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First Congregational Church
of Woodstock _____

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

April 1, 2021

Maundy Thursday Observance

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April 1th, 2021

Seven o'clock

Call to Worship

Pastor Doug Warren

Scripture Reading

Exodus 12: 1 – 14

Passover Context

Now the LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, ²“This month shall be the beginning of months for you; it is to be the first month of the year to you. ³Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying, ‘On the tenth of this month they are each one to take a lamb for themselves, according to their fathers’ households, a lamb for each household. ⁴Now if the household is too small for a lamb, then he and his neighbor nearest to his house are to take one according to the number of persons *in them*; according to what each man should eat, you are to divide the lamb. ⁵Your lamb shall be an unblemished male a year old; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. ⁶You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month, then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel is to kill it at twilight. ⁷Moreover, they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. ⁸They shall eat the flesh that *same* night, roasted with fire, and they shall eat it with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. ⁹Do not eat any of it raw or boiled at all with water, but rather roasted with fire, *both* its head and its legs along with its entrails. ¹⁰And you shall not leave any of it over until morning, but whatever is left of it until morning, you shall burn with fire. ¹¹Now you shall eat it in this manner: *with* your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it in haste—it is the LORD’S Passover. ¹²For I will go through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments—I am the LORD. ¹³The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live; and when I see the blood I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy *you* when I strike the land of Egypt.

¹⁴ ‘Now this day will be a memorial to you, and you shall celebrate it *as* a feast to the LORD; throughout your generations you are to celebrate it *as* a permanent ordinance.

❖ Hymn

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Number 252

Scripture Reading

Matthew 26: 17 – 25

Passover in the Upper Room

¹⁷ Now on the first *day* of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus and asked, “Where do You want us to prepare for You to eat the Passover?”

¹⁸ And He said, “Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, ‘The Teacher says, “My time is near; I *am to* keep the Passover at your house with My disciples.’”” ¹⁹ The disciples did as Jesus had directed them; and they prepared the Passover.

²⁰ Now when evening came, Jesus was reclining *at the table* with the twelve disciples. ²¹ As they were eating, He said, “Truly I say to you that one of you will betray Me.” ²² Being deeply grieved, they each one began to say to Him, “Surely not I, Lord?” ²³ And He answered, “He who dipped his hand with Me in the bowl is the one who will betray Me. ²⁴ The Son of Man *is to* go, just as it is written of Him; but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had not been born.” ²⁵ And Judas, who was betraying Him, said, “Surely it is not I, Rabbi?” Jesus *said to him, “You have said *it* yourself.”

Testimony #1

Rosmarie Vanderhoof

Scripture Reading

Matthew 26: 26 – 29

Passover Transformed into the Lord’s Supper

²⁶ While they were eating, Jesus took *some* bread, and after a blessing, He broke *it* and gave *it* to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is My body.”

²⁷ And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave *it* to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; ²⁸ for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins. ²⁹ But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father’s kingdom.”

In the Garden

³² They *came to a place named Gethsemane; and He *said to His disciples, “Sit here until I have prayed.” ³³ And He *took with Him Peter and James and John, and began to be very distressed and troubled. ³⁴ And He *said to them, “My soul is deeply grieved to the point of death; remain here and keep watch.” ³⁵ And He went a little beyond *them*, and fell to the ground and *began* to pray that if it were possible, the hour might pass Him by. ³⁶ And He was saying, “Abba! Father! All things are possible for You; remove this cup from Me; yet not what I will, but what You will.” ³⁷ And He *came and *found them sleeping, and *said to Peter, “Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep watch for one hour? ³⁸ Keep watching and praying that you may not come into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.” ³⁹ Again He went away and prayed, saying the same words. ⁴⁰ And again He came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to answer Him. ⁴¹ And He *came the third time, and *said to them, “Are you still sleeping and resting? It is enough; the hour has come; behold, the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners.

❖ Hymn *What Wondrous Love Is This (v. 1)* Number 261

Betrayal and Arrest

When Jesus had spoken these words, He went forth with His disciples over the ravine of the Kidron, where there was a garden, in which He entered with His disciples. ² Now Judas also, who was betraying Him, knew the place, for Jesus had often met there with His disciples. ³ Judas then, having received the *Roman* cohort and officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, *came there with lanterns and torches and weapons. ⁴ So Jesus, knowing all the things that were coming upon Him, went forth and *said to them, “Whom do you seek?” ⁵ They answered Him, “Jesus the Nazarene.” He *said to them, “I am *He*.” And Judas also, who was betraying Him, was standing with them.

