



The _____
First Congregational Church
_____ of Woodstock _____

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

February 19th, 2023

The Order of Morning Worship

February 19th, 2023

Ten-thirty

Welcome & Announcements

Pastor Doug Warren

Prelude & Silent Prayer

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| ❖ Call to Worship | Psalm 19 | Pastor |
| ❖ Hymn of Exultation #125 | <i>Let All Things Now Living</i> | Congregation |
| Scriptural Call to Repentance | Habakkuk 2:14, 18-20 | Pastor |
| Prayer of Collective Confession | Psalm 25 | Congregation |

Remember Your mercy, O LORD, and Your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. Remember not the sins of our youth or our transgressions; according to Your steadfast love remember us, for the sake of Your goodness, O LORD! 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. The troubles of our hearts are enlarged; bring us out of our distresses. Consider our affliction and our trouble, and forgive all our sins.

Silent Reflection and Confession

Proclamation of Forgiveness Romans 8:1 Pastor

Pastoral Prayer Pastor

Offering (collected from back to front) Congregation

Affirmation of Faith *The Nicene Creed*¹ Congregation

Pastor: 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

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.

Father; by whom all things were made; who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven, and 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.

❖ Creedal Song	<i>Barocha</i>	Congregation
❖ Scripture Reading	Exodus 15:22-26; John 6:41-51	Pastor
❖ Hymn of Reflection	<i>Count Your Blessings</i>	Congregation
The Sermon	Ruth 1:19-22 <i>“Public Shame”</i>	Pastor
❖ Hymn of Response #197	<i>Comfort, Comfort Ye My People</i>	Congregation
❖ Benediction	2 Corinthians 13:14	Pastor

The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

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: Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven (Hildebrand)

Offertory: God is So Good (Sewell)

Postlude: Processional in G Major (Stanley/Buszin)

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

Intro to FCCW Workshop

Interested in knowing more about FCCW? Want to explore questions about the Bible in a small group? What does it mean to be a member? What opportunities are there to serve at FCCW? Consider attending the *Intro to FCCW Workshop* being offered Friday night, March 3, from 6-9 pm and Saturday morning, March 4, from 9 am-noon. This two-part workshop will give insight into how FCCW functions and the importance of membership. Please contact Kristen at fccwinfo@gmail.com to register.

Session One—Worship

Session Two—Joyous Knowledge

Session Three—Radical Love for One Another

Session Four— Extending His Grace

Session Five— Belonging to His Community

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The February Prayer Letter is available on the back table.  
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## An Evening of Encouragement

BCE Supper Talk: February 23, 2023  
“The Glorious Church”

Have you noticed? Being a dedicated member of a church is no longer a normal part of American culture. “Church people” stand out now more than ever before. Of course, standing out can be a very good thing, but in some ways it makes being a member of a church more difficult. The culture no longer supports us or the time we commit to church activities, because it no longer sees church as a meaningful, important part of life.

On Thursday, February 23, the Board of Christian Education invites you to a supper talk that intends to rekindle our love of church. We've titled it, "The Glorious Church." It's for all of us - those who need a reminder of why church is so important, those who are a bit tired of the commitment, and those who love church and just want to hear more ways to describe it to others.

After sharing dinner at 6:00 pm, we'll watch a video and engage in discussion. The video is of a plenary talk given last year at the CCEF New England conference. The conference was about living effectively as the body of Christ. In this plenary, Robyn Huck describes the beauty of the church that God has given us. In this talk we hear that God has required that we be unified to act as Christ's ambassadors, He has provided that unity for us, and He glories in our church unity. This is an uplifting, no-guilt-trip, 40-minute video of pure encouragement.

Please sign up on the Billings Room bulletin board and bring a side dish or dessert of your choosing. Main course will be supplied.

We could all use a bit more uplifting encouragement. We hope you'll join us on Thursday, February 23 at 6:00 pm.

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Flower Committee

The Flower Committee would like to encourage our members to contribute flowers for Sunday services. This is a wonderful way to remember a loved one or to celebrate a special event. Please contact Christine Morton or Alison Briggs, or sign-up in the Billings room.

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# Mid Vermont Christian School

*Educating for Impact*

## **Calling missionaries to MVCS!**

We are seeking qualified and enthusiastic individuals  
who have a passion for Christian education!

MVCS has full-time and part-time (pt)\* positions available:

Elementary School Teacher

Physical Education Teacher (pt)

Athletic Director (pt)

Instrumental Teacher (pt)

JSH Foreign Language Teacher (pt)

JSH Mathematics Teacher (STEM teacher would be ideal!)

\*could be full time if combined with other positions

Please contact Vicky at [headofschool@mvcs.info](mailto:headofschool@mvcs.info) or 802-295-6800.

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## **Public Shame**

1. **Where Everyone Knows Your Name (19).**

2. **Naomi's Song of Woe (20-21).**

3. **Shame and Hope (22).**

Conclusion: Naomi struggles with the public shame of coming home empty. Instead of giving thanks to the Lord she sings a song of woe that keeps her focused on what she perceives as God dealing with her harshly. How can we give thanks to the Lord even when we are dealing with great difficulties? Keeping our eyes focused on the lovingkindness of God displayed in Christ through His life, death, and resurrection is the only way.

