D G D7 G D

1. O for a thou- sand tongues to sing my great Re- deem - er's praise,  
 2. My gra- cious Mas - ter and my God, as - sist me to pro - claim,  
 3. Je - sus, the name that charms our fears, that bids our sor - rows cease;  
 4. He breaks the pow'r of reign - ing sin, he sets the pris - 'ner free;

Chords: G C F G/D D7 G 7

the glo - ries of my God and King, the tri - umphs of his grace.  
 to spread through all the earth a - broad the hon - ors of thy name.  
 'tis mu - sic in the sin - ner's ears, 'tis life and health and peace.  
 his - blood can make the foul - est clean, his blood a - vailed for me.

5. He speaks and, list'ning to his voice,  
 new life the dead receive;  
 the mournful, broken hearts rejoice;  
 the humble poor believe.

6. Hear him, ye deaf; his praise, ye dumb,  
 your loosen'd tongues employ;  
 ye blind, behold your Savior come;  
 and leap, ye lame, for joy.

Charles Wesley, 1739; alt.  
 Alt. 1961

AZMON C.M.  
 Carl G. Gläser, 1784-1829  
 Arr. by Lowell Mason, 1839



Benediction

Jude 24 – 25

Elder: 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 ~~*  
*~~ Please ensure cell phones are off ~~*

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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 or the next Sunday service. To order a 6” red or white poinsettia, contact Carol Powell at 457-3833 on or before Dec. 13.

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### Christmas Eve Service

To accommodate the COVID restrictions, this year we will be offering 2 in – person Christmas Eve Services – 5:00 pm and 7:00 pm. If both services fill, we will offer a third service. Seating will be limited to 135 people per service. Reservations will be required. To reserve your seat, go to [www.fccw.net/ChristmasEve](http://www.fccw.net/ChristmasEve). Services will also be streamed live.

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~~ Virtual Baby Card and Gift Shower for  
Jonathan, Annie and baby Denham ~~

When: December 13, 2020

How: website, mail in cards, baby basket in church for cards and gifts

Dear Family and Friends,

You are all invited to participate in a virtual baby shower. Ruth Emery (hgemery@aol.com or 802-457-4950) and I wish it could be in person, but the current restrictions won't permit it. We are so excited to have Jonathan and Annie with us at FCCW and we as a church family love to celebrate this joyous time with them and help support them.

There are several ways that you can participate:

The **first** way can be found in the back of the church, on November 29, December 6, and December 13 as you will find a holiday basket to put your baby gift cards in. If you would like to drop off a baby gift, then Terri or myself will be there to collect them and store them until everything is in.

The **second** way, just in case you don't feel comfortable coming into the church, you can mail the cards to the church. Please put on the bottom left of the envelope, **BABY SHOWER**. The address is FCCW, 36 Elm Street, Woodstock, VT 05091.

The **third** way, is through the baby website registry that is as follows: Jonathan Denham and Anne Denham's Baby Registry on <https://www.myregistry.com/baby-registry/jonathan-denham-and-anne-denham-woodstock-vt/2581881>

After the 13th, we will make sure that the gifts and cards get to them in their new apartment.

We thank you in advance as you bless them with your love and support.

In Christian Love,

Anne Koop (anne.t.koop@gmail.com, 802-345-1217)

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Christmas Eve Offering Recipient  
Bethany Birches Camp, Plymouth, VT

*Seek First His Kingdom and All These Things Will Be Given To You As Well.*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I write to you with a full heart. My heart is filled with thankfulness, grace, and abundance. 2020 has been a challenging year for most. For some, it has been beyond challenging. For us here at Bethany Birches it has been stressful. When we realized summer camp would be possible and safe, and that young people needed a Christ-centered camp experience now more than ever, we were determined to find a way to abide by the guidelines, keep everyone safe, and run camp! We are so glad we did. Thought it was tiring, stressful, character-building, it was worth all of it. I suppose that's the way it is in the Kingdom of God. Jesus himself said in Luke 17 that whoever tries to keep their life will lose it and whoever loses their life will preserve it. This summer, and year in general has brought various kinds of loses. As promised, the camp, and those of us serving it have been preserved. Resources continue to be provided, lives impacted, and learning and growth abound.

On the topic of lives impacted, I couldn't be more pleased with one of our counselors this summer. While I was pleased with many of them, and think the summer team did a great job, the story of this one young woman helps me to envision the heart of our work. She had come to camp many years as a child and then even into her teen years. She was at camp every chance she got. She brought her friends. As she grew, and became involved in more activities, we saw less of her in her later teen years. She came back to us to be on staff in 2019. She wasn't sure she could be a counselor so took a support role. In 2020 she realized she wanted to be a counselor. She wasn't sure her faith was strong enough, or that her Bible knowledge was great enough. We hired her with enthusiasm because we know and love her and felt she was enough, and trusted her to guide campers toward their own relationships with God as her counselors did with her for so many years. As the summer wore on, she asked hard questions of us. She shared honestly and passionately. She gave deeply of herself to her campers and fellow staff. She started to read her Bible more often. After summer, she asked multiple times for us to begin a Bible study for staff and campers (which is now underway with many teens who are not currently in the faith). She is working hard to apply

all she is learning to her daily life. It is young people like this that are so needed right now. This young woman helps me remember that people are connecting deeply with God and those around them through the work we do at camp.