Testimony Before Pilate

³³ Therefore Pilate entered again into the Praetorium, and summoned Jesus and said to Him, “Are You the King of the Jews?” ³⁴ Jesus answered, “Are you saying this on your own initiative, or did others tell you about Me?” ³⁵ Pilate answered, “I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests delivered You to me; what have You done?” ³⁶ Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm.” ³⁷ Therefore Pilate said to Him, “So You are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say *correctly* that I am a king. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.”

Jesus Mocked on the Cross

³² As they were coming out, they found a man of Cyrene named Simon, whom they pressed into service to bear His cross.

³³ And when they came to a place called Golgotha, which means Place of a Skull, ³⁴ they gave Him wine to drink mixed with gall; and after tasting *it*, He was unwilling to drink.

³⁵ And when they had crucified Him, they divided up His garments among themselves by casting lots. ³⁶ And sitting down, they *began* to keep watch over Him there. ³⁷ And above His head they put up the charge against Him which read, “THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS.”

³⁸ At that time two robbers *were crucified with Him, one on the right and one on the left. ³⁹ And those passing by were hurling abuse at Him, wagging their heads ⁴⁰ and saying, “You who *are going to* destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save Yourself! If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross.” ⁴¹ In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking *Him* and saying, ⁴² “He saved others;

He cannot save Himself. He is the King of Israel; let Him now come down from the cross, and we will believe in Him. ⁴³ HE TRUSTS IN GOD; LET GOD RESCUE *Him* now, IF HE DELIGHTS IN HIM; for He said, ‘I am the Son of God.’”

Testimony #3

Jennifer Barnes

❖ Hymn

Were You There? (v. 1 – 2)

Number 260

Scripture Reading

Mark 15: 33 – 41

The Death of Jesus

³³ When the sixth hour came, darkness fell over the whole land until the ninth hour. ³⁴ At the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, “ELOI, ELOI, LAMA SABACHTHANI?” which is translated, “MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?” ³⁵ When some of the bystanders heard it, they *began* saying, “Behold, He is calling for Elijah.” ³⁶ Someone ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a reed, and gave Him a drink, saying, “Let us see whether Elijah will come to take Him down.” ³⁷ And Jesus uttered a loud cry, and breathed His last. ³⁸ And the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. ³⁹ When the centurion, who was standing right in front of Him, saw the way He breathed His last, he said, “Truly this man was the Son of God!”

⁴⁰ There were also *some* women looking on from a distance, among whom *were* Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the Less and Joses, and Salome. ⁴¹ When He was in Galilee, they used to follow Him and minister to Him; and *there were* many other women who came up with Him to Jerusalem.

❖ Hymn

Were You There? (v. 3 – 4)

Number 260

Scripture Reading

Mark 15: 42 – 47

Jesus Placed in the Tomb

⁴² When evening had already come, because it was the preparation day, that is, the day before the Sabbath, ⁴³ Joseph of Arimathea came, a prominent member of the Council, who himself was waiting for the kingdom of God;

and he gathered up courage and went in before Pilate, and asked for the body of Jesus. ⁴⁴ Pilate wondered if He was dead by this time, and summoning the centurion, he questioned him as to whether He was already dead. ⁴⁵ And ascertaining this from the centurion, he granted the body to Joseph. ⁴⁶ Joseph bought a linen cloth, took Him down, wrapped Him in the linen cloth and laid Him in a tomb which had been hewn out in the rock; and he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb. ⁴⁷ Mary Magdalene and Mary the *mother* of Joses were looking on *to see* where He was laid.

Message	Mark 15: 42 – 47 “Waiting for the Kingdom”	Pastor Doug Warren
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Communion		Congregation
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❖ Hymn	<i>Were You There? (v. 5)</i>	Number 260
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Benediction		Pastor Doug Warren
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Postlude

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

Please Join Us for Our Easter Activities

Saturday, April 3, 8:30 – 10:30 am

The Community Outreach Team will be offering a FREE and OPEN to the public Drive-By Easter Celebration Breakfast.

Come on over to the First Congregational Church front lawn and pick-up a delicious breakfast sandwich of egg, ham, and cheese on an English muffin with a cup of coffee or hot chocolate.

"Loving our neighbors as Jesus loves us"

Easter Sunday

April 4

Sunrise Service on Mount Tom at 7:00 am – Meet at the church at 6:00 am to hike Mount Tom and be at the top for the beginning of the service

Easter Celebration Service at 10:30 am

To reserve your seats for Easter Sunday Services,
go to fccw.net/Easter or call 802 – 457 – 9818.

Cliff Notes on Holy Week

What is Holy Week?

The phrase “Holy Week” is used to describe the annual observance of the culmination of Jesus Christ’s work in saving His people that starts on Palm Sunday and ends with Easter. Followers of Jesus began these observances soon after the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus to commemorate these critical parts of God’s plan.

