



The _____
First Congregational Church
of Woodstock _____

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

February 21st, 2021

The Order of Morning Worship

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

February 21st, 2021

Ten-thirty

Welcome

Pastor Doug Warren

Prelude & Silent Prayer

❖ Call to Worship

Psalm 19

Pastor: The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies
proclaim the work of His hands.

**Congregation: Day after day they pour forth speech; night after
night they acknowledge His glory.**

Pastor: There is no land or nation where their voice is not
heard.

**Congregation: Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words
to the ends of the world.**

❖ Hymn of Exultation

Number 1

All People That on Earth Do Dwell

All People That on Earth Do Dwell

1

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. Ps. 100:1

1. All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, sing
2. The Lord ye know is God in - deed; with -
3. O en - ter then his gates with praise, ap -
4. For why? The Lord our God is good, his

to the Lord with cheer - ful voice; him serve with fear, his
out our aid he did us make; we are his folk, he
proach with joy his courts un - to; praise, laud, and bless his
mer - cy is for - ev - er sure; his truth at all times

praise forth - tell, come ye be - fore him and re - joice.
doth us feed, and for his sheep he doth us take.
name al - ways, for it is seem - ly so to do.
firm - ly stood, and shall from age to age en - dure.

Scriptural Call to Repentance

Habakkuk 2: 14, 18 – 20

For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea... “Of what value is an idol, since a man has carved it? Or an image that teaches lies? For he who makes it trusts in his own creation; he makes idols that cannot speak. Woe to him who says to wood, ‘Come to life!’ Or to lifeless stone, ‘Wake up!’ Can it give guidance? It is covered with gold and silver; there is no breath in it. But the LORD is in his holy temple; let all the earth be silent before him.”

Collective Confession

Psalm 25

Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your goodness, O LORD! For your name's sake, O LORD, pardon my guilt, for it is great. Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and afflicted. The troubles of my heart are enlarged; bring me out of my distresses. Consider my affliction and my trouble, and forgive all my sins.

Proclamation of Forgiveness

Romans 8:1

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Scripture Reading

1 Thessalonians 2: 5 – 12

⁵ For we never came with flattering speech, as you know, nor with a pretext for greed—God is witness—⁶ nor did we seek glory from men, either from you or from others, even though as apostles of Christ we might have asserted our authority. ⁷ But we proved to be gentle among you, as a nursing *mother* tenderly cares for her own children. ⁸ Having so fond an affection for you, we were well-pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become very dear to us.

⁹ For you recall, brethren, our labor and hardship, *how* working night and day so as not to be a burden to any of you, we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. ¹⁰ You are witnesses, and *so is* God, how devoutly and uprightly and blamelessly we behaved toward you believers; ¹¹ just as you know how we *were* exhorting and encouraging and imploring each one of you as a father *would* his own children, ¹² so that you would walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.

Pastor: The grass withers, the flower fades,

Congregation: But the word of our God will stand forever.

Pastoral Prayer

❖ Hymn of Reflection

Number 97

We Praise You, O God, Our Redeemer, Creator

We Praise You, O God, Our Redeemer, Creator

97

Our Redeemer—the LORD Almighty is his name—is the Holy One of Israel. Is. 47:4

1. We praise you, O God, our Re - deem - er, Cre - a - tor;
 2. We wor - ship you, God of our fa - thers, we bless you;
 3. With voic - es u - nit - ed our prais - es we of - fer,

in grate - ful de - vo - tion our tri - bute we bring.
 through life's storm and tem - pest our Guide you have been.
 to you, great Je - ho - vah, glad an - thems we raise.

We lay it be - fore you, we kneel and a - dore you;
 When per - ils o'er - take us, es - cape you will make us,
 Your strong arm will guide us, our God is be - side us;

we bless your ho - ly name, glad prais - es we sing.
 and with your help, O Lord, our bat - tles we win.
 to you, our great Re - deem - er, for - ev - er be praise.

“*Unity and Disagreement*”

Acts 15: 30 – 40

³⁰ So when they were sent away, they went down to Antioch; and having gathered the congregation together, they delivered the letter. ³¹ When they had read it, they rejoiced because of its encouragement. ³² Judas and Silas, also being prophets themselves, encouraged and strengthened the brethren with a lengthy message. ³³ After they had spent time *there*, they were sent away from the brethren in peace to those who had sent them out. ³⁴ [But it seemed good to Silas to remain there.] ³⁵ But Paul and Barnabas stayed in Antioch, teaching and preaching with many others also, the word of the Lord.

³⁶ After some days Paul said to Barnabas, “Let us return and visit the brethren in every city in which we proclaimed the word of the Lord, *and see* how they are.” ³⁷ Barnabas wanted to take John, called Mark, along with them also. ³⁸ But Paul kept insisting that they should not take him along who had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not gone with them to the work. ³⁹ And there occurred such a sharp disagreement that they separated from one another, and Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus. ⁴⁰ But Paul chose Silas and left, being committed by the brethren to the grace of the Lord.

❖ Hymn of Response

Number 347

The Church's One Foundation

The Church's One Foundation

Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. Eph. 2:20

1. The church - 's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;
 2. E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
 3. Though with a scorn - ful won - der men see her sore op - pressed,
 4. The church shall nev - er per - ish! Her dear Lord to de - fend,

she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the Word:
 her char - ter of sal - va - tion one Lord, one faith, one birth;
 by schis - ms rent a - sun - der, by her - e - sies dis - tressed,
 to guide, sus - tain, and cher - ish, is with her to the end;

from heav'n he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;
 one ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,
 yet saints their watch are keep - ing, their cry goes up, "How long?"
 though there be those that hate her, and false sons in her pale,

with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
 and to one hope she press - es, with ev - 'ry grace en - dued.
 And soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.
 a - gainst or foe or trai - tor she ev - er shall pre - vail.

5. 'Mid toil and tribulation,
and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation
of peace forevermore;
till with the vision glorious
her longing eyes are blest,
and the great church victorious
shall be the church at rest.

6. Yet she on earth hath union
with God the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion
with those whose rest is won:
O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we,
like them, the meek and lowly,
on high may dwell with thee.

Samuel J. Stone, 1866

AURELIA 7.6.7.6.D.
Samuel S. Wesley, 1864

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.

Congregation: Thanks be to God. Amen.

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

Postlude

~~ Organist: Jonathan Denham ~~
~~ Please ensure cell phones are off ~~

The 2020 Annual Report is available
on the table in the Billings Room.

The New Members and Friends Lists are
available on the table in the Billings Room.

Young Adult Fellowship Group tonight at 6 pm.

From the Flower Committee

It's always nice to see fresh flowers or a flowering plant in the front of the church on Sundays. If you would like to place memorial flowers during these winter months or late fall, please contact one of the flower committee members or sign up on the Flower calendar in the Billings Room. You can provide flowers by yourself or join with a friend.

Committee Member	Month's Responsible for	Contact Information
Carol Powell	January, March	carolruthpowell@hotmail.com
Alison Briggs	May, December	briggsboat@gmail.com
Rhonda Bruce	February, August, November 21 & 28	rhondan08@myfairpoint.net
Christine Morton	April, October	cstine3@aol.com
Harriet Stehouwer	July, November 7 & 14	harrietstehouwer@gmail.com
Marilyn Sutherland	June, September	marilynsutherland@comcast.net



Mid Vermont Christian School

Educating for Impact

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

MVCS has full-time and part-time positions available:

Junior/Senior High Science and Elementary School Teacher,

Part-time Art and Foreign Language, Administrative Assistant, Bookkeeper.

Please inquire through the school office ~ mvcs@mvcs.info or 802-295-6800.

Unity and Disagreement

1. They Celebrated Their Unity in the Jerusalem Letter (30-35).

2. Paul & Barnabas Had a Huge Fight and Separated (36-40).

3. How Can We Have Confidence in Church Leadership?

CONCLUSION: Right on the heels of one of the high points of unity in the Church's history two of its greatest evangelists separate over a vehement conflict. How can the Church survive, let alone thrive, with sinful leaders and our great propensity to fall apart in spectacular as well as mundane ways? And yet, we see God continue to work through frail, broken people. He accomplishes ministry through us in spite of our failings. Praise the Lord! Christ will build His Church.

Jeremiah 35: 15

I have sent to you all my servants the prophets, sending them persistently, saying, 'Turn now every one of you from his evil way, and amend your deeds, and do not go after other gods to serve them, and then you shall dwell in the land that I gave to you and your fathers.' But *you did not incline your ear or listen to me.*

Matthew 5: 21 – 24

“You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.’²² But I say to you that *everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment*; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be liable to the hell of fire.²³ So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you,²⁴ leave your gift there before the altar and go. *First be reconciled to your brother*, and then come and offer your gift.

Proverbs 22: 17 – 19

Incline your ear, and hear the words of the wise,
and apply your heart to my knowledge,
for it will be pleasant if you keep them within you,
if all of them are ready on your lips.
That your trust may be in the Lord,
I have made them known to you today, even to you.
and all the nations who are called by my name,” declares the Lord who does this.

Acts—Series Overview

The Expansion of the Gospel Witness with Power

Acts records God’s faithful accomplishment of all that He promised in taking the gospel to the nations. It lays the groundwork for all that will take place as His Church awaits His return. Just as Jesus lived and spoke as the Father commanded, we now are called to do in the power of His Holy Spirit. While Jesus did this perfectly, we will strive imperfectly, constantly in need of the Holy Spirit’s direction, power, and correction. Nevertheless, our faithful God will work even through our failing efforts and His gospel witness through us will prevail and penetrate every nation, tribe, & territory. For the praise of our King!

Taking Gathered Worship Home

Right in the middle of the unity celebration the church's two leading stars get into a knock-down-drag-out fight and go their separate ways. What's going on here?! The Church is full of sinners saved by grace and God's Word won't let us forget it. The only true star is Jesus. He, and He alone, will build His Church. Praise be to Christ!

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 **Acts 15:30-40; First Thessalonians 2:11-13; Matthew 5:21-24**. DISCUSS, Have you ever struggled after a mountain-top experience? How can we guard ourselves against such disbelief? How does this challenge your thinking about following Jesus? PRAY "Jesus, Thank You for working through Your Church and leading Your elders to instruct us in Your ways."

Sunday Evening

Young Adults Fellowship at **6:00** pm. *Please come to FCCW's Library!*

Monday

READ **Acts 15:30-40; Jeremiah 35:15-19; Proverbs 22:17-19**. DISCUSS, Why is it important to incline our ears to God? Why are we so inclined not to? How can we encourage one another to listen to God instead of ignoring Him? MEDITATE on **First Thessalonians 2:11-13**. PRAY, "Father, make us delight in You so much that we would joyfully listen to You first and gladly do what you bid us do."

Tuesday

READ **Acts 15:30-40; First Kings 18-19**. DISCUSS, What happens to Elijah following his great victory on Mount Carmel? Why does he want to die? Can you relate? Do you know others who get swallowed by despair? Or anger? Or jealousy? Or ? How does faith in Christ's promises for His Church help us? MEDITATE on **First Thessalonians 2:11-13**. PRAY, "Jesus, thank You for loving us and for being so patient with us."

Wednesday

READ **Acts 15:30-40; Matthew 15:29-16:12**. DISCUSS, What are the disciples upset about on the other side after the feeding of the 4,000? Why is it ridiculous? How are you (we) likewise often ridiculous? How does faith in Christ free us to live according to God's commands? MEDITATE on **First Thessalonians 2:11-13**. PRAY, "Lord Jesus, forgive us for the many times we just don't get it. Teach us to trust You!"

Thursday

READ **Acts 15:30-40; Mark 14:1-72; Colossians 1:15-23**. DISCUSS, After all that Peter witnessed how could he deny Jesus? How is Christ going to present us? How are you anticipating that now through your thoughts, words, and actions? MEDITATE on **First Thessalonians 2:11-13**. PRAY, "Jesus, enable us to walk in Your ways."

Friday

READ **Acts 15:30-40; First Thessalonians 2:11-13; Matthew 5:21-24**. DISCUSS, How has God been teaching you from these passages this week? MEDITATE on **First Thessalonians 2:11-13**. PRAY for renewal and revival across our land.

Saturday

PREPARE today for the worship service tomorrow. *Both live-stream & in-person services are available.*

READ **Acts 15:40-16:40**. Invite others to join you tomorrow for either the *live-stream or in-person service*. Ask Jesus to help us love our neighbors well.

First Thessalonians 2: 11 – 13

“For you know how, like a father with his children, we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to **walk in a manner worthy of God**, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory. And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, **you accepted it** not as the word of men but **as what it really is, the word of God**, which is at work in you believers.”