



The _____
First Congregational Church
of Woodstock _____

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

February 7th, 2021

The Order of Morning Worship

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

February 7th, 2021

Ten-thirty

Welcome

Pastor Doug Warren

Prelude & Silent Prayer

❖ Call to Worship

Isaiah 6

Pastor: I saw the Lord, seated on a throne, high and exalted,

Congregation: And the train of his robe filled the temple.

Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: with two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling to one another:

Pastor:

Congregation: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.”

❖ Hymn of Exultation

Number 38

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

*Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory
for ever and ever. Amen. 1 Tim. 1:17*

1. Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
2. Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing and si - lent as light,
3. Great Fa - ther of glo - ry, pure Fa - ther of light,

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;
thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;

most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
all praise we would ren - der; O help us to see

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise.
thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

Scriptural Call to Repentance

Isaiah 30:15 – 18

In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength, but you would have none of it. Yet the Lord longs to be gracious to you; He rises to show you compassion. For the Lord is God of justice. Blessed are those who wait for Him!

Collective Confession

Psalm 51

Be gracious to us, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; according to the greatness of Your compassion blot out our transgressions. Wash us thoroughly from our iniquity, and cleanse us from our sin. For we know our transgressions, and our sin is ever before us. Against You, You only, we have sinned, and done what is evil in Your sight, So that You are justified when You speak, and blameless when You judge.

Proclamation of Forgiveness

Hebrews 2: 18

Because Jesus Himself suffered when He was tempted, He is able to help those who are being tempted.

Scripture Reading

1 Corinthians 15: 1 – 11

Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, ²by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain.

³For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep; ⁷then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles; ⁸and last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to me also. ⁹For I am the least of the apostles, and not fit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me did not prove vain; but I labored even more than all of them, yet not I, but the grace of God with me. ¹¹Whether then *it was* I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

Pastoral Prayer

❖ Hymn of Reflection

Number 308

Jesus Paid It All

Jesus Paid It All

Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool. Is. 1:18

D G D A Bm A D

1. I hear the Sav - ior say, "Your strength in - deed is small,
 2. Lord, now in - deed I find your power, and yours a - lone,
 3. For noth - ing good have I where - by your grace to claim—
 4. And when, be - fore the throne, I stand in him com - plete,

G D G D/A A7 D

child of weak - ness, watch and pray, find in me your all in all."
 can change the lep - er's spots, and melt the heart of stone.
 I'll wash my gar - ments white in the blood of Cal - v'ry's Lamb.
 "Je - sus died my soul to save," my lips shall still re - peat.

REFRAIN D G D G D A

Je - sus paid it all, all to him I owe;

D G D D7 G E7 D/A A7 D 7

sin had left a crim - son stain, he washed it white as snow.

“The Heart of the Gospel”

Acts 15: 1 – 11

Some men came down from Judea and *began* teaching the brethren, “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.”² And when Paul and Barnabas had great dissension and debate with them, *the brethren* determined that Paul and Barnabas and some others of them should go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and elders concerning this issue.³ Therefore, being sent on their way by the church, they were passing through both Phoenicia and Samaria, describing in detail the conversion of the Gentiles, and were bringing great joy to all the brethren.⁴ When they arrived at Jerusalem, they were received by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they reported all that God had done with them.⁵ But some of the sect of the Pharisees who had believed stood up, saying, “It is necessary to circumcise them and to direct them to observe the Law of Moses.”

⁶ The apostles and the elders came together to look into this matter.⁷ After there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, “Brethren, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that by my mouth the Gentiles would hear the word of the gospel and believe.⁸ And God, who knows the heart, testified to them giving them the Holy Spirit, just as He also did to us;⁹ and He made no distinction between us and them, cleansing their hearts by faith.¹⁰ Now therefore why do you put God to the test by placing upon the neck of the disciples a yoke which neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear?¹¹ But we believe that we are saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, in the same way as they also are.”