Maundy Thursday—Jesus gathered His disciples in the upper room of a neighbor to celebrate the ancient Passover meal that had long identified God’s People. This sacred feast had a set order (Seder) that helped to explain God’s promise to deliver His People from slavery, sin, and ultimately eternal death. This meal centered on the sacrificial lamb whose blood spread on the door posts of believing families’ homes was a sign to the angel of death to “pass over” them. While every other home in Egypt experienced the death of all the first-born sons, those believing families were delivered from death and ushered out of slavery.

It was in this context that Jesus transformed Passover into the sacrament of Communion or the Lord’s Supper. He had come to be the sacrificial lamb for us. He told His disciples that the bread is His body and the fruit of the vine is His blood. Everything about Passover was ultimately pointing to Jesus and what He was about to do in sacrificing Himself for us.

Good Friday—This is the day that Jesus was betrayed by a friend, tried by the courts in a mockery of justice, beaten beyond recognition, hung on a cross in shame, took on the sins of all those who trust in Him, and died in our place. It was an awful, horrific day, but is called “good” for what it accomplished for all who trust in Jesus for our salvation.

Easter—Jesus had been telling His disciples all along that He needed to go to Jerusalem to die just as His prophets had been foretelling for centuries. Also, exactly according to plan, He would rise from the dead on the third day. That’s what happened on Easter Sunday!

Repent. This means to turn from all the ways we disobey God and to start obeying Him instead. God has made Himself evident to all people even though we suppress that knowledge, but if we want to know Him as He truly is, the Bible shows us how to live in obedience to His holy calling.

Believe. Jesus calls us to stop believing that we can save ourselves or that any other thing can save us. He tells us to trust that He is the only way to God the Father. To believe *in* Christ is more than just believing that He was born; it’s trusting Him to the exclusion of all else. What this baby King was born to do was to live the perfect life of obedience we fail to live and then die as the perfect sacrifice for our sins. His death on the cross paid the penalty for our rebellion and His resurrection from the dead on Easter morning declared that sacrifice was accepted by God the Father. To believe in Jesus is to trust His life, death, and resurrection to the exclusion of all else.

Identify. Jesus doesn’t just save us as individuals; He saves us into His family. He adopts His followers as brothers and sisters. The practice of baptism is the historic way of identifying with this family of God. If you have never been baptized then you should confirm your belief in Christ by being baptized into membership of a Bible-believing church. If you have already been baptized, then you should profess your faith in Christ and be joined officially as a member.

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. Gal. 6:14

F F C F Gm D Gm F C F 7

1. When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the
 2. For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the
 3. See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and
 4. Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a

Bb F C7 F C7 F C F C F Gm D

Prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I
 death of Christ my God: all the vain things that
 love flow min - gled down: did e'er such love and
 pres - ent far too small; love so a - maz - ing,

Gm F C F F C7 Dm Gm C7 F 7

count but loss, and pour con - tempt on all my pride.
 charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.
 sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
 so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

What Wondrous Love Is This

How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! 1 John 3:1

Chords: Dm Am C Em Dm C Dm Dm7 C 7

1. What won - drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul, what
 2. To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing, to
 3. And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and

Chords: C Bm Am G Am G C Dm C F C F C

won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won - drous love is
 God and to the Lamb, I will sing; to God and to the
 when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm

Chords: Dm C Am Bm7 C Dm Am Em Dm C

this that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread - ful curse for my
 Lamb, who is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will
 free, I'll sing and joy - ful be, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing

Chords: Dm Dm7 C F C Bm Am G Am G C Dm 7

soul, for my soul, to bear the dread - ful curse for my soul!
 sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing!
 on, I'll sing on, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on!

American folk hymn

Were You There?

It was the third hour when they crucified him. Mark 15:25

1. Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? (Were you there?)
2. Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? (Were you there?)
3. Were you there when they pierced him in the side? (Were you there?)
4. Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? (Were you there?)
5. Were you there when he rose up from the dead? (Were you there?)

Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? (Were you there?)
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? (Were you there?)
• Were you there when they pierced him in the side? (Were you there?)
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? (Were you there?)
Were you there when he rose up from the dead? (Were you there?)

Oh! Some-times it caus - es me to trem-ble, trem-ble,
(5.) Some-times I feel like shout-ing glo-ry, glo-ry,

trem - ble. Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? (Were you there?)
trem - ble. Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? (Were you there?)
• trem - ble. Were you there when they pierced him in the side? (Were you there?)
trem - ble. Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? (Were you there?)
glo - ry! Were you there when he rose up from the dead? (Were you there?)