



The _____
First Congregational Church
of Woodstock _____

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

July 12th, 2020

The Order of Morning Worship

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

July 12th, 2020

Nine-thirty

Welcome

Pastor Doug Warren

Prelude & Silent Prayer

❖ Call to Worship

Nicene Creed

Number 846

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only – begotten Son of God,
begotten of his Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father;
by whom all things were made;
who for us and for our salvation
came down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary,
and was made human;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered and was buried;
and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,
and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the
dead;
Whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son;
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified;
who spoke by the prophets;
and we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church;
we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins;
and we look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

❖ Hymn of Exultation

Number 32

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

*Because of the LORD'S great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail.
They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. Lam. 3:22, 23*

Chords: D G A⁷ Dsus D G

1. Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther; there is no
2. Sum - mer and win - ter and spring-time and har - vest, sun, moon, and
3. Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth, thine own dear

Chords: D A⁷ D E B⁷ E⁷ A A⁷ D

shad - ow of turn - ing with thee; thou chang - est not, thy com -
stars in their cours - es a - bove, join with all na - ture in
pres - ence to cheer and to guide, strength for to - day and bright

Chords: Em D Gmaj⁷ Em⁷ Bdim D A⁷ D

pas - sions, they fail not; as thou hast been thou for - ev - er wilt be.
man - i - fold wit - ness to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
hope for to - mor - row, bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

REFRAIN
Chords: A D B⁷ Em A⁷

Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Morn - ing by

Chords: D Bdim A E⁷ A A⁷ D Em D

morn - ing new mer - cies I see: all I have need - ed thy hand hath pro -

vid - ed — Great is thy faith - ful - ness; Lord, un - to me!

Thomas O. Chisholm, 1923

FAITHFULNESS 11.10.11.10.ref.
William M. Runyan, 1923

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Scripture Reading

Isaiah 56: 3 – 5

- ³ Let not the foreigner who has joined himself to the LORD say,
 “The LORD will surely separate me from his people”;
 and let not the eunuch say,
 “Behold, I am a dry tree.”
- ⁴ For thus says the LORD:
 “To the eunuchs who keep my Sabbaths,
 who choose the things that please me
 and hold fast my covenant,
- ⁵ I will give in my house and within my walls
 a monument and a name
 better than sons and daughters;
 I will give them an everlasting name
 that shall not be cut off.

Pastor: The grass withers, the flower fades,

Congregation: But the word of our God will stand forever.

Sunday School Teacher Recognition

Pastoral Prayer

Children’s Message

The Sermon

*“Christ’s Kingdom Comes to
 the Most Unlikely”*

Pastor Doug Warren

Acts 8: 26 – 40

²⁶ Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” This is a desert place. ²⁷ And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸ and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹ And the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and join this chariot.” ³⁰ So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” ³¹ And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. ³² Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter
and like a lamb before its shearer is silent,
so he opens not his mouth.

³³ In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.”

³⁴ And the eunuch said to Philip, “About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” ³⁵ Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶ And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?” ³⁸ And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. ³⁹ And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰ But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Come, Thou Almighty King

101

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. 2 Cor. 13:14

1. Come, thou Al - might - y King, help us thy name to sing,
 2. Come, thou In - car - nate Word, gird on thy might - y sword,
 3. Come, Ho - ly Com - fort - er, thy sa - cred wit - ness bear
 4. To the great One in Three e - ter - nal prais - es be,

help us to praise. Fa - ther, all glo - ri - ous, o'er all vic -
 our prayer at - tend. Come, and thy peo - ple bless, and give thy
 in this glad hour. Thou who al - might - y art, now rule in
 hence ev - er - more. His sov - ereign maj - es - ty may we in

to - ri - ous, come and reign o - ver us, An - cient of Days.
 Word suc - cess; Spir - it of ho - li - ness, on us de - scend.
 ev - ery heart, and ne'er from us de - part, Spir - it of pow'r.
 glo - ry see, and to e - ter - ni - ty love and a - dore.

²⁴ Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, ²⁵ to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

❖ 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

The Congregation may be seated for silent prayer.

