



The _____
First Congregational Church
of Woodstock _____

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

January 30th, 2022

The Order of Morning Worship

January 30th, 2022

Ten-thirty

Welcome

Elder Peter Vanderhoof

Prelude & Silent Prayer

❖ Call to Worship Zephaniah 3: 14 – 15 Congregation

Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away the judgments against you; he has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil.

❖ Hymn of Exultation #76 *Praise, My Soul,
the King of Heaven* Congregation

Scriptural Call to Repentance Hebrews 4: 14 – 16 Elder

Collective Confession Congregation

Almighty and most merciful Father, we are thankful that Your mercy is higher than the heavens, wider than our wanderings, deeper than all our sin. Forgive our frivolous attitude toward life, our callousness toward suffering, our envy of those who have more than we have, our obsession with creating a life of constant pleasure, our indifference to the treasures of heaven, our neglect of Your wise and gracious law. Help us to change our way of life so that we may desire what is good, love what You love, and do what You command, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Silent Reflection and Confession

Proclamation of Forgiveness Acts 13:38; Ephesians 1:7 Elder

Offering (collected from back to front) Congregation

❖ Affirmation of Faith *from the Athanasian Creed*¹ Congregation

Pastor: We believe whosoever will be saved, before all things it is necessary that they hold the Christian faith; Which faith except every one do keep whole and undefiled, without doubt they shall perish everlastingly.

¹ The Athanasian Creed is named for Athanasius, a fourth-century bishop and prominent defender of biblical orthodoxy.

Congregation: We worship one God in Trinity, and Trinity in Unity; Neither confounding the persons nor dividing the substance. For there is one person of the Father, another of the Son, and another of the Holy Spirit.

Pastor: It is necessary to everlasting salvation that we also believe rightly the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ. For we believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is God and man.

Congregation: This is the Christian faith, which except one believe faithfully they cannot be saved.

❖ Creedal Song *Gospel Song* Congregation

❖ Scripture Reading John 15:1-11 Elder

Pastor: The grass withers, the flower fades,

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

Pastoral Prayer Elder

❖ Hymn of Reflection #646 *Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts* Congregation

The Sermon Psalm 1:1-4 Rev. John Meinen
"Putting Down Roots"

❖ Hymn of Response #188 *Jesus, I Am Resting, Resting* Congregation

Benediction Numbers 6: 24 - 26 Elder

Pastor: May the Lord bless you and keep you; may the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; may the Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace.

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 ~~

Guest Preacher—John Meinen

John Meinen is the campus minister for Reformed University Fellowship (RUF) at the University of Vermont (UVM). RUF seeks to reach students with the good news of Jesus and equip them to love and serve Christ, his church, and his world the whole of their lives.

John is a graduate of the University of Colorado at Boulder ('04) and Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary ('12). Before starting RUF at UVM, John served low-income entrepreneurs in the Bay Area, studied microfinance in Bangladesh, led backpacking trips for Outward Bound, and completed a year-long fellowship program in the nation's capital. His wife, Megan, is the Director for UVM's Adventure Ropes Course. John and Megan live a few blocks from the UVM campus with their 6-year-old daughter and black lab named Fella; they are expecting their second child, a boy, sometime mid-April. The Meinenes love sharing meals with friends, watching nature documentaries, and playing outside. If you want to know more about the ministry of RUF at UVM, please don't hesitate to contact John via email (john.meinen@ruf.org) or by cell (802.922.4202). You can also visit www.rufuvum.org.

Mark Your Calendars!

Saturday, February 12, 9:00 am-noon -- Leadership Training Class--open to all
Friday, February 25 and Saturday, February 26 -- Introduction to FCCW Workshop

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 for more details or to submit an application. Thank you.

There will be NO Young Adult Fellowship this week.