❖ Hymn of Response

Number 320

Rejoice, All Ye Believers

Rejoice, All Ye Believers

Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him! Matt. 25:6

1. Re - joice, all ye be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
 2. See that your lamps are burn - ing; re - plen - ish them with oil;
 3. Ye saints, who here in pa - tience your cross and suf - f'rings bore,
 4. Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;

the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near:
 and wait for your sal - va - tion, the end of earth - ly toil.
 shall live and reign for - ev - er, when sor - row is no more:
 a - rise, thou sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.

the Bride - groom is a - ris - ing, and soon he draw - eth nigh;
 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the Bride - groom near;
 a - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb ye shall be - hold,
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see

up, pray, and watch, and wres - tle: at mid - night comes the cry.
 go meet him as he com - eth, with al - le - lu - ias clear.
 in tri - umph cast be - fore him your di - a - dems of gold.
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion that brings us un - to thee.

Communion

Congregation

❖ Communion Hymn

God, Be Merciful to Me

God Be Merciful To Me (Psalm 51)

Words by Richard Redhead
Music by Christopher Miner
Arranged by Joel Littlepage

A E F#m D

1. God, be mer - ci - ful to me, _____
 2. My trans - gres - sions I con - fess, _____
 3. I am e - vil, born in sin; _____
 4. Bro - ken, hum - bled to the dust _____

3 A E F#m D

On thy grace I rest my plea;
 Grief and guilt I my est and soul op - press;
 Thou de - sir - wrath - and truth with - in.
 By thy wrath and judge - ment just,

5 A E F#m D

Plen - teous in com - pas - sion thou, _____
 I have sinned a - gainst thy grace _____
 Thou a lone my heart Sav - iour art, _____
 Let my con - trite heart re - joice _____

7 A E F#m

Blot out my trans - gres - sions now;
 And pro - voked thee to thy face;
 Teach thy wis - dom to my heart;
 And in glad - ness hear thy voice;

5. Gracious God, my heart renew,
 Make my spirit right and true
 Cast me not away from thee,
 Let thy Spirit dwell in me;
 Thy salvation's joy impart,
 Steadfast make my willing heart.

6. Sinners then shall learn from me,
 And return O God to Thee
 Savior all my guilt remove,
 And my tongue shall sing Thy love
 Touch my silent lips O Lord,
 And my mouth shall praise accord

Benediction

Hebrews 13: 20 – 21

Pastor: Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, even Jesus our Lord, equip you in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever.

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 ~~

Deacons' Offering, Next Sunday, February 14

Our church receives many requests for help from not just within our church body but the community at large. The Deacons' have a great many opportunities to share God's love with folks in need, whether it is paying a bill for them or buying them a pair of glasses. This is a vital ministry that our church has to reach into our communities and share the gospel in a loving, gracious way. If you are in need or know someone who is, please contact Dan Bruce, the Deacons' Mercy Minister at 802-457-3975 or email him at rhondan08@myfairpoint.net.

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.

The February Newsletter is available
on the table in the Narthex.

Intro to FCCW Workshop

Want to understand FCCW's Statement of Faith? What does it mean to be a member? What opportunities are there to serve at FCCW? Looking for the answers to these questions and more. Consider attending the Intro to FCCW workshop being offered Friday night, February 19 and Saturday morning, February 20. This two-part workshop will give an insight into how FCCW functions and the importance of membership. Please contact Terri at fccwinfo@gmail.com to register.

Session One—Worship

- a. Wired for Worship
- b. Gathered Worship

Session Two—Joyous Knowledge

- a. Knowing The Redeemer Within His Church
- b. Our Catholic Beliefs
- c. Our Historic Practices
- d. Our Evangelical Convictions
- e. Our Reformed Beliefs
- f. Our Congregational Heritage

Session Three—Radical Love for One Another

- a. Charity Born of Character
- b. Christian Sanctification
- c. Living Together with Differences

Session Four— Extending His Grace

- a. Two Parables and A Command
- b. You Can't Serve What You Ain't Cookin'
- c. What Does It Mean To Extend Christ's Grace?

