



The _____
First Congregational Church
of Woodstock _____

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

*March 19th, 2023
Baptismal Service*

The Order of Morning Worship

March 19th, 2023

Ten-thirty

Welcome

Pastor Doug Warren

Easter Offering Announcement

Prelude & Silent Prayer

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|-------------------------------|---|--------------|
| ❖ Call to Worship | Psalm 122:1-4 | Pastor |
| ❖ Hymn of Exultation #53 | <i>Praise to the Lord,
the Almighty</i> | Congregation |
| Scriptural Call to Repentance | Matthew 5:13-16 | Pastor |
| Collective Confession | On Receiving New Members | Congregation |

Lord God, as we prepare to receive new members, we are mindful of the ways we together as a congregation fail to love one another as we should. Forgive us, we pray. Enable us to take these vows together by faith in You, Lord Christ, and empower us to keep them. Help us to reflect on our own baptism and live according to the cleansing it both signifies and seals to us.

Silent Reflection and Confession

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Proclamation of Forgiveness | Romans 8:1 | Pastor |
| Offering | (collected from back to front) | Congregation |
| Reception of New Members | | Pastor |
- Gail Owens, Justin & Stephanie Sterling*

Vows for Professing Believers

Profession of Faith

I now confess my faith in Jesus as the Christ and acknowledge Him as my Lord and Savior.

Questions for Converts

1. Will you also resolve to learn the will of God, known or to be made known, as taught in the Holy Scriptures, and to walk in the ways of the Lord? **We will.**
2. Do you covenant with this church to attend its services, to support its activities and missions, to pray and labor for its growth in grace, and to walk worthily with you in its communion of worship and work? **We do.**

Congregational Vows

1. **We the members of this church, receive you into our fellowship, and welcome you with joy. We promise to pray for you, to watch over you, and to help you so long as you shall abide with us.**
2. **May God grant that, loving and being loved, serving and being served, blessing and being blessed, we may be prepared while we dwell together on earth for the perfect fellowship of the saints in heaven.**

Questions for Parents of Covenant Children

1. Do you acknowledge that our children are conceived and born in sin and therefore deserve condemnation and so are in need of the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ, and the renewing grace of the Holy Spirit? **We do.**
2. Do you believe the doctrine of this congregation to be what is taught in the Old and New Testaments and therefore the truth of God Himself? **We do.**
3. Do you hereby exclusively commit your children to Christ and promise in humble reliance upon His Holy Spirit that you will bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord? **We do.**

Questions for Congregation

Do you, the members of FCCW, promise to receive these children as your own and to love and care for them as you are able, and do you promise that by God's grace you will endeavor to pray for and assist these parents in their fulfillment of the covenant? **We do.**

Administration of the Sacrament of Baptism *Logan & Evelyn Sterling*

Words of Institution Matt 28:18-20; Acts 2:39; Col 2:9-12

I baptize you in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Introduction to the Congregation Pastor

Prayer of Reception Elder Dennis Snider

❖ Baptismal Hymn #191 *I Am So Glad That Our
Father in Heaven* Congregation

❖ Scripture Reading Isaiah 55:10-11 Pastor

❖ Hymn of Reflection *O Church, Arise* Congregation

The Sermon

Ruth 2:8-13

Pastor

“Finding Favor”

❖ Hymn of Response #521

*My Hope is Built on
Nothing Less*

Congregation

❖ Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

Pastor

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

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

Postlude

~~ Organist: Jonathan Denham ~~

~~ Please ensure cell phones are off ~~

Prelude: Praise Him with Trumpets (Harris)

Offertory: Jesus Thank You (Sczebel)

Postlude: Five Short Settings of the Tune Amazing Grace, Var. IV and V (Haan)

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Young Adult Fellowship Group will meet at the  
parsonage today at 12:30 for lunch and discussion.  
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The March Prayer letter is available on the back table.  
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Save the Date!

On Saturday, May 20th, FCCW will be hosting the meeting of the Northern New England Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA). Pastors and ruling elders from churches throughout Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine will be gathering for a worship service and business meeting.

FCCW will be providing a continental breakfast and lunch for the attendees. Anyone is welcome to attend the worship service and business meeting as a guest. This is a great opportunity to meet and fellowship with some of Pastor Doug’s closest associates and accountability partners.

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# GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

**Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 to 8:30 pm**

Lebanon Opera House (51 North Park Street, Lebanon)

Many Churches...

One Savior...

One Salvation...

Free admission. Doors open at 6:30 pm.

## **Finding Favor**

### **1. Listen to Boaz & Ruth's Conversation.**

- A. Boaz Encourages Ruth to Stay (8-9).
- B. Ruth Asks Clarifying Questions (10).
- C. Boaz Praises and Blesses Ruth (11-12).
- D. Ruth Acknowledges His Kindness (13).

### **2. Boaz Is Revealed as a Means of God's Provision.**

### **3. Ruth Demonstrates Wisdom.**

### **4. God Continues to Care For His People.**

Conclusion: God has providentially brought Ruth and Boaz together and enabled Boaz to act honorably towards her. Now Boaz and Ruth talk with one another directly for the first time and Boaz makes his favor towards her explicit and encourages her to stay in his field. Ruth clarifies his intent and thanks him graciously. This conversation raises the question if there is anything more here than hospitality and anticipates what God might do. Are we trusting God with this kind of hopeful anticipation?

