



The _____
First Congregational Church
of Woodstock _____

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

June 28th, 2020

The Order of Morning Worship

For assistance as we “gather” remotely and in-person to worship together.

June 28th, 2020

Nine-thirty

Welcome

Pastor Doug Warren

Prelude & Silent Prayer

❖ Call to Worship Psalm 34: 1 – 3

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

Number 455

And Can It Be That I Should Gain

And Can It Be That I Should Gain

While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Rom. 5:8

1. And can it be that I should gain an in - t'rest
 2. 'Tis mys - t'ry all! Th'Im - mor - tal dies: who can ex -
 3. He left his Fa - ther's throne a - bove (so free, so
 4. Long my im - pris - oned spir - it lay fast bound in
 5. No con - dem - na - tion now I dread; Je - sus, and

in the Sav - ior's blood? Died he for me, who caused his
 plore his strange de - sign? In vain the first - born ser - aph
 • in - fi - nite his grace!), hum - bled him - self (so great his
 sin and na - ture's night; thine eye dif - fused a quick - 'ning
 all in him, is mine! A - live in him, my liv - ing

pain? For me, who him to death pur - sued? A - maz - ing love!
 tries to sound the depths of love di - vine. 'Tis mer - cy all!
 • love!), and bled for all his cho - sen race. 'Tis mer - cy all,
 ray; I woke, the dun - geon flamed with light; my chains fell off,
 Head, and clothed in righ - teous - ness di - vine, bold I ap - proach

C A⁷ D G C

How can it be that thou, my God, shouldst
 Let earth adore, let angel minds in-
 im - mense and free; for, O my God, it
 my heart was free; I rose, went forth, and
 th'e - ter - nal throne, and claim the crown, through

D G REFRAIN D D⁷

die for me?
 quire no more. A - maz - ing love! How can it
 found out me.
 fol - lowed thee. A - maz - ing love! How
 Christ, my own.

G F C G Am/C G/D D⁷ G 7

be that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?
 can it be that thou, my God,

Charles Wesley, 1738
 Alt. 1990

SAGINA L.M.D.
 Thomas Campbell, 1825

Scripture Reading

Romans 1: 1 – 6

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ² which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, ³ concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴ and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵ through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, ⁶ including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

Pastoral Prayer

Children's Message

The Sermon

"Martyrdom for Christ"

Pastor Doug Warren

Acts 8: 1 – 4

And Saul approved of his execution.

And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. ² Devout men buried Stephen and made great lamentation over him. ³ But Saul was ravaging the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison.

⁴ Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word.

❖ Hymn of Commitment

Number 358

For All the Saints

For All the Saints

They will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them. Rev. 14:13

Unison

1. For all the saints who from their la - bors rest,
 2. Thou wast their rock, their for - tress, and their might;
 3. O may thy sol - diers faith - ful, true, and bold,
 4. The gold - en eve - ning bright - ens in the west;
 5. But lo! there breaks a yet more glo - rious day;
 6. From earth's wide bounds, from o - cean's far - thest coast,

who thee by faith be - fore the world con - fessed,
 thou, Lord, their Cap - tain in the well - fought fight;
 fight as the saints who no - bly fought of old,
 soon, soon to faith - ful war - riors comes their rest;
 the saints tri - um - phant rise in bright ar - ray;
 through gates of pearl streams in the count - less host,

thy name, O Je - sus, be for - ev - er blest.
 thou, in the dark - ness drear, their one true light.
 and win with them the vic - tor's crown of gold.
 the sweet is the calm of par - a - dise the blest.
 the King of glo - ry pass - es on his way.
 sing - ing to Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Benediction

John 14: 27

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

Number 385

God Be with You Till We Meet Again (v. 1)

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

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

Hymn Sing – Today, June 28 begins at 10:45 am

Following the morning worship service there will be a hymn sing. Consider staying after the morning worship service to enjoy some additional singing. This will also be streamed live through our website and Facebook.

Free Fish and Tank

The Woodstock Christian Childcare has a fish tank, bubbler, plastic plants, and 2 fish to give away. The tank is 36" X 18". If you have any questions or are interested in taking the fish and tank, please contact Ruth Brisson, Director at 410-925-7959 or email her at brissonwccc@comcast.net.

Tithing

Online Giving is now available. Please go to <https://www.fccw.net/donate/> and choose the fund you would like to give to. 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, 36 Elm Street, Woodstock, VT 05091.

If you attend our in-person services, there is a box on the table behind the last set of pews to drop your tithe into. No collections plates will be passed.

Morning Worship Services

Even though our Sunday morning services have returned to meeting in person, we will continue to offer our services streamed live through our website: fccw.net and Facebook. Below are the links for the live stream of the Sunday Morning Worship Service:

1. Live Stream: fccw.net/livestream, click on the arrow to start the Live Stream.
2. Live Stream via Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/First-Congregational-Church-of-Woodstock-Vermont-1514061492225108>
3. Live Stream via YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWwcbQa26ywlnXKwd9KSgEA/videos>

The Order of Worship, Sermon Notes and Taking Gathered Worship home are available on fccw.net/livestream. If you have any questions, concerns, or prayer requests, please don't hesitate to call (802) 457-9818 or email fccwinfo@gmail.com.

Martyrdom for Christ

1. Great Persecution Against the Church Begins in Jerusalem.
2. Christian Burial Demonstrates Faith in Christ's Resurrection.
3. God Uses the Scattering to Preach Christ Broadly.

We are told not only of Stephen's death, but also his burial in Christian community. His martyrdom is a spark that sets to blaze a great persecution of the Church. No opposition can thwart God's plans to make the good news of Jesus known in all the nations of the earth. How are you (we) trusting Him to fulfill His promises in this regard?

First Corinthians 15: 1 – 20

Now I would remind you, brothers, of **the gospel I preached to you**, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: *that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles.* Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

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!

Taking Gathered Worship Home

Jesus will be praised by men, women, boys, and girls of every tribe, tongue, and nation around the globe. It has been His plan all along. To redeem that which was fallen into rebellion, treason, and death. He accomplishes those plans in ways that we could not conceive. Ruminates this week on His sovereign design and faithfulness to it.

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 **Acts 8:1-4; Romans 1:1-6; First Corinthians 15:1-20**. DISCUSS, How does Stephen's burial teach us? How do you (we) grieve those who have gone to Christ before us? How are you (we) witnessing to Christ today? PRAY for Christ to embolden us to declare His resurrection wherever He leads us.

Sunday Evening

In lieu of the evening worship service tonight, please set apart some time to pray for God to bring revival here at FCCW and around the globe.

Monday

READ **Acts 8:1-4; Romans 1:1-6; Matthew 28:16-20**. DISCUSS, What is the significance of going to *all nations*? How is God faithfully carrying out what He promised? How are you working in concert with that? How are you working against it? PRAY, "Lord Jesus, give us boldness to proclaim Your resurrection and to hope in nothing less."

Tuesday

READ **Acts 8:1-4; Genesis 23:1-20**. DISCUSS, Why does God take the time to recount the funerals of Sarah and Stephen? How does your understanding of Christian burial agree with Scripture? How does it conflict with it? PRAY, "Lord Jesus, You are the Resurrected One who will return to gather all your saints, body and soul, to Yourself. Help us to live according to that reality daily."

Wednesday

READ **Acts 8:1-4; First Thessalonians 4:13-18**. DISCUSS, What happens to the bodies of believers in Christ when they die? What will happen when Jesus comes again? Why are our bodies included? How are you (we) comforting one another? PRAY, “Lord, You will return and gather all Your beloved to Yourself starting with those who have fallen asleep. We praise You!”

Thursday

READ **Acts 8:1-4; 7:54-60; John 5:19-29**. DISCUSS, How much authority does Jesus have? What “hour” is spoken of here? What will Jesus do then? How are you preparing for that hour? PRAY, “Lord, You alone are King of Kings. Make our hearts delight in praising You and longing for Your return.”

Friday

READ **Acts 8:1-4; Romans 1:1-7; First Corinthians 15:1-20**. DISCUSS, How has God been teaching you from these passages this week? REJOICE if Christ has honored you to witness for Him! PRAY for renewal and revival across our land.

Saturday

PREPARE today for the worship service tomorrow. *There will be both the live-stream and in-person services available.*

READ **Acts 8:1-40; Genesis 23:1-20**. Invite others to join you for either the *live-stream or in-person service* tomorrow. Ask Jesus to help us in the transition back to gathered worship in the building.

Romans 1: 1 – 6

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the **gospel of God**, *which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ ...*”