



The \_\_\_\_\_  
First Congregational Church  
of Woodstock \_\_\_\_\_

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

*March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022*

# *The Order of Morning Worship*

March 27th, 2022

Ten-thirty

Welcome

Elder Tom Johnston

Prelude & Silent Prayer

- ❖ Call to Worship                      Psalm 67 and 1 Chronicles 16                      Congregation  
Pastor: Let the peoples praise You, O God; let all the peoples praise You. Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for You rule the peoples justly and guide the nations of the earth. Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let them say among the nations, "The LORD reigns!" Give thanks to the LORD,

**Congregation: He is good; His love endures forever.**

- ❖ Hymn of Exultation #562                      *All to Jesus, I Surrender*                      Congregation

Scriptural Call to Repentance                      1 John 1: 8 – 9                      Elder

Collective Confession                      Luther's Prayer                      Congregation

O Lord, merciful and mighty, we unworthy sinners, come to You in humble repentance and confess how we have transgressed Your holy Law. We are guilty of sins of omission and commission, evil thoughts, improper words, and wrong deeds. Forgive our iniquity and short-comings for the sake of the suffering and death of our Savior Jesus Christ. Let His obedience cover our disobedience, let His righteousness atone for our unrighteousness. Great God and Helper, You alone can forgive. With all our hearts we thank You for Your boundless mercy. Grant us grace with which we might accept Your gift of forgiveness with true faith and look upon the word of pardon as a message coming from You, assuring us and consoling our hearts before You. Let us treasure Your forgiveness and freely extend it to others by the power of Your resurrection. We pray in the name of our Redeemer, Jesus Christ.

Silent Reflection and Confession

Proclamation of Forgiveness                      Jeremiah 33: 8                      Elder

Offering                      (collected from back to front)                      Congregation

- ❖ Affirmation of Faith *The Heidelberg Catechism*<sup>1</sup> Congregation  
 Pastor: What is your only comfort in life and in death?  
**Congregation: That I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, in life and in death—to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ.**  
**He has fully paid for all my sins with His precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven: in fact, all things must work together for my salvation.**  
**Because I belong to Him, Christ, by His Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for Him.**
- Pastor: What must you know to live and die in the joy of this comfort?  
**Congregation: Three things: first, how great my sin and misery are; second, how I am set free from all my sins and misery; third, how I am to thank God for such deliverance.**
- ❖ Creedal Song *Holy Holy Holy is the Lord of Hosts* Congregation
- ❖ Scripture Reading Romans 6:5-11 Elder  
 Pastor: The grass withers, the flower fades,  
**Congregation: but the Word of our God will stand forever.**
- Pastoral Prayer Elder
- ❖ Hymn of Reflection #565 *All for Jesus* Congregation
- The Sermon Philipians 1:21-26 Mr. Ernest Shipman  
 “To Be or Not to Be—that is NOT God’s Question”
- ❖ Hymn of Response #604 *Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart* Congregation
- Benediction John 14: 27 Elder

<sup>1</sup> Catechisms are a question and answer format used for teaching in the church. The Heidelberg Catechism was written in 1563 and approved by the Church at the Synod of Dort (1618-1619).

Pastor: Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives, do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.

**Congregation: Thanks be to God. Amen.**

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

Postlude

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

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## Passover and Easter: What's the Connection?

Experience an enlightening worship experience inspired by the Passover Seder instituted in Exodus chapter 12 as a way of reflecting on the meaning of Easter and the Lord's Supper. Join a Seder-inspired Maundy Thursday celebration here at FCCW led by Old Testament scholar Paul Gelsing Cruz from 6:30-8:00 PM on April 14, 2022. Participation is also available by live stream. This will not be a Seder meal and you should eat your own supper in advance. On-line registration to get your ceremony booklet and Seder box for \$6 per household is coming – look for it! Hope to see you there! The Board of Christian Education

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## Easter Flowers

Easter plants and flowers always bring beauty to the Easter service. If you would like to share a flowering plant for the Easter service in memory of a loved one and take it home after, please call Carol Powell at 457-3833 or email at [carolruthpowell@hotmail.com](mailto:carolruthpowell@hotmail.com).

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## Guest Speaker: Ernest Shipman

I was born in 1959 & grew up in Atlanta, GA. I was raised in a Christian home and came to faith at age 14. I moved to NH in 1985 to get married. I have been married to Wendy since 1986. We have two adult children: Sam, who lives in Chattanooga (who incidentally is friends with Molly Holleran, whose parents go to the church) and Emma, who is married & lives near us.

I have two other connections to the church! In the mid 1990's, Wendy's sister took a job at Dartmouth Hospital and she attended the church. We used to visit her often and Sunday mornings were always a treat. We got to be friends of the Koops as well. I am an ordained ruling elder in the Presbyterian Church in America, and I am friends with Pastor Warren as he and I are both members of the same presbytery.

In addition to being a ruling elder (and a member of Exeter Presbyterian church), I have been called to preach and have been licensed by the Presbytery. I do pulpit supply and preach as I am needed. To help facilitate this calling I have joined the staff of Reformed Evangelistic Fellowship as a missionary, non-ordained evangelistic worker. My passion is preaching the Gospel and doing one-on-one discipleship. I also recently published a book on discipleship for adults using the Westminster Shorter Catechism.

When not in ministry, Wendy & I have a mini farm (really a former blueberry farm) in New Durham, NH. I am now retired from the business world, having been self-employed since 1991. I recently sold both of my businesses: I used to own a commercial sign shop (my wife is very artistic), and I used to also own a small retail firearms store.

God has been very faithful to us!

