



The _____
First Congregational Church
of Woodstock _____

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

April 24th, 2022

The Order of Morning Worship

April 24th, 2022

Ten-thirty

Welcome

Pastor Doug Warren

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.

❖ Invocation Pastor

❖ Hymn of Exultation #320 *Rejoice, All Ye Believers* Congregation

Scriptural Call to Repentance 1 John 1:8-9 Pastor

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 Pastor

Offering (collected from back to front) Congregation

- ❖ Affirmation of Faith *The Heidelberg Catechism*¹ 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 Second Corinthians 1:3-7 Pastor
 Pastor: The grass withers, the flower fades,
 Congregation: but the Word of our God will stand forever.
- Pastoral Prayer Pastor
- ❖ Hymn of Reflection *Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah* Congregation
- The Sermon Philippians 2:1-2 Pastor
 “The Joy Loop in Community”
- ❖ Hymn of Response #310 *Rejoice, the Lord Is King* Congregation
- Benediction John 14:27 Pastor

¹ 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

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

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

Leadership Training—May 14, 2022

Want to know why we do what we do in the worship service? Come join an explanation and discussion of the elements of worship, repetition, and spiritual formation as a community. Saturday, May 14th, 9:00 am-noon. Hope you can join us! To register, please email Kristen at fccwinfo@gmail.com.

Outreach Training—Saturday, April 30

Come one, come all, this has something for everyone! We will be conducting a training session on Saturday, April 30, from 10 to noon. There will be multiple sections, allowing you to try new things and/or brush up on skills you may already have. These include but are not limited to specific prayer for outreach, bringing the Gospel into a conversation with our neighbors, face painting, story-telling, and other creative ideas for outreach. Let Kristen know if you are planning to attend—fccwinfo@gmail.com.

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.

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.



Mid Vermont Christian School

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The Joy Loop in Community

- 1. Our Encouragement in Christ Is Detailed (1).**
- 2. It Serves as Motivation for Joyfully United Service (2).**
- 3. Our Lives Are to Be Governed by Kingdom Priorities.**

CONCLUSION We hear the encouragement we have received in Christ detailed as a summary of the first chapter—loving comfort, Spirit-filled fellowship, affectionate family life—all recounted. This treasure trove that we have received entirely in Christ is the basis for how we are now to live. As ambassadors representing Christ we have a duty to stand firm and it is much *more* than that. It is our joyful privilege also. This grown-up joy is not just a happy feeling that vaporizes in hardship, but the product of our gospel partnership with Christ and His family. Let us press on for the prize of Christ's glory and enjoy (and spread) the delight of His people united with Him.

Second Corinthians 1:3-7

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the *Father of mercies* and *God of all comfort*, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which *we ourselves are comforted by God*. For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too. If we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; and if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we suffer. Our hope for you is unshaken, for we know that as you share in our sufferings, you will also share in our comfort.

James 5:7-11

Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸ You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. ⁹ Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. ¹⁰ As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹ Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

Romans 12:1-2

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, *by the mercies of God*, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Galatians 6:17

From now on let no one cause me trouble, for I *bear on my body the marks of Jesus*.

Romans 8:14-17

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵ 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!" ¹⁶ The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ 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*.

Taking Gathered Worship Home

Have you ever reached for joy and found it just out of your grasp? No matter how much you chase it, the attainment eludes you. That's because joy is never intended to be the *goal*. Rather it is a *by-product* of walking in the Master's footsteps of self-denial and sacrificial service to others in Christ's name.

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 2:1-2; Second Corinthians 1:3-7; James 5:7-11; Romans 8:14-17; 12:1-2; Galatians 6:17; Psalm 16:9-11.** DISCUSS How do you tend to chase joy? Why does delight in Christ produce far more lasting joy? PRAY "Lord, help us to understand how Your Kingdom works differently from all the kingdoms of the earth. Make us faithful to You, Jesus, that we might delight in You."

Sunday Evening

Please participate in the *Young Adults' Fellowship* tonight at 6pm or encourage someone who can.

Monday

READ **Philippians 2:1-2; Second Corinthians 1:3-7.** DISCUSS How are our joys and sorrows related? What do our sufferings enable us to do with others? Why? To what do they testify? SERVE someone in need in Christ's name! MEDITATE on **Psalm 16:9-11.** PRAY, "Jesus, You made us worthy of Your Kingdom. Teach us how to contend for You and to resist intimidation and cowardice. Help us find our delight in You."

Tuesday

READ **Philippians 2:1-2; James 5:7-11.** DISCUSS How are patience and faith in Christ related? SERVE someone by sending them a note or calling them! MEDITATE on **Psalm 16:9-11.** PRAY, "Lord, show us how to trust in You every day by Your grace."

Wednesday

READ **Philippians 2:1-2; Romans 8:14-17**. DISCUSS, Why do we have such difficulty with the later part of v. 17? How does this relate to delighting in Christ, patience, and faith? SERVE Greet someone with the joy of Christ. MEDITATE on **Psalm 16:9-11**. PRAY, “Lord, thank You for Your grace.”

Thursday

READ **Philippians 2:1-2; Romans 12:1-2**. DISCUSS How does His mercy motivate You to joyfully serve Him? SERVE Listen patiently to someone who may be lonely. MEDITATE on **Psalm 16:9-11**. PRAY, Lord, we long to be made new in the power of the resurrection. Help us to live in resurrection life.”

Friday

READ **Philippians 2:1-2; Second Corinthians 1:3-7; James 5:7-11; Romans 8:14-17; 12:1-2; Galatians 6:17; Psalm 16:9-11**. 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 **Psalm 16:9-114**. 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 2:1-30; Galatians 5:22-26**. Invite others to join you tomorrow for the service. Ask Jesus to gather us together joyfully to praise Him.

Psalm 16:9-11

“Therefore *my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices;*
my flesh also dwells secure.
For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol,
or let your holy one see corruption.
You make known to me the path of life;
in your presence there is fullness of joy;
at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.”