Session Five— Belonging to His Community

- a. Understanding the Church
 - b. The Church as a Worshipping Community
 - c. The Church as a Worshipping Community
 - d. The Biblical Concept of Church Membership
 - e. Membership & Stewardship
 - f. Summary
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It's that time of year again! Time to explore your children's Fall educational options!

Mid Vermont Christian School (MVCS) was formed by Christian families in the Upper Valley to provide an excellent Christian Worldview education and to disciple children to follow God as they serve Him in the secular world. Visit our website (www.mvcs.info).

We understand your concerns. Is MVCS the right place to integrate Biblical truth into your child's education?

Does MVCS provide a quality education? Christian education runs much deeper than a few "ornaments" like prayer, chapels, and Bible classes. We are committed to strengthening the Biblical foundation you have been cultivating in your family. We instruct all subject areas through the "spectacles of Scripture." Our students consistently score above VT, NH, and National averages on the SAT's. Our new "LIVE" online opportunity allows any student (full-time, part-time, or just a class) to join from home and truly be part of their class.

Does MVCS just shelter students from the world? MVCS is not a "safe house" - there is not a guarantee against sin and many students have not accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior. MVCS is a mission field that disciplines by teaching students about God's demands, and His forgiveness, grace, and mercy.

Can I afford to send my kids to MVCS? Due to the consequences of COVID on our families and community, last summer we slashed our tuition rate. Through a network of supporters and donors, if a family is in need and qualifies, we offer a **Variable Tuition Program**, where we aim to keep tuition contributions to 10% of annual household income. *Example, a family with \$45,000 annual income may contribute \$4,500 for all their children to attend MVCS. We work with every family to ensure affordability.*

Homeschooling? MVCS can supplement your homeschool curriculum with physical education, art, music, and band or Junior and Senior high classes.

Book a tour! See MVCS in action! Email mvcs@mvcs.info or call 802-295-6800 to schedule a visit.

The Heart of the Gospel

1. The Debate Gets to the Heart of the Gospel.

2. What Do They Do with the Question?

3. Why Is the Gospel So Difficult?

CONCLUSION: Paul and Barnabas have faced all kinds of opposition, but this question from within the Jewish Church is the most dangerous. Is Christ's blood sufficient for Gentile salvation or do converts still need to be circumcised? This may seem like a minor point of doctrine, but it is actually the very essence of the gospel. How are we living out the reality of Christ's sacrifice as the once-for-all atonement? How does God preserve this critical truth through His Church?

Romans 2: 25 – 29

²⁵ For circumcision indeed is of value if you obey the law, but if you break the law, your circumcision becomes uncircumcision. ²⁶ So, if a man who is uncircumcised keeps the precepts of the law, will not his uncircumcision be regarded as circumcision? ²⁷ Then he who is physically uncircumcised but keeps the law will condemn you who have the written code and circumcision but break the law. ²⁸ For no one is a Jew who is merely one outwardly, nor is circumcision outward and physical. ²⁹ But a Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter. His praise is not from man but from God.

Genesis 17: 1 – 14 (Initial explanation of Circumcision)

When Abram was ninety-nine years old the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless,² that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly.”³ Then Abram fell on his face. And God said to him,⁴ “Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations.⁵ No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations.⁶ I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you.⁷ And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.⁸ And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession, and I will be their God.”

⁹ And God said to Abraham, “As for you, you shall keep my covenant, you and your offspring after you throughout their generations.¹⁰ This is my covenant, which you shall keep, between me and you and your offspring after you: Every male among you shall be circumcised.¹¹ You shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and you.¹² He who is eight days old among you shall be circumcised. Every male throughout your generations, whether born in your house or bought with your money from any foreigner who is not of your offspring,¹³ both he who is born in your house and he who is bought with your money, shall surely be circumcised. So shall my covenant be in your flesh an everlasting covenant.¹⁴ Any uncircumcised male who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin shall be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant.”

