

# First Congregational Church

of Woodstock

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

April 5th, 2020

### The Order of Morning Worship

For assistance as we "gather" remotely for the live streaming worship service.

April 5th, 2020 Ten-thirty

Welcome
Prelude & Silent Prayer
Easter Sacrificial Offering

♣ Call to Worship

Pastor Doug Warren

See Announcement at the End Pastor Doug Warren

Isaiah 6: 1 - 3 (ESV)

In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. <sup>2</sup> Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. <sup>3</sup> And one called to another and said:

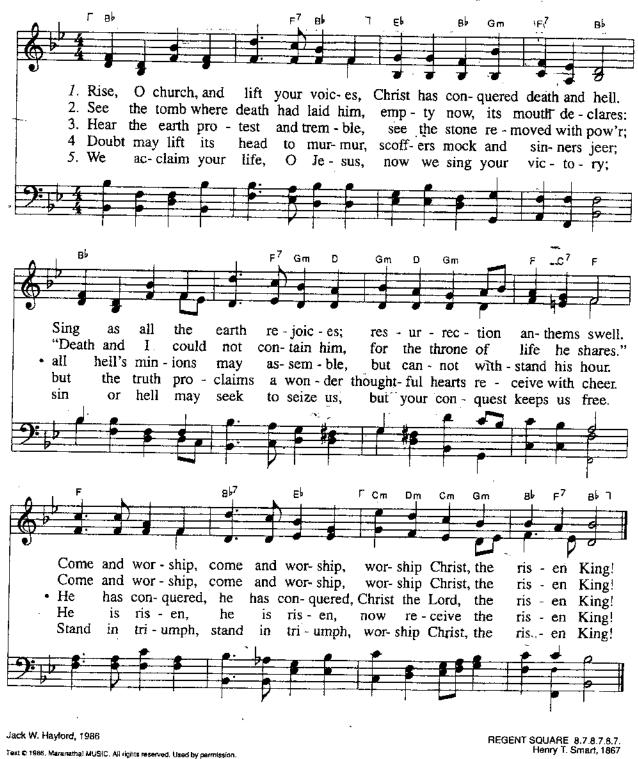
"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!"

♣ Hymn of Exultation

Worship Christ, the Risen King!

Number 286

He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Matt. 28:6



Scripture Reading

Pastor Doug Warren

### Matthew 16: 13 - 18 (ESV)

<sup>13</sup> Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" <sup>14</sup> And they said,

"Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." <sup>15</sup>He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" <sup>16</sup>Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." <sup>17</sup>And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. <sup>18</sup>And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Pastor: The Word of the Lord. Congregation: Thanks be to God!

Offering Please mail your offering to the church. We are exploring electronic giving options and will forward those details when available.

Scriptural Call to Repentance

Pastor Doug Warren

Isaiah 30: 15 - 18 (ESV)

For thus said the Lord GoD, the Holy One of Israel, "In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength." But you were unwilling, <sup>16</sup> and you said, "No! We will flee upon horses"; therefore you shall flee away; and, "We will ride upon swift steeds"; therefore your pursuers shall be swift.
A thousand shall flee at the threat of one;

A thousand shall flee at the threat of one; at the threat of five you shall flee, till you are left like a flagstaff on the top of a mountain,

like a signal on a hill.

Therefore the LORD waits to be gracious to you, and therefore he exalts himself to show mercy to you. For the LORD is a God of justice; blessed are all those who wait for him.

Song of Preparation

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

Number 235

### All Glory, Laud, and Honor

"Hosanna!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Blessed is the King of Israel!" John 12:13



Theoduloh of Orleans, ca. 820 Tr. by John Mason Neale, 1854; alt. ST, THEODULPH 7.6.7.6.D. Melchior Teschner, ca. 1615

### Psalm 51: 1 - 4 (ESV)

- Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.
- Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!
- <sup>3</sup> For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.
- Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.

Silent Reflection and Confession

Congregation

Proclamation of Forgiveness

Pastor Doug Warren

### Hebrews 2: 18 (ESV)

<sup>18</sup> For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

Pastoral Prayer Pastor Doug Warren

Children's Message Palm Sunday Pastor Doug Warren

♣ Creedal Song
Gloria Patri
Number 735

#### Gloria Patri

Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness. Ps. 29:2



The Sermon

"The Worship and Work of the Church"

Pastor Doug Warren

Acts 4: 23 - 37 (ESV)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> When they were released, they went to their friends and reported what the chief priests and the elders had said to them. <sup>24</sup> And when they heard it, they

lifted their voices together to God and said, "Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them, <sup>25</sup> who through the mouth of our father David, your servant, said by the Holy Spirit,

""Why did the Gentiles rage, and the peoples plot in vain?

26 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers were gathered together, against the Lord and against his Anointed'—

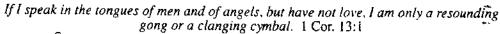
<sup>27</sup> for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, <sup>28</sup> to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place. <sup>29</sup> And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, <sup>30</sup> while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus." <sup>31</sup> And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.