Postlude

~~ Organist: Anne Hablitzel ~~
~~ Please ensure cell phones are off ~~

Deacons' Offering – This Sunday, July 12

This month's Deacons' offering will go towards the work of the Deacons. Our church receives many requests for help from not just within our church body but the community at large. The Deacons' have a great many opportunities to share God's love with folks in need, whether it is paying a bill for them or buying them a pair of glasses. This is a vital ministry that our church has to reach into our communities and share the gospel in a loving, gracious way. If you are in need or know someone who is, please contact Jerry Morton, the Deacons' Mercy Minister at 802-672-1793 or email at ejerrym@aol.com.

Church Picnic

July 26, 2020

Our annual church picnic will be held on Sunday after church, from 11:30 AM to 2:00 PM, at Silver Lake State Park, but there will be some significant changes in how things are done. Unfortunately, we are living in the midst of a pandemic and there will be restrictions.

The State Parks people have told us that we will have to wear masks and maintain social distancing. To keep people as safe as possible the picnic tables and benches have been removed from all state parks, so people attending the picnic will have to bring their own chairs or blankets to sit on. Use of bathrooms will be limited and they also suggest that you bring bottles of water to drink.

FCCW will provide hamburgers and hot dogs, but we are asking each family or person to bring their own side dishes, since we won't be able to set out food to share with others. As we do at Thanksgiving, each person needs to bring their own plate and cutlery.

Sounds like a lot of rules, doesn't it? Well, in the midst of a pandemic, the rules serve to keep people safe, so as a matter of Christian compassion, we will comply with the rules.

We are going forward with the annual church picnic for those who are comfortable attending. This should be a fun event. Please do not feel any pressure to attend if you are not comfortable doing so.

If you are planning to attend you will need to sign up in advance as the number of people in each group in the park will be restricted. Please click the link

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1_rygKzHTZug30IsIUZuC3etbliSOcR136RdvtO6t08w/edit?usp=sharing and please include all the information requested.

If you have any questions, please contact Cora Koop at 603-643-1609 or email her at cora.hogue@gmail.com.

Teens and 20 Something Discipleship Group

Pastor Doug has formed a Teens and 20 Something Discipleship Group to grow the faith of our High School Students and Young Adults in our congregation and community. This coming Tuesday, July 14 the group will meet at 8:00 am for Bible Study at the Church. On Sunday, July 19 the group will meet at 7:30 pm for a time of Praise and Fellowship at the Church. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Doug at 802-457-1304 or email him at PastorDougW@gmail.com. Teens and 20 Somethings invite your friends to a time of learning, praise and worship, and fellowship. Appropriate social distancing and protocols are being taken.

Leadership Training

Calling all men willing to consider serving as a Deacon or Elder! We will be holding four officer training sessions in the next few months. Please plan on participating if you are able. It is necessary for current and potential officers and helpful for just about anyone wanting to walk more closely with Jesus.

July 25	Bible Study Methods
August 22	Godly Character
September 12	Loving the Congregation with Servant Leadership
October 10	Pastoral Care

All four sessions will be held at FCCW on Saturdays from 9-noon. Please RSVP to fccwinfo@gmail.com.

Substitutes Needed

The Woodstock Christian Childcare is planning to reopen the end of August. Staff has been busily reorganizing and preparing. They are in need of more substitute teachers. If you would like more information, please contact Ruth Brisson at 410 – 925 – 7959 or email her at brissonwccc@comcast.net. Please continue to pray for the many changes that must be put in place in order to open.

Food Shelf Drive By Drop Off

Benefitting Woodstock and Reading Food Shelves

When: July 25, 2020
Time: 9:00 am to 2:00 pm

First Congregational Church of Woodstock is sponsoring a **food drive** to benefit the Woodstock and Reading communities. We invite everyone to drive by FCCW and make a donation which we will bring to the Food Shelf. Cash donations are also welcome.

We also would like to **collect children's books (new or gently used)** to provide a free table for families to come and get some books to enjoy over the summer. We will collect them safely and then announce when the table is ready outside for families to come by.

Here is the current list of most urgent food and other needs:

FOOD:

Canned chicken	Soup
Canned tuna	Crackers
Canned salmon	Also; Condiments (mayo, ketchup, salad dressing)
Baked beans	Cooking Oil (olive, canola, vegetable)
Cereal	Extras (pickles, olives, nuts)
Jams and jellies	Any non-perishable food items are welcomed.
Pasta sauce	
Baked beans	
Canned fruit	

OTHER USEFUL NON-FOOD ITEMS:

Pet Food
Dish Detergent
Laundry Detergent
Toilet Paper
Personal care items like shampoo or toothpaste and toothbrushes

If you have any questions, please contact Keri Bristow at 603-359-3948 or email her at kerilynbristow@gmail.com.