Putting Down Roots

- 1. The key to the blessed life is having roots.**
- 2. Roots are a hidden support system that support and sustain what's above ground.**
- 3. Having roots means having a deep, intimate, personal relationship with Jesus. You can call it prayer; you can call it “abiding”; but getting connected to “living water” and drawing in his life is essential to your living the “good life.”**

CONCLUSION: We already talked about the juniper, but do you know about bamboo? Bamboo spends the first five years of its life underground. After spending five years putting down deep roots, bamboo juts into the sky, growing 80 feet tall in 5 weeks or less. The reason for its stupendous growth is simple: because it grows down before it grows up; because it has in place this hidden support system; because it put down deep roots, bamboo can reach for the sky. It does not fear when the heat comes. Its leaves remain green and good. It is not anxious in the year of drought. Friends, brothers, sisters: be like the bamboo. Be like the juniper. Shoot down deep roots so you can withstand life's drought and storms and be filled with life, His life, the good life, not just #blessed but also a blessing.

Jeremiah 17:7-8

⁷“Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord,
whose trust is the Lord.

⁸He is like a tree planted by water,
that sends out its roots by the stream,
and does not fear when heat comes,
for its leaves remain green,
and is not anxious in the year of drought,
for it does not cease to bear fruit.”

Matthew 6:5-6

⁵“And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ⁶But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

John 15:1-11

¹ “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ² Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³ Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷ If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. ⁹ As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹ These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

Taking Gathered Worship Home

Scripture pictures a blessed life as a tree planted by streams of water. It also tells us that we are the branches in Christ as our vine and that we are redeemed out of sin and death to abundant life that will be characterized by the fruits of the Spirit: love, joy, peace ... ripening in us. Let's explore these truths more deeply together this week.

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 **Psalm 1:1-4; Jeremiah 17:7-8; Matthew 6:5-6; John 15:1-11.** DISCUSS What are the importance of roots? How is chaff different from a firmly planted tree? How are you developing strong roots? What fruits of the Spirit do you see in your life? PRAY "Lord Christ, deepen our intimate, personal relationship with You."

Sunday Evening

No *Young Adults' Fellowship* tonight. *Please pray for Pastor Doug's recovery!*

Monday

READ **Psalm 1:1-4; Jeremiah 17:7-8.** DISCUSS What is the relationship between trust in the Lord and developing deep roots? How does this protect us from the ravages of fear? MEDITATE on **Galatians 5:22-23.** PRAY, "Lord Jesus, thank You for being trust-worthy and faithful. Teach us to meditate deeply on Your Word."

Tuesday

READ **Psalm 1:1-4; Matthew 6:5-6.** DISCUSS What does it mean to pray privately to our Father? How does that intimacy grow? How are you demonstrating faith in Christ through your prayer life? What do you need to confess and repent from in this regard? MEDITATE on **Galatians 5:22-23.** PRAY, "Lord, forgive us for not trusting You as we should. Teach us to truly pour out our fears and concerns before You and to receive the comfort found only in Your Spirit. "

Wednesday

READ **Psalm 1:1-4; John 15:1-11**. DISCUSS What does it mean to abide or rest in Christ? How is that connected to being rooted in Him? Only God can connect us to Christ as the vine, yet we are responsible for drinking His life giving water. How are you doing that? MEDITATE on **Galatians 5:22-23**. PRAY, “Lord, thank You for providing eternal life in Christ.”

Thursday

READ **Psalm 1:1-4; Colossians 1:9-14; John 15:1-11**. DISCUSS, What does it mean to “walk in a manner worthy of the Lord”? How does this relate to the obedience spoken of in John? How does obedience demonstrate rootedness? MEDITATE on **Galatians 5:22-23**. PRAY, “Lord You have redeemed us so that we might glorify You in holiness. Teach us more and more to obey You as we should.”

Friday

READ **Psalm 1:1-4; Jeremiah 17:7-8; Matthew 6:5-6; John 15:1-11**. DISCUSS, How has God been teaching you from these passages this week? REJOICE if Christ has given you the honor to be identified among His people! MEDITATE on **Galatians 5:22-23**. PRAY for unity and joyful care for one another at FCCW.

Saturday

PREPARE today for the worship service tomorrow. *There will be both in-person and live-stream services available.* READ **Philippians 1:1-30**. Invite others to join you tomorrow for the service. Ask Jesus to gather us together joyfully in His promise.

Galatians 5:22-23

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.