



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

May 24th, 2020

The Order of Morning Worship

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

May 24th, 2020

Ten-thirty

Welcome

Pastor Doug Warren

Prelude & Silent Prayer

❖ Call to Worship

Psalm 34: 1 – 3

Pastor Doug Warren

I will bless the LORD at all times;
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.
² My soul makes its boast in the LORD;
let the humble hear and be glad.
³ Oh, magnify the LORD with me,
and let us exalt his name together!

❖ Hymn of Exultation

All People That on Earth Do Dwell

Number 1

All People That on Earth Do Dwell

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. Ps. 100:1

1. All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, sing
2. The Lord ye know is God in - deed; with -
3. O en - ter then his gates with praise, ap -
4. For why? The Lord our God is good, his

to the Lord with cheer - ful voice; him serve with fear, his
out our aid he did us make; we are his folk, he
proach with joy his courts un - to; praise, laud, and bless his
mer - cy is for - ev - er sure; his truth at all times

praise forth - tell, come ye be - fore him and re - joice.
doth us feed, and for his sheep he doth us take.
name al - ways, for it is seem - ly so to do.
firm - ly stood, and shall from age to age en - dure.

Psalm 100
William Kethe, 1561
OLD HUNDRETH L.M.
Louis Bourgeois's *Genevan Psalter*, 1551

Scripture Reading Matthew 5: 17 – 20 Pastor Doug Warren

¹⁷ “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. ¹⁸ For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹ Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called

great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

Pastoral Prayer

Pastor Doug Warren

Children's Message

Pastor Doug Warren

The Sermon

"The Case Against Stephen"

Pastor Doug Warren

Acts 6: 8 – 15

⁸ And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people. ⁹ Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and disputed with Stephen. ¹⁰ But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he was speaking. ¹¹ Then they secretly instigated men who said, "We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God." ¹² And they stirred up the people and the elders and the scribes, and they came upon him and seized him and brought him before the council, ¹³ and they set up false witnesses who said, "This man never ceases to speak words against this holy place and the law, ¹⁴ for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and will change the customs that Moses delivered to us." ¹⁵ And gazing at him, all who sat in the council saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

❖ Hymn of Commitment

Here I Am, Lord

Attached

Here I Am, Lord

INTRO *Moderate tempo, with majesty* (♩ = 80)

G Gsus4 G Gsus4 Gmaj7 C/E D Dsus2 D/F#

VERSES

G C/G G C/G G D

1. I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.
 2. I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.
 3. I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.

G Em Am7 G/B C Am Am7/G D/F# D/C G/B D/A

1. All who dwell in dark ___ and sin My hand will save. ___
 2. I have wept for love ___ of them. They turn a - way. ___
 3. I will set a feast ___ for them. My hand will save. ___

G C/G G C/G G D

1. I, who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.
 2. I will break their hearts of stone, Give them hearts for love a - lone.
 3. Fin-est bread I will pro - vide Till their hearts be sat - is - fied.

G Em Am7 G/B C Am G/B C rit. D molto rit.

1. Who will bear my light ___ to them? } Whom shall I send? _____
 2. I will speak my word ___ to them. }
 3. I will give my life ___ to them. }

REFRAIN

mf D/F# G Gsus4 G Gsus4 Gmaj7/F# C/E C/D G Gsus4

Here I am, Lord. ___ Is it I, Lord? ___ I have

Harmony

G Am7 G/B C D *rit.* D/F# G Gsus4 *a tempo*

heard you call - ing in the night. I will go, Lord,

G Gsus4 Gmaj7/F# C/E C/D G Gsus4 G

if you lead me. I will hold your

Am7 *rit.* D 1
G Gsus4 G Gsus4 Gmaj7/F# C/E D Dsus2 D/F# *a tempo* to Verse 2
D.S.

peo - ple in my heart.

2 Gsus2,4 G Gsus4 G Gsus4 Gmaj7/F# C/E D Dsus2 D/F# *a tempo* to Verse 3
D.S.

heart.

Final Gsus2,4 G Gsus4 G Gsus4 Gmaj7 D7/G G *a tempo* *molto rit.*

heart.

Dan Schutte

27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

The Congregation may be seated after the Benediction for silent prayer

❖ Hymn of Anticipation *God Be with You Till We Meet Again (v. 1)* Number 385

I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up. Acts 20:32

Unison

1. God be with you till we meet a - gain;

Harmony

by his coun - sels guide, up - hold you, with his sheep se -

Unison

cure - ly fold you: God be with you till we meet a - gain.

Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1880

Tune from the *English Hymnal* by permission of Oxford University Press.

RANDOLPH Irreg.
Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

Postlude

~~ Organist: Anne Hablitzel ~~

Saturday, May 30 - 9:00 am to 2:00 pm - Food Drive for Woodstock Community Food Shelf

The Community Outreach Team is sponsoring a food drive for the Woodstock Community Food Bank. We will be inviting the community to join us and will be sending messages to various places to get the word out. Food banks across the state have been stretched to the max to provide food for many folks in need during these times. We will be inviting all of you to "drive by" the church and drop off your donations and we hope you will share this information to your friends, neighbors and co-workers. It will be on social media so if you can share it, that will also help get the message out. The date is Saturday, May 30th from 9-2 pm which we will then deliver to the Food Bank at their direction. Precautions and social distancing will of course be in place to assure all who wish to help out. Here is what the Food Bank specifically has suggested:

Anything shelf stable, -here is the current list:

- 1)SOUP - all kinds, - low salt if possible;
- 2)canned protein- chicken, tuna, salmon, beans;
- 3)peanut butter, any nut butter, jam, jelly;
- 4)Any kind of cereal; hot cereals like oatmeal; Cheerios are a favorite, as are honey bunches of oats with almonds.
- 5) pasta sauces, and all kinds of pasta and egg noodles;
- 6) staples- sugar, tea, coffee; flour, baking mixes, baking powder, nuts, raisins ;
canned pie fillings; honey, molasses; small bottles of cooking oil, olive oil,
mayonnaise, small bottles of cider vinegar
- 7) healthy grains- quinoa, lentils, rice, brown rice, couscous, barley, etc.
- 8)anything else that is shelf stable that you folks think would be enjoyed, and useful.

The Food Bank also welcomes monetary donations which they use to purchase needed groceries and supplies to also be given away.

Thanks for your support!

The FCCW Community Outreach Team

Tithing

Through the hard work of the Deacons and Michael Byrne, the church now has the ability to accept online donations. Here is the link for making an online donation: <https://www.fccw.net/donate/>. You will be able to tithe to the general fund, give to the Easter Offering, etc. If you want to use your mobile phone, set your mobile phone browser to <https://www.fccw.net/donate/>, it will automatically format the page to your phone screen. This is a very safe and secure way for you to be able to give to the church.

If you are uncomfortable with online giving and prefer to mail your tithe, please don't hesitate to continue to mail your checks to FCCW, ATTN: Treasurer, 36 Elm Street, Woodstock, VT 05091.

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

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

Social Distancing Practices for FCCW Worship Services

First, **trust in the Lord** and not our procedures. Then practice these protocols faithfully as a way of loving one another. Christ is in control AND He normally works through His people to accomplish what He is doing. (Jeremiah 9:23-24; Second Corinthians 1:8-11; Hebrews 2:9-18; 10:23-25)

Second, if you are sick, PLEASE STAY HOME. If you are not sure, stay home and make use of the live-stream. No one with an elevated temperature should come for any reason.

Third, we encourage those with health risks, co-mortality factors, and household contact with those who have such risk factors to STAY HOME and make use of the live-streaming for a little longer. As those without these issues return to more gatherings, even with social distancing protocols, there will be more virus transmission. So please wait and allow the rest of the population to build the necessary herd-immunity for you to be able to participate more safely later.

Fourth, *if and only if* you do not have higher risk of serious COVID complications and do not live with anyone who does, then please come participate in the worship services following these precautions:

- Please wear a facemask (no one will be permitted entrance without one).
- Please come in with your household members and sit together.
- Please maintain a distance of six (6) feet from anyone not in your household.
- Please keep an empty pew between your household and anyone else.
- Please refrain from shaking hands or any other physical contact with anyone not in your own household.
- Please thoroughly wash your hands before and after the worship service.
- Please only one person in the bathroom (or parent and child) at a time.

Fifth, please know we are doing the following to help protect you and our neighbors:

- Disinfecting all public surfaces, doorknobs, etc. before and after every service.
- Praying for the congregation and all our neighbors.
- Continuing to provide live-streaming for those unable to join physically yet.
- Removed hymnals and Bibles from the pews, providing Orders of Worship with printed hymns. You may want to bring your own Bible.
- Rope off every other pew to help maintain adequate distance between households.

Sixth, in order to minimize potentially lethal virus transmission

- We will use individual cups and wafers for communion on the first Sunday back.
- No passing offering plate—please place offering in box in the back.
- No-Contact Greeters will assist with social distancing protocols outside of entrances.
- Hand-sanitizer stations at entrances.

The Case Against Stephen

1. Stephen Is Proclaiming that Jesus Is the Christ.
2. Christ's Opponent's Use the Same Playbook.
3. The Glory of Christ Shines Through His People.

Scripture records the resistance that Stephen (representing this new office of Deacons) encounters from those opposed to Christ. It seems crazy that anyone would oppose caring for widows, but they hate Christ and all for which He stands. Their strategy is predictable. They distort the truth and stir up dissension just like the Father of Lies always does. The way of Life is always opposed by the forces of death. At least for the moment. Stephen's radiance points us to the coming glory when we will be with our Savior King face-to-face. Let us so trust in the coming of that Day that we are willing to live to His glory today and every day until then.

Matthew 4:17 From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Galatians 3:7 – 9

“Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham. And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, “In you shall all the nations be blessed.” So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.

Matthew 5: 17 – 20

¹⁷ “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. ¹⁸ For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹ Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Taken from *The Westminster Shorter Catechism*.

Question #27: How does Christ execute the office of a king?

Answer: Christ executes the office of a king in subduing us to Himself, in ruling and defending us, and in restraining and conquering all His and our enemies.

Acts—Series Overview

The Expansion of the Gospel Witness with Power

Acts records God’s faithful accomplishment of all that He promised in taking the gospel to the nations. It lays the groundwork for all that will take place as His Church awaits His return. Just as Jesus lived and spoke as the Father commanded, we now are called to do in the power of His Holy Spirit. While Jesus did this perfectly, we will strive imperfectly, constantly in need of the Holy Spirit’s direction, power, and correction. Nevertheless, our faithful God will work even through our failing efforts and His gospel witness through us will prevail and penetrate every nation, tribe, & territory. For the praise of our King!