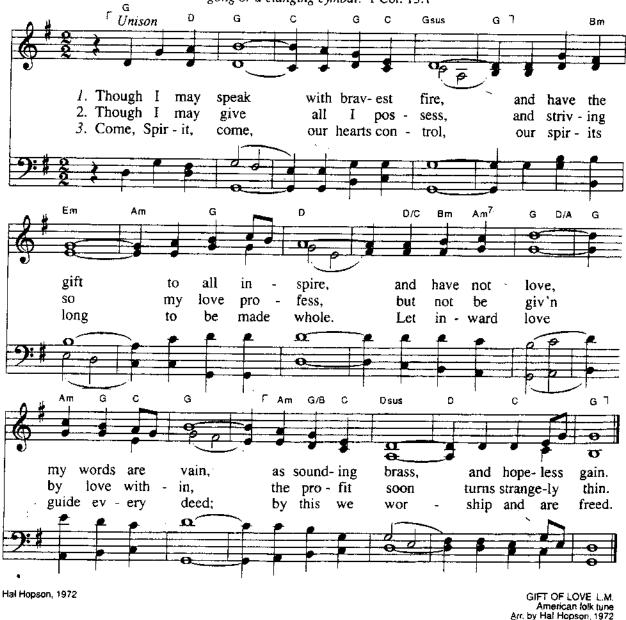
Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. <sup>33</sup> And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. <sup>34</sup> There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold <sup>35</sup> and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. <sup>36</sup> Thus Joseph, who was also called by the apostles Barnabas (which means son of encouragement), a Levite, a native of Cyprus, <sup>37</sup> sold a field that belonged to him and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.

♣ Hymn of Commitment Though I May Speak with Bravest Fire Number 597

### 597

### Though I May Speak with Bravest Fire





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#### A Word about Communion

Pastor Doug Warren

#### Benediction

Pastor Doug Warren

### Hebrews 13: 20 – 21 (ESV)

<sup>20</sup> Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, <sup>21</sup> equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

~ Organist: Anne Hablitzel ~

## **Easter Offering**

This year's Easter Offering recipient will be Brian and Cathy Birdsall. They have been affiliated with First Congregational Church of Woodstock since 1988 when they served with Campus Crusade for Christ (Cru) at Dartmouth College. It was Brian and Cathy who started the connection with Dartmouth students and FCCW by loading them in their Volkswagen van and driving them over on Sunday mornings.

In 1991, God called Brian and Cathy to serve in the former Soviet Union. They moved to Moscow, Russia in February 1992 and then to Kiev, Ukraine in 1993. They served in a variety of roles with Cru in that part of the world for over twenty years.

Brian and Cathy currently lead the Christian Embassy ministry at the United Nations in New York City where they serve the spiritual needs of over 4,000 diplomats from 193 countries around the world. They do this via large events such as The International Prayer Breakfast and small groups such as Bible studies, English classes and personal appointments. Brian and Cathy have five children and two grandchildren, with a third due the end of April.

Please watch the video attached to the newsletter or on FCCW's YouTube channel that the Birdsalls have put together to explain their work and the challenges that they are facing. You will have a chance to bless them through the Easter sacrificial offering.

## <u>Tithing</u>

Currently, there is no online giving. The Deacons are working on making that option available. Until it is, please mail your tithe to FCCW, ATTN: Treasurer, 36 Elm Street, Woodstock, VT 05091. Thank you.

# Testimonies Requested

The Elders believe that the congregation would be blessed to hear the testimonies of God's people as another way to encourage and sustain everyone during this season of trial and perseverance. To that end we would invite you to send your testimony of praise to Terri who will collect them and periodically publish for everyone to read.

The prophet Jeremiah declared in Chapter 51:10 that we should "announce everything that God has done" and the book of 1 Chronicles 16: 8, 9 that "we should proclaim God's greatness." Psalm 9:11 implores believers to "tell the world about God's unforgettable deeds." Certainly we have much to tell and so much to be grateful for. God bless you all as we travel this road in faith and adoration to the Lord's greatness and provision for his people.

#### The Elders

If you have not filled out the Elders' questionnaire, please do so and return to me via email or snail mail (FCCW, 36 Elm Street, Woodstock, VT 05091). The questionnaire is on the next page. Please fill out a questionnaire for each person in your household. Every person has different health needs, contact information, and concerns. Thank you for helping the leadership stay connected with the needs of the body.

If you have any questions or prayer requests, please email them to me at fccwinfo@gmail.com.

# Elders' Questionnaire

If you have not sent the answers to the questions below via email, please answer the questions and return via email or snail mail.

#### From the Elders:

With the Coronavirus outbreak we want to make sure that everyone at First Congregational Church of Woodstock is receiving loving care physically and spiritually.

Name:	
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- Do you have any symptoms such as a cough or fever?
- Do you have any complicating health concerns such as respiratory issues or a compromised immune system?
- Are you under medical quarantine or social isolation?
- · Do you have enough food and medicine for the next month?
- Are you under a doctor's care?
- What is the most concerning part of this current outbreak for you?
- What needs do you have?
- · How can the Elders best pray for you?
- Do you have access to FaceTime, Skype, Zoom, or some other means of video conferencing? If so, what is your contact information?
- What Bible verse or passage has been the most helpful for you in the past week?

#### Additionally,

- · Are you available to help drive people to the doctor?
- Would you be able to transport groceries or other essentials to those homebound?
- What time of the day/week are you most available?

By Christ's Grace,

**Pastor Doug**