



The _____
First Congregational Church
of Woodstock _____

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

*April 2nd, 2023
Palm Sunday*

The Order of Morning Worship

April 2nd, 2023

Ten-thirty

Welcome

Elder Tom Johnston

Easter Offering Announcement

Prelude & Silent Prayer

❖ Call to Worship Zechariah 9:9 and John 12:13 Congregation

Elder: Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!

Congregation: Shout Aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!

Elder: Look, your King comes to you;

Congregation: Triumphant and victorious is He,

Elder: Humble and riding on a donkey,

Congregation: On a colt, the foal of a donkey.

Elder: King Jesus comes, King Jesus, Son of God!

Congregation: He is the Son of Man, our promised Messiah.

All: Hail! King Jesus! He is Lord of All!

Those who would like to participate are invited to bring a palm frond forward and lay at the foot of the cross during the last verse of the hymn. This is what the crowd did before Jesus as an ancient symbol of recognizing their King. The Date Palm was a symbol of the king's provision for his people.

❖ Hymn of Exultation #235 *All Glory, Laud, and Honor* Congregation

Affirmation of Faith *The Westminster Shorter Catechism*¹ Congregation

Elder: How does Christ reign as King?

Congregation: Christ reigns as King, in subduing us to Himself, in ruling and defending us, and in restraining and conquering all His and our enemies.

Scriptural Call to Repentance

John 12: 12-16; 19:15

Elder

Collective Confession

Congregation

Lord Jesus, You are Lord of all Creation. You are the ruling King of all the earth and we humble ourselves before You. We sing to You our hosannas, like Your people of old, yet we confess that with these same mouths that praise You, we have often denied You. As much as we might join in the assembly to lay palm branches before You, testifying that You

¹ A catechism is a question and answer format for teaching the truths contained in Scripture. The Westminster Shorter Catechism was written in 1647 in England primarily as an aid for teaching children. It has been used by congregations and families in both worship and instruction for the past 350 years.

are the rightful King, we likewise rebel against You. We have ignored Your commands. We have disparaged Your name. We have claimed our own authority instead of submitting to Yours. Lord, we pray, forgive us for our disloyalty. Make us faithful servants. Heal us from our insurrection and defiance, we pray in Christ's holy name.

Silent Reflection and Confession

Proclamation of Forgiveness	Psalm 118	Elder
Pastoral Prayer		Elder
Offering	(collected from back to front)	Congregation
❖ Scripture Reading	Luke 19:30-40	Elder
❖ Hymn of Reflection #252	<i>When I Survey the Wondrous Cross</i>	Congregation
The Sermon	Ruth 2:18-23	Pastor Doug Warren
	<i>“Celebrating Lovingkindness in Community”</i>	
❖ Hymn of Response #648	<i>My Jesus, I Love Thee</i>	Congregation
Communion		Congregation
❖ Communion Song	<i>Behold the Lamb</i>	Congregation
❖ Benediction	Philippians 4: 7	Pastor
	Now may the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.	

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

Postlude

Preludes: Sacred Suite for Organ, III. St. Theodulph (Gawthrop)

Marche Triomphale (Rawsthorne)

Offertory: Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven (Hildebrand)

Postlude: Fanfare (Cooman)

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## Easter Services

Friday, April 7 at **7:00-8:30 pm Joint Good Friday Service**  
at the **Lebanon Opera House**

**Sunday, April 9 – He Is Risen!**

**7:00 am** Sunrise Service on Mount Tom (meet at Faulkner Park at 6:00)

8:00-9:00 am Breakfast in the Billings Room

**10:30 am** Morning Worship Celebration

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Special Prayer in Preparation for Easter

Please join the prayer team Tuesday evening at 6 pm here at FCCW (or by Zoom) for a special 90-minute prayer blitz. We will be lifting up our neighbors, co-workers, and family to the Lord, that they would join us for the Easter celebration. You don't want to miss it!

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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 contact Christine Morton or Alison Briggs to order. Also, please remember to make your check out to FCCW.

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

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## Congregational Meeting

Mark your calendars for the special congregational meeting that will immediately follow the worship service on April 30<sup>th</sup>. Stay tuned for more details!

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Greeters Needed!

Would you like to help welcome folks to worship on Sunday mornings? We need two volunteers each Sunday from 10:10 until the beginning of worship. If you would like to serve in this way there is a sign-up sheet in the Billings Room near the punch bowl. Questions? Contact Diana Snider at dennisssnider@msn.com.

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A Note from the Hospitality Committee

ATTENTION: All Boards, Committees, Staff, WCCC, and Individuals. Beginning April 1, 2023, each item or group of items NOT labeled in the refrigerator or freezer will be removed at the end of each month. Thank you for your consideration. The Hospitality Committee

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### Save the Date

On Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, 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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The April Prayer letter is available on the back table.

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## **Celebrating Lovingkindness in Community**

**1. Ruth Shares Her Blessings with Naomi (18-19).**

**2. They Ask God to Bless Boaz (20).**

**3. Ruth Continues to Share in Community (21-23).**

Conclusion: Ruth's response to abundant blessing through God and His people is celebration. She hurries home to share God's favor with Naomi. Naomi joins her in rejoicing and leads her in blessing Boaz as the instrument of God's blessings. Together they continue to follow the Lord through the harvest season in joyful submission to God's provision. Let us join them in delighting in Messiah's lovingkindness with joyful praise!

## Luke 19:30-40

[Jesus] sent two of the disciples, saying, “Go into the village in front of you, where on entering you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever yet sat. Untie it and bring it here. <sup>31</sup> If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ you shall say this: ‘The Lord has need of it.’” <sup>32</sup> So those who were sent went away and found it just as he had told them. <sup>33</sup> And as they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, “Why are you untying the colt?” <sup>34</sup> And they said, “The Lord has need of it.” <sup>35</sup> And they brought it to Jesus, and throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. <sup>36</sup> And as he rode along, they spread their cloaks on the road. <sup>37</sup> As he was drawing near—already on the way down the Mount of Olives—the whole multitude of his disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen, <sup>38</sup> saying, “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!” <sup>39</sup> And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples.” <sup>40</sup> He answered, “*I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out.*”

## Deuteronomy 25:5-10 (see also Leviticus 25:25)

<sup>5</sup> “If brothers dwell together, and *one of them dies and has no son, the wife of the dead man shall not be married outside the family to a stranger. Her husband’s brother shall go in to her and take her as his wife and perform the duty of a husband’s brother to her.* <sup>6</sup> And the first son whom she bears shall succeed to the name of his dead brother, that his name may not be blotted out of Israel. <sup>7</sup> And if the man does not wish to take his brother’s wife, then his brother’s wife shall go up *to the gate to the elders* and say, ‘My husband’s brother refuses to perpetuate his brother’s name in Israel; he will not perform the duty of a husband’s brother to me.’ <sup>8</sup> Then the elders of his city shall call him and speak to him, and if he persists, saying, ‘I do not wish to take her,’ <sup>9</sup> then his brother’s wife shall go up to him in the presence of the elders and pull his sandal off his foot and spit in his face. And she shall answer and say, ‘So shall it be done to the man who does not build up his brother’s house.’ <sup>10</sup> And the name of his house shall be called in Israel, ‘The house of him who had his sandal pulled off.’”

## Matthew 22:23-33 (see also Mark 12:18-27; Luke 20:27-40)

<sup>23</sup> The same day Sadducees came to him, who say that there is no resurrection, and they asked him a question, <sup>24</sup> saying, “Teacher, Moses said, ‘*If a man dies having no children, his brother must marry the widow and raise up offspring for his brother.*’” <sup>25</sup> Now there were seven brothers among us. The first married and died, and having no offspring left his wife to his brother. <sup>26</sup> So too the second and third, down to the seventh. <sup>27</sup> After them all, the woman died. <sup>28</sup> In the resurrection, therefore, of the seven, whose wife will she be? For they all had her.” <sup>29</sup> But Jesus answered them, “You are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God. <sup>30</sup> For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. <sup>31</sup> And as for the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was said to you by God: <sup>32</sup> ‘I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? He is not God of the dead, but of the living.” <sup>33</sup> And when the crowd heard it, they were astonished at his teaching.

# Taking Gathered Worship Home

God's lovingkindness *necessitates* joyous celebration in community. He is so great, we must rejoice. Delight together in Christ this week!

*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 2:18-23; Luke 19:30-40; Deuteronomy 25:5-10; Matthew 22:23-33; Romans 12:15; Titus 3:3-8; Psalm 118:1-29**. DISCUSS How does Ruth's blessing affect Naomi? How do they celebrate together? MEDITATE on **First Corinthians 12:26**. PRAY "Jesus, thank You for blessing us. Make our hearts grateful. Fill us with songs of rejoicing and enable us to celebrate together."

## Sunday Evening

**Young Adult Fellowship** at 6pm in the church library.

## Monday

READ **Ruth 2:18-23; Luke 15:1-32; 19:30-40**. DISCUSS Jesus tells the story of the lost things to illustrate the need to celebrate when they are found? How are you celebrating God finding you? The Pharisees rebuked Jesus for allowing his disciples to praise Him. Are you allowing the stones to sing your stanza? SERVE by putting someone else's interests *above your own!* MEDITATE on **First Corinthians 12:26**. PRAY, "Father, thank You for sending Jesus to save us. Enable us to praise You! Jesus, You are worthy of all our praise, Enable us to give it joyously!"

## Tuesday

READ **Ruth 2:18-23; Deuteronomy 25:5-10; Leviticus 25:25; Matthew 22:23-33**. DISCUSS These passages all deal with the command to preserve your brother's line. How does this relate to Ruth? How does it relate to us? How are we to honor the dead? SERVE by considering someone else's needs *above your own!* MEDITATE on **First Corinthians 12:26**. PRAY, "Lord God, You are the God of the living. Teach us to trust You, Jesus, as the resurrected Lord who will come to live with us forever." *Join the prayer meeting tonight at 6pm.*

### Wednesday

READ **Ruth 2:18-23; Luke 15:1-32; Psalm 118:1-29**. DISCUSS Why is it *necessary* to celebrate the good news of Christ's redemption? How will you celebrate with others this week? SERVE by *contacting someone from FCCW you haven't seen in a while. Demonstrate care for them more than yourself!* MEDITATE on **First Corinthians 12:26**. PRAY, "Lord, thank You for granting us Your favor and forgiveness at the cross."

### Thursday

READ **Ruth 2:18-23; Titus 3:3-8; Exodus 20:6; 34:6-7; Psalm 118:1-29**. DISCUSS God has promised His lovingkindness (*hesed*) to all whom He has chosen. He loves us with an eternal love. Praise Him! SERVE by putting someone else's interests *above your own!* MEDITATE on **First Corinthians 12:26**. PRAY, "Lord, *make our hearts more grateful* for all that You have abundantly provided for us."

### Friday

READ **Ruth 2:18-23; Luke 19:30-40; Deuteronomy 25:5-10; Matthew 22:23-33; Romans 12:15; Titus 3:3-8; Psalm 118:1-29**. DISCUSS What has the Holy Spirit been teaching you this week through these passages? MEDITATE on **First Corinthians 12:26**. PRAY that we at FCCW would *trust Christ as our Redeemer*.

### Saturday

PREPARE for *Easter Sunday gathered worship tomorrow*. READ **Acts 2:1-47**. Invite others to join you tomorrow for **Easter worship services at 7:00 am** on Mount Tom and **10:30 at the church building**. Ask Jesus to *help us trust Him instead of giving into bitterness and doubt*.

## First Corinthians 12:26

If one member suffers, all suffer together;  
if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

## Romans 12:15

Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.