Christ's Kingdom Comes to the Most Unlikely

1. Philip Sent to a Man with Three Strikes Against Him (26-31).

2. How Do We Understand Christ and the Prophets (32-35)?

3. Eunuch's Baptism *Identifies Him* as Part of God's People(36-40).

As shocking as it was for the Kingdom of God to be extended to the Samaritans, it is even more staggering to consider it including someone like the rich Ethiopian eunuch. How is that possible?! As Isaiah gave witness to long ago, the whole mission of the gospel runs counter to our mistaken idea of how the world works. Jesus has come as the suffering servant to redeem an irredeemable people and to gather rebels from every nation into the Kingdom of Christ. What are you doing to give Him praise?

Isaiah 56: 3 – 5

Let not the foreigner who has joined himself to the Lord say,
“The Lord will surely separate me from his people”;
and let not the eunuch say, “Behold, I am a dry tree.”
For thus says the Lord: “To the eunuchs who keep my Sabbaths,
who choose the things that please me and hold fast my covenant,
I will give in my house and within my walls
a monument and a name better than sons and daughters;
I will give them an everlasting name that shall not be cut off.”

Second Corinthians 1: 18 – 22

As surely as God is faithful, our word to you has not been Yes and No. For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, whom we proclaimed among you, Silvanus and Timothy and I, was not Yes and No, but in him it is always Yes. For **all the promises of God find their Yes in him**. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory. And it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us, and who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.

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

Have you ever looked at someone and thought, “Well, there’s no way that person would ever come to Christ?” It seems God delights in blowing our categories. Here we encounter a very unlikely convert to Christianity. Yet God identifies him as part of His people.

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 8:26-40; Zephaniah 3:9-13; Isaiah 56:3-5**. DISCUSS, How does the Ethiopian eunuch fit in the story of Acts? What is God doing? Why? What role does Philip serve? What role do you? PRAY for Christ to open our eyes of faith to His faithful fulfillment of His promises. Ask the Holy Spirit to open our eyes to God’s purposes.

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 8:26-40; Isaiah 53:1-12; 2 Corinthians 1:18-22**. DISCUSS, How is Jesus described in Isaiah 53? How has God done what He promised? How is His faithfulness applied to us? PRAY, “Lord Jesus, thank You for Your faithfulness. By Your Holy Spirit help us to rest in Your faithfulness as You make us faithful too.”

Tuesday

READ **Acts 8:26-40; Isaiah 54:1-17; Jeremiah 31:31-40**. DISCUSS, What is the relationship between the suffering servant in Isaiah 53 and the new covenant in 54? How do these things point to Christ? How are we seeing that unfolding in Acts? PRAY, “Lord, thank You for Your covenant. Thank You for your covenant faithfulness. Teach us to walk in Your ways. Guide us, Holy Spirit.”

Wednesday

READ **Acts 8:26-40; Isaiah 55:1-13; Romans 2:1-4**. DISCUSS, What is the relationship between the suffering servant in Isaiah 53 and the new creation in 55? How do these things point to Christ? What does it mean for us to forsake our way? What does repentance involve? PRAY, “Lord, You’re merciful. Teach us to seek You and Your ways. Enable us to follow You.”

Thursday

READ **Acts 8:26-40; Isaiah 56:1-12; Ephesians 2:11-22**. DISCUSS, What is the relationship between the suffering servant in Isaiah 53 and the blessing in 56? How can this blessing belong even to foreigners and eunuchs? How has Jesus accomplished this? PRAY, “Lord, You alone are King of Kings. Make our hearts delight in praising You and longing for Your return.”

Friday

READ **Acts 8:26-40; Isaiah 53:1-12; 2 Corinthians 1:18-22**. DISCUSS, How has God been teaching you from these passages this week? REJOICE if Christ has given you the honor to be identified among His people! 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 9:1-43; Matthew 25:31-46**. 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.

Zephaniah 3: 9 – 10

“For at that time I will change the speech of the peoples
to a pure speech,
that all of them may call upon the name of the Lord
and serve him with one accord.
From beyond the rivers of Cush [Ethiopia], my worshipers,
the daughter of my dispersed ones, shall bring my offering.