## **Exodus 15:22-26**

<sup>22</sup> Then Moses made Israel set out from the Red Sea, and they went into the wilderness of Shur. They went three days in the wilderness and found no water. <sup>23</sup> When they came to Marah, *they could not drink the water of Marah because it was bitter; therefore it was named Marah.* <sup>24</sup> And the people grumbled against Moses, saying, “What shall we drink?” <sup>25</sup> And he cried to the Lord, and the Lord showed him a log, and he threw it into the water, *and the water became sweet.* There the Lord made for them a statute and a rule, and there he tested them, <sup>26</sup> saying, “If you will diligently listen to the voice of the Lord your God, and do that which is right in his eyes, and give ear to his commandments and keep all his statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you that I put on the Egyptians, for I am the Lord, your healer.”

## **Psalm 100:1-5**

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!

<sup>2</sup> Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!

<sup>3</sup> Know that the Lord, he is God!

It is he who made us, and we are his;  
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

<sup>4</sup> Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise!

Give thanks to him; bless his name!

<sup>5</sup> For the Lord is good;

his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

## **Matthew 21:10-11**

And when Jesus entered Jerusalem, *the whole city was stirred up*, saying, “*Who is this?*” And the crowds said, “*This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee.*”

## **John 6:41-51**

<sup>41</sup> So the Jews *grumbled* about him, because he said, “I am the bread that came down from heaven.” <sup>42</sup> They said, “Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How does he now say, ‘I have come down from heaven’?” <sup>43</sup> Jesus answered them, “*Do not grumble among yourselves.* <sup>44</sup> No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day. <sup>45</sup> It is written in the Prophets, ‘And they will all be taught by God.’ Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me— <sup>46</sup> not that anyone has seen the Father except he who is from God; he has seen the Father. <sup>47</sup> Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. <sup>48</sup> I am the bread of life. <sup>49</sup> Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. <sup>50</sup> This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. <sup>51</sup> I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”



# Taking Gathered Worship Home

If ever there was anyone in need of a new beginning, it was Naomi. Embittered against YHWH, the subject of all the town gossip, shackled to her daughter-in-law (a living, breathing testimony to Naomi's shame), she returned home again from a land of incestuous debauchery.

*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 **Ruth 1:19-22; Exodus 15:22-26; Psalm 100:1-5; Matthew 21:10-11; John 6:41-51; First Corinthians 15:3-11**. DISCUSS Naomi comes home to all the gossip about her struggles and grief. How does she struggle with her shame? How is the good news of a coming Messiah her only hope? MEDITATE on **First Corinthians 15:3-6**. PRAY "Jesus, You are worthy of all praise, commitment and devotion. Enable us to remain faithful in Your service."

## Sunday Evening

**Young Adult Fellowship** meets tonight at 6pm in the library.

## Monday

READ **Ruth 1:19-22; Exodus 15:22-26**. DISCUSS In what ways were the Israelites coming up out of Egypt struggling with similar things as Naomi? How were they different? Do you relate to either? Both? How or why not? What are we supposed to do instead of complain? SERVE by putting someone else's interests *above your own!* MEDITATE on **First Corinthians 15:3-6**. PRAY, "Father, protect us from bitter hearts. Teach us to love You and give You thanks each day."

## Tuesday

READ **Ruth 1:20-21; Psalm 100:1-5; Romans 1:21-23**. DISCUSS How does Naomi's song compare to this Psalm? What "songs of despair" do you sing to yourself? SERVE by considering someone else's needs *above your own!* MEDITATE on **First Corinthians 15:3-6**. PRAY, "Lord God, make us grateful to You for all that You do for us, we pray!"

### Wednesday

READ **Ruth 1:19-22; Matthew 21:10-11**. DISCUSS Compare and contrast the tumult described in these passages. Why is everyone abuzz with Naomi/Jesus' entrance to the place? What is everyone saying? Why do they care? SERVE by *contacting someone from FCCW you haven't seen in a while. Demonstrate care for them more than yourself!* MEDITATE on **First Corinthians 15:3-6**. PRAY, "Lord, protect us from gossip and thinking ill of You or one another."

### Thursday

READ **Ruth 1:19-22; John 6:41-51; First Corinthians 10:6-22; First Thessalonians 5:16-18**. DISCUSS How does gratitude short-circuit grumbling? In these two passages dealing with grumbling, the Lord points to communion. How does thanksgiving apply to the Eucharist? How is that relevant to grumbling? SERVE by putting someone else's interests *above your own!* MEDITATE on **First Corinthians 15:3-6**. PRAY, "Lord, make us grateful to You for all Your blessings and to seek You more than them."

### Friday

READ **Ruth 1:19-22; Exodus 15:22-26; Psalm 100:1-5; Matthew 21:10-11; John 6:41-51**. DISCUSS, What has the Holy Spirit been teaching you this week through these passages? MEDITATE on **First Corinthians 15:3-6**. PRAY that we at FCCW would *truly delight in God's mercy 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 adore Him through obedience as we gather*.

## First Corinthians 15:3-6

<sup>3</sup>For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup>that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, <sup>5</sup>and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. <sup>6</sup>Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep.