



The _____
First Congregational Church
of Woodstock _____

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

February 20th, 2022

The Order of Morning Worship

February 20th, 2022

Ten-thirty

Welcome

Pastor Doug Warren

Prelude & Silent Prayer

❖ Call to Worship Psalm 19 Congregation

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 #535 *O the Deep, Deep* Congregation
Love of Jesus

Scriptural Call to Repentance Habakkuk 2:14, 18–20 Pastor

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

Offering (collected from back to front) Congregation

❖ Affirmation of Faith *The Nicene Creed*¹ Congregation

Pastor: Christian, what is it that we believe?

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.

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 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 *Barocha* Congregation

❖ Scripture Reading John 17:1-26 Pastor

Pastor: The grass withers, the flower fades,

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

Pastoral Prayer Pastor

❖ Hymn of Reflection #81 *O Love of God,
How Strong and True* Congregation

The Sermon Philippians 1:9-11 Pastor

“Paul’s Prayer for Abounding Love”

² The term “catholic” here means universal and does not mean any particular denomination.

❖ Hymn of Response #529 *Love Divine,* Congregation
All Loves Excelling

❖ Benediction 2 Corinthians 13:14 Pastor
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 ~~*

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

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The February newsletter is on the table in the narthex.

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Property Manager Position

FCCW is looking for a Property Manager. This part-time position requires the person or persons 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 or 410-925-7959, if you are interested in serving in any of these roles.

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# Together in Differences -- Local CCEF NE Conference, April 2

The FCCW Board of Christian Education would like to invite you to attend a one day conference put on by the Christian Counseling and Educational Foundation of New England. It will be held in Lebanon, NH on **April 2, 2022**. FCCW has a special group rate, and according to people's desires, we may have a watch group at the church as well as a group attending in person. You may also watch from home or another remote location.

The topic for the day is Together in Differences. Below is the brief description of the topic and the schedule for the day:

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## TOGETHER IN DIFFERENCES

### *Living Out Our Unity in Christ*

Division and discord seem to surround us, even in the places where we most long for connection. Scripture recognizes this modern yet timeless problem and invites us into a new way of relating to others. We will press into the real problem of disunity and the real hope of the body of Christ, and examine strategies for engaging our differences in a way that builds up the church. Join CCEF New England and special guest Alasdair Groves for a day of teaching and encouragement.

### **Conference Schedule**

8:00-9:00am | Registration

9:00-10:15am | Plenary 1 "We Really Have Differences" (Andy Engert)

10:15-10:30am | Stretch break

10:30-11:45am | Plenary 2 "We Really Have Unity" (Robyn Huck)

11:45-1:15pm | Lunch break (local restaurants or pre-purchased boxed lunch)

1:15-2:00pm | Breakout Sessions

2:00-2:15pm | Stretch break

2:15-3:00pm | Plenary 3 "We Really Can Overcome Divisions" (Alasdair Groves)

3:00-3:30pm | Book table open

### **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

Breakout sessions will explore these ideas further in the context of marriage and family, church and more.

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To register, first email Jeff DeDell at [dedellcrew@gmail.com](mailto:dedellcrew@gmail.com) for the special FCCW group discount code. Registration costs will go up after Feb 15 and March 15. Conference cost to FCCW folks will be between \$34 and \$49 dollars per person, depending on when you register. (There is an optional lunch you can add to your registration cost when you sign up online.)

After contacting Jeff for the code, go to [www.ccef.org/newengland](http://www.ccef.org/newengland) to register. Jeff can assist anyone who has trouble with online registration, and the BCE would also like you to tell him if you wish for assistance in paying for the conference.

The BCE is looking forward to this day of learning alongside other Christians about a struggle that is found in all our churches. Please save the date of Saturday, April 2, 2022.

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New Members and Friends Lists are on the
Table in the Billings Room.
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Walking Wednesday

If you would like to walk inside for some exercise and fellowship, meet the Pastor at FCCW at 1:00 pm on Wednesday to go together to the Powerhouse Mall.  
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Paul's Prayer for Abounding Love

1. Paul Prays That the Philippians' Love May Abundantly Overflow.

2. He Is Asking for a Specific Love for a Particular Purpose.

3. Christ's Love Brings a Harvest of Righteousness to Glorify God.

CONCLUSION: Paul prays for the Philippian Christians in a way that is both instructive and encouraging. The truth of the gospel is not just something we need to know in order to be saved, but it is the reality that God uses to make us more loving. As we grow in Christ's love for one another, may we rejoice in Him. Lord Christ, grant us love that abounds more and more in real knowledge and discernment. Give us hearts that rejoice in what You delight in. Grow us together in Christ's love that we might have a bountiful harvest of righteousness and that You might receive all the praise that You are due.

Ephesians 4:11-16

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers,¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,¹⁴ so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.¹⁵ Rather, *speaking the truth in love*, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

First Peter 1:22-25

²² Having purified your souls by your *obedience to the truth* for a sincere brotherly love, *love one another earnestly from a pure heart*,²³ since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God;²⁴ for

“All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass.
The grass withers, and the flower falls,
²⁵ but *the word of the Lord* remains forever.”

And this *word* is the good news that was preached to you.

Romans 1:16; 18; 32; 2:18-21

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of *the gospel*, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. ...¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness *suppress the truth*. ...³² Though they *know* God’s righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give *approval* to those who practice them. ...¹⁸ and *know his will* and *approve what is excellent*, because you are instructed from the law;¹⁹ and if you are sure that you yourself are a guide to the blind, a light to those who are in darkness,²⁰ an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of children, having in the law the embodiment of knowledge and truth—²¹ you then who teach others, do you not teach yourself? While you preach against stealing, do you steal?

Taking Gathered Worship Home

How much does the truth matter in our love for one another? Isn't it enough just to care for one another? How do we care for one another? We cannot do it apart from the truth of Jesus Christ. Let us explore how Christ has designed true love to grow in the reality of His truth.

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 **Philippians 1:9-11; John 17:1-26; Ephesians 4:11-16; First Peter 1:22-25; Romans 1:16; 18; 32; 2:18-21; First John 3:16-18.** DISCUSS What does Paul pray? Why? How is biblical truth related to our growth? Our love for one another? The glory of God? PRAY "Lord Christ, grant us love that abounds more and more in real knowledge and discernment. Give us hearts that rejoice in what You delight in. Grow us together in Christ's love that we might have a bountiful harvest of righteousness and that You might receive all the praise that You are due."

Sunday Evening

Come join the *Young Adults' Fellowship* at 6pm in the FCCW library!

Monday

READ **Philippians 1:9-11; John 17:1-26.** DISCUSS Do you see some of the same themes in these prayers? What stands out? How are you (we) growing in our godly love for one another? MEDITATE on **First John 3:16-18.** PRAY, "Lord Jesus, *enflame our hearts with love for You and Your family.*"

Tuesday

READ **Philippians 1:9-11; Ephesians 4:11-16.** DISCUSS True love, Christ's love, is true because it is not a lie. What does it mean to speak the truth in love? How does this grow us up in the faith? As we grow and the Body of Christ grows, who gets the glory? Why? MEDITATE on **First John 3:16-18.** PRAY, "Lord, grow us up in the truth of the gospel that we may glorify You alone."

Wednesday

READ **Philippians 1:9-11; First Peter 1:22-25**. DISCUSS, What is the relationship between truth and sincere brotherly love? How do we grow in the truth? How does this affect our love for Christ and one another? MEDITATE on **First John 3:16-18**. PRAY, “Lord, teach us the futility of life without You. Grow us in Your truth that we might love others as You have loved us.”

Thursday

READ **Philippians 1:9-11; Romans 1:16-2:21; Acts 8:1; Luke 11:47-48**. DISCUSS, What’s the significance of our approval? How important are our values? Where do they come from? How are they related to the gospel? How do they shape us? MEDITATE on **First John 3:16-18**. PRAY, Lord, You sacrificed Yourself for us so that we would *delight in what is right*. Truth leads to life; deceit leads to death. Forgive us for delighting in destruction.”

Friday

READ **Philippians 1:9-11; John 17:1-26; Ephesians 4:11-16; First Peter 1:22-25; Romans 1:16; 18; 32; 2:18-21; First John 3:16-18**. DISCUSS, How has God been teaching you from these passages this week? DELIGHT in Christ with all your heart and love His people with joy! MEDITATE on **First John 3:16-18**. PRAY for unity and joyful care for one another at FCCW.

Saturday

PREPARE today for the worship service tomorrow. *Both in-person and live-stream services are available*. READ **Philippians 1:1-30; First John 3:16-18**. Invite others to join you tomorrow for the service. Ask Jesus to gather us together joyfully to praise Him.

First John 3:16-18

¹⁶By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. ¹⁷But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God’s love abide in him? ¹⁸Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.