My life verse is:

*Only fear the Lord and serve him faithfully with all your heart. For consider what great things he has done for you. 1st Samuel 12:24*

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There will be NO Young Adult Fellowship Group  
this week.

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## Visit from Missionary Steve Thrall

On Sunday, April 3, Steve Thrall, our missionary from France working with Artists in Christian Testimony International will be joining with us. Steve will be sharing his Christian work during the Sunday School time.

After church, we will be having a cover dish luncheon in the Billings room. Please plan to stay, bring something to share, and enjoy the Christian fellowship. We will be providing paper plates and utensils, so please bring a nice generous portion to share with others.

Remember next Sunday, April 3. Mark your calendars!

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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](mailto: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 -- 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.

## **To Be or Not to Be—that is NOT God’s Question**

### **1. Review of Life and Death in verse 21**

### **2. Paul’s Dilemma: Stay or Depart to be with Christ (22-24)**

### **3. Paul’s Preference (25-26)**

#### **Application:**

1. The need to put our own wishes aside
2. The need to see God glorified in everything
3. The need to serve where God puts us

**CONCLUSION:** Paul, in this passage, shows the Philippian church that although it may be more desirable to depart for heaven, he is willing, as their partner, to share in their sufferings, see them grow, and produce true spiritual fruit in their lives. Why? Because we follow Christ, who did the same for us: forsaking the glory of heaven, living for us, living among with us, then suffering and dying for us; showing us an example to follow.



## Romans 6:5-11; 8:12-17

<sup>15</sup> For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. <sup>6</sup> We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. <sup>7</sup> For one who has died has been set free from sin. <sup>8</sup> Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. <sup>9</sup> We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. <sup>10</sup> For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. <sup>11</sup> So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. . . .

<sup>12</sup> So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. <sup>13</sup> For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. <sup>14</sup> For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. <sup>15</sup> For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but *you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons*, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” <sup>16</sup> The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup> and if children, then heirs—*heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ*, provided we *suffer with him* in order that *we may also be glorified with him*.

## Second Timothy 3:10-17

<sup>10</sup> You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, <sup>11</sup> my persecutions and sufferings that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra—which persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. <sup>12</sup> Indeed, *all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted*, <sup>13</sup> while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. <sup>14</sup> But as for you, *continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed*, knowing from whom you learned it <sup>15</sup> and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup> All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

## Hebrews 11:32-40

<sup>32</sup> And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets— <sup>33</sup> who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, <sup>34</sup> quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. <sup>35</sup> Women received back their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, *refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life*. <sup>36</sup> Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. <sup>37</sup> They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword. They went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, mistreated— <sup>38</sup> of whom the world was not worthy—wandering about in deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

<sup>39</sup> And all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised, <sup>40</sup> since God had provided something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

# Taking Gathered Worship Home

Self-preservation is so strong in us that if our lives are threatened our fight or flight instinct is automatic. But in Christ we have a different impulse: self-sacrifice. Just as *Christ came to give His life for ours*, Paul considers the Philippians' need for him above his own preferences. So too should we consider others rather than just ourselves.

*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 1:21-26; Romans 6:1-14; 8:12-17; Second Timothy 3:10-17; Hebrews 11:32-40.** DISCUSS How did Paul evaluate his life or death options? How does the truth of the resurrection make that impossible for Paul, given his hope in Jesus? What are fruitful labors? What is progress and joy in the faith? PRAY "Lord Christ, help us to see life and death according to Your Word."

## Sunday Evening

There will be no *Young Adults' Fellowship* tonight.

## Monday

READ **Philippians 1:21-26; Romans 6:1-4.** DISCUSS What does it mean to be baptized into Christ Jesus? How does Christ's resurrection apply to us? Why? MEDITATE on **Romans 6:8.** PRAY, "Lord Jesus, You have identified with us so that we might be in You. Teach us how to live that out in our daily lives."

## Tuesday

READ **Philippians 1:21-26; Romans 6:5-11; 8:12-17.** DISCUSS What is the significance of our being united with Christ? How does that affect our life? Our death? Why? What does it mean to live according to the flesh? What's the alternative? MEDITATE on **Romans 6:8.** PRAY, "Lord, teach us how to live as members of Your holy family. We want to be like You and honor Your name."

### Wednesday

READ **Philippians 1:21-26; Romans 6:12-14; Second Timothy 3:10-17.** DISCUSS, What does it mean to “present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness” and how do we stop doing it? How can we live as those under grace? MEDITATE on **Romans 6:8.** PRAY, “Lord, we want to present our members as instruments of righteousness. Help us!”

### Thursday Happy Birthday, Karis!

READ **Philippians 1:21-26; Romans 6:1-14; Hebrews 11:32-40.** DISCUSS What was the better life they were seeking in v. 35? How is that provided in the resurrection? MEDITATE on **Romans 6:8.** PRAY, Lord, we long to be made new in the power of the resurrection. Help us to live in resurrection life.”

### Friday

READ **Philippians 1:21-26; Romans 6:1-14; 8:12-17; Second Timothy 3:10-17; Hebrews 11:32-40.** DISCUSS, How has God been teaching you from these passages this week? DELIGHT in Christ, knowing that we will be like Him one day! MEDITATE on **Romans 6:8.** PRAY for unity and joyful care for one another at FCCW.

### Saturday

PREPARE today for the worship service tomorrow which is *available both in-person and via live-stream.* READ **Philippians 1:1-30; Psalm 13:1-6.** Invite others to join you tomorrow for the service. Ask Jesus to gather us together joyfully to praise Him.

## Romans 6:8

*Now if we have died with Christ,  
we believe that we will also live with him.*