Now you can understand a little more why my heart is full. I have much to be thankful for, including that God would call me to this work, and let me witness so much change and joy and love, even while I am a sinner. I have you to be thankful for as well. Thank you for committing your Christmas Sacrificial Offering to the mission of Bethany Birches Camp. Join me in praying that God guides each of us as we are invited to make our own sacrifices and that as we respond to God's call in our lives, fruit is borne and, in the context, here at camp, many come to know Jesus and have intimate experience with God.

May the Lord bless you and keep you,

Brandon Bergey, Executive Director  
Bethany Birches Camp

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Copies of Pastor Doug's Advent Booklet  
are available in the Narthex.

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## Psalm 2

### Rev. 11: 15

<sup>15</sup> Then the seventh angel sounded; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdom of the world has become *the kingdom* of our Lord and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever.”

## Romans 1: 18 – 25

<sup>18</sup> For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of people who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, <sup>19</sup> because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. <sup>20</sup> For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes, that is*, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, being understood by what has been made, so that they are without excuse. <sup>21</sup> For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their reasonings, and their senseless hearts were darkened. <sup>22</sup> Claiming to be wise, they became fools, <sup>23</sup> and they exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible mankind, of birds, four-footed animals, and crawling creatures.

<sup>24</sup> Therefore God gave them up to vile impurity in the lusts of their hearts, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them. <sup>25</sup> For they exchanged the truth of God for falsehood, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

## Rev. 1: 12 – 18

<sup>12</sup> Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking with me. And after turning I saw seven golden lampstands; <sup>13</sup> and in the middle of the lampstands I saw one like a son of man, clothed in a robe reaching to the feet, and wrapped around the chest with a golden sash. <sup>14</sup> His head and His hair were white like white wool, like snow; and His eyes were like a flame of fire. <sup>15</sup> His feet were like burnished bronze when it has been heated to a glow in a furnace, and His voice was like the sound of many waters. <sup>16</sup> In His right hand He held seven stars, and out of His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword; and His face was like the sun shining in its strength.

<sup>17</sup> When I saw Him, I fell at His feet like a dead man. And He placed His right hand on me, saying, “Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, <sup>18</sup> and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades.

# Taking Gathered Worship Home

*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

Read **Psalm 2, Genesis 4: 1-7.**

Think about why people rage against the Lord? The Psalmist did.

What do they get from it?

What insight does the Word have as to why people reject the Lord and His Son?

## Sunday Evening

**Young Adults' Fellowship** at **6:00** tonight in the FCCW library.

## Monday

Read **Psalm 2: 1-3 and Proverbs 21: 1-3.**

What's the definition of rage? What are some synonyms?

What are some examples, now, of how kings, authorities and people set themselves against God?

Have you noticed that the strength of your walk with Christ goes hand in hand with your patience, temper and thought life?

"A vain thing". What vain (futile, useless, to no purpose) things do you have in your life?

Why do unbelievers look at God as a "bondage builder versus a "bondage breaker"?

## Tuesday

Read **Psalm 2: 4-5 and Romans 1: 18-25.**

Think of being the object of God's scornful laugh....what's your reaction? Who's the object of His laugh today?

As to Romans 1: 18-20, what does it mean "they knew God" and "they're without excuse"?

God speaks to them (vs 5) ...He cares for them...but that causes them distress...why?

### Wednesday

Read **Psalm 2: 6-9** and **Rev. 1: 12-18**.

What's the "holy hill of Zion"? What is its significance today?

What is the difference between the only begotten Son and adopted son?

How is God's sovereignty displayed with the "rod of iron"?

### Thursday

Read **Psalm 2: 10,11,12** and **Rev. 11: 15**.

Which person of the Trinity is speaking in these verses?

Think on "rejoice with trembling".

What's the difference between man's rage/wrath and God's wrath (vs1 and vs12)?

### Friday

Reread **Psalm 2**.

Think on what you've learned from Psalm 2.

What questions has the Holy Spirit raised for you? Share them with others.

### Saturday

Prepare your hearts and minds for tomorrow's service and pray for those who'll be teaching from God's Word. Both live-stream & in-person services are available.

Read **Luke 2: 13-20**. Invite others to join you tomorrow for either the live-stream or in-person service. Ask Jesus to help us love our neighbors well.

## Proverbs 21: 1 – 3

- 1 The king's heart is *like* channels of water in the hand of the LORD; He turns it wherever He pleases.
- 2 Every person's way is right in his own eyes, But the LORD examines the hearts.
- 3 To do righteousness and justice Is preferred by the LORD more than sacrifice.