Deuteronomy 10: 12 – 22

¹² “And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul,¹³ and to keep the commandments and statutes of the Lord, which I am commanding you today for your good?¹⁴ Behold, to the Lord your God belong heaven and the heaven of heavens, the earth with all that is in it.¹⁵ Yet the Lord set his heart in love on your fathers and chose their offspring after them, you above all peoples, as you are this day.¹⁶ **Circumcise** therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no longer stubborn.¹⁷ For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who is not partial and takes no bribe.¹⁸ He executes justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the sojourner, giving him food and clothing.¹⁹ Love the sojourner, therefore, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt.²⁰ You shall fear the Lord your God. You shall serve him and hold fast to him, and by his name you shall swear.²¹ He is your praise. He is your God, who has done for you these great and terrifying things that your eyes have seen.²² Your fathers went down to Egypt seventy persons, and now the Lord your God has made you as numerous as the stars of heaven.

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

We believe this and you believe that. To each his own, right?! Not according to Scripture. If Jesus didn't do everything for our salvation, then what else do we need to do? Is baptism enough? Is keeping the law? How much? How perfectly? Does Jesus help us save ourselves or does He gloriously, by grace through faith, save us entirely?

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 15:1-11; Genesis 17:1-14; Romans 10:8-13**. DISCUSS, What makes the gospel so difficult to accept? How do you personally struggle to accept Christ's work entirely? Why do we seek to add to Christ's work? How are you thanking Him for His sufficiency? PRAY "Jesus, Thank You for loving us and redeeming us completely. Thank You that none of our salvation depends upon us for we have demonstrated our utter faithlessness. You alone are trustworthy."

Monday

READ **Acts 15:1-11; Romans 2:25-29; 5:1-8**. DISCUSS, How are we justified before the holy God? How did Jesus accomplish this? How much has God done to secure our salvation? How much have we done? MEDITATE on **Galatians 2:15-16**. PRAY, "Thank You, Lord, for the gift of salvation. Make us praise You with every breath."

Tuesday

READ **Acts 15:1-11; Genesis 2:16-18; 3:1-21; 6:8-18; 12:1-8; Hebrews 11:1-40**. DISCUSS, Do you see the common factor in each of these testimonies of God's grace? God saves. He sets His love upon His people. He rescues them from themselves. From what did God rescue you? How much depended on your efforts? How does that relate to Acts 15? MEDITATE on **Galatians 2:15-16**. PRAY, "Jesus, thank You for rescuing us from our rebellion and sin against You. Teach us to depend upon You entirely."

Wednesday

READ **Acts 15:1-11; Jeremiah 4:1-4; Deuteronomy 10:12-22; Romans 3:1-8**. DISCUSS, If circumcision was the mark of entrance into God's people, why was it necessary to circumcise their hearts too? What is the corollary with baptism now? If neither saves us, what do they matter? How are you demonstrating God's work within you? MEDITATE on **Galatians 2:15-16**. PRAY, "Lord Jesus, we long to love You with the purity with which You love us. Change our hearts!"

Thursday

READ **Acts 15:1-11; First Corinthians 15:1-11**. DISCUSS, What is this gospel? How does it give Jesus all the praise? How are you living in light of it? MEDITATE on **Galatians 2:15-16**. PRAY, "Jesus, help us to give You all praise, honor, and glory."

Friday

READ **Acts 15:1-11; Genesis 17:1-14; Romans 10:8-13**. DISCUSS, How has God been teaching you from these passages this week? MEDITATE on **Galatians 2:15-16**. 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 15:1-41**. Invite others to join you tomorrow for either the *live-stream or in-person service*. Ask Jesus to help us love our neighbors well.

Galatians 2: 15 – 16

“...yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified.”