## **Isaiah 55:10-11**

“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven  
and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout,  
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,  
so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;  
it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,  
and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.”

## **Second Corinthians 5:1-5**

For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, *we have a building from God*, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. <sup>2</sup> For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, <sup>3</sup> if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. <sup>4</sup> For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. <sup>5</sup> *He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.*

## **Exodus 33:12-16**

<sup>12</sup> Moses said to the Lord, “See, you say to me, ‘Bring up this people,’ but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, ‘I know you by name, and *you have also found favor in my sight.*’ <sup>13</sup> Now therefore, if I have *found favor in your sight*, please show me now your ways, that I may know you in order to *find favor in your sight*. Consider too that *this nation is your people.*” <sup>14</sup> And he said, “My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.” <sup>15</sup> And he said to him, “If your presence will not go with me, do not bring us up from here. <sup>16</sup> For how shall it be known that I have *found favor in your sight, I and your people?* Is it not in your going with us, so that we are distinct, I and your people, from every other people on the face of the earth?”

## **Luke 2:39-40**

<sup>39</sup> And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup> And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And *the favor of God was upon him.*

## **Hosea 14:9**

Whoever is wise, let him understand these things;  
whoever is discerning, let him know them;  
for the ways of the Lord are right, and the upright walk in them,  
but transgressors stumble in them.

## **Deuteronomy 30:9-10**

The Lord your God will make you abundantly prosperous in all the work of your hand, in the fruit of your womb and in the fruit of your cattle and in the fruit of your ground. For the Lord will again *take delight in prospering you*, as he took delight in your fathers, <sup>10</sup> when you obey the voice of the Lord your God, to keep his commandments and his statutes that are written in this Book of the Law, *when you turn to the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul.*

# Taking Gathered Worship Home

As Boaz and Ruth begin talking it becomes clear that Boaz is one of the ways God is providing for Ruth. We are left with the lingering question of to what extent? But even in this we see the loving care of Yahweh for His people of whom Ruth is now a part.

*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 2:8-13; Isaiah 55:10-11; Second Corinthians 5:1-5; Exodus 33:12-16; Luke 2:39-40; Hosea 14:9; Deuteronomy 30:9-10.**  
**DISCUSS** How does Boaz's explicit communication of favor help Ruth? How does it demonstrate God's loving care? How does Ruth's clarifying questions help? **MEDITATE** on **Psalm 27:13-14**. **PRAY** "Jesus, You are our Provider. Help us to see Boaz's provision and protection as a sign of Your care for us, Your People."

## Sunday Evening

**Young Adult Fellowship Lunch Q&A at the Parsonage today.**

## Monday

**READ Ruth 2:8-13; Isaiah 55:10-11; Second Corinthians 5:1-5.**  
**DISCUSS** How does God ordinarily care for us? Does His use of ordinary means imply He cares any *less* than when He does so through extraordinary means? What does our physical provision say about our spiritual future? **SERVE** by putting someone else's interests *above your own!* **MEDITATE** on **Psalm 27:13-14**. **PRAY**, "Father, teach us that our while our current tents are fleeting, our home with You is eternal."

## Tuesday

**READ Ruth 2:8-13; Second Corinthians 5:1-5; Exodus 33:12-16.**  
**DISCUSS** How does God's Spirit as our guarantee address Moses' question about us finding favor with Him? **SERVE** by considering someone else's needs *above your own!* **MEDITATE** on **Psalm 27:13-14**. **PRAY**, "Lord God, You are trust-worthy in all Your promises. Teach us how to trust You together in all that Your holy Word teaches."



### Wednesday

READ **Ruth 2:8-13; Exodus 33:12-16; Luke 2:39-40**. DISCUSS Why is finding favor with God such a huge deal for Moses? How do we know if we have found favor with God? SERVE by *contacting someone from FCCW you haven't seen in a while. Demonstrate care for them more than yourself!* MEDITATE on **Psalm 27:13-14**. PRAY, "Lord, thank You for all that You have done for us on the cross. Make us *more and more grateful* for all that You have accomplished for us."

### Thursday

READ **Ruth 2:8-13; Luke 2:39-40; Hosea 14:9**. DISCUSS Use God's wisdom to ask clarifying questions of God in His Word as Ruth did of Boaz? How certain are you of God's promises? Have you clarified what God meant with His loving care? SERVE by putting someone else's interests *above your own!* MEDITATE on **Psalm 27:13-14**. PRAY, "Lord, help us in studying Your Word to go beneath the surface. Enable us to probe deeply into Your promises and to take You at Your Word."

### Friday

READ **Ruth 2:8-13; Isaiah 55:10-11; Second Corinthians 5:1-5; Exodus 33:12-16; Luke 2:39-40; Hosea 14:9; Deuteronomy 30:9-10**. DISCUSS What has the Holy Spirit been teaching you this week through these passages? MEDITATE on **Psalm 27:13-14**. PRAY that we at FCCW would *trust You together for Your favor in Christ*.

### Saturday

PREPARE for *gathered worship tomorrow*. READ **Ruth 2:1-23**. Invite others to join you tomorrow for the *worship service @ 10:30*. Ask Jesus to *help us trust Him instead of giving into bitterness and doubt*.

## Psalm 27:13-14

I believe that I shall see the favor of the LORD  
in the land of the living!

Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage;  
wait for the LORD!