



The _____
First Congregational Church
_____ of Woodstock _____

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

August 25th, 2024

The Order of Morning Worship

August 25th, 2024

Nine-thirty

Welcome

Pastor Doug Warren

Prelude & Silent Prayer

❖ Call to Worship Psalm 8:1-2 Pastor

❖ Hymn of Exultation #295 *Crown Him With Many Crowns* Congregation

Scriptural Call to Repentance 1 John 1:8-9 Pastor

Collective Confession Luther's Prayer Congregation

O Lord, merciful and mighty, we unworthy sinners, come to You in humble repentance and confess how we have transgressed Your holy Law. We are guilty of sins of omission and commission, evil thoughts, improper words, and wrong deeds. Forgive our iniquity and shortcomings for the sake of the suffering and death of our Savior Jesus Christ. Let His obedience cover our disobedience, let His righteousness atone for our unrighteousness. Great God and Helper, You alone can forgive. With all our hearts we thank You for Your boundless mercy. Grant us grace with which we might accept Your gift of forgiveness with true faith and look upon the word of pardon as a message coming from You, assuring us and consoling our hearts before You. Let us treasure Your forgiveness and freely extend it to others by the power of Your resurrection. We pray in the name of our Redeemer, Jesus Christ.

Silent Reflection and Confession

Proclamation of Forgiveness Jeremiah 33:8 Pastor

Pastoral Prayer Pastor

Offering (collected from back to front) Congregation

Affirmation of Faith *The Heidelberg Catechism*¹ Congregation

Pastor: What is your only comfort in life and in death?

¹ Catechisms are a question and answer format used for teaching in the church. The Heidelberg Catechism was written in 1563 and approved by the Church at the Synod of Dort (1618-1619).

Congregation: That I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, in life and in death—to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ.

He has fully paid for all my sins with His precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven: in fact, all things must work together for my salvation.

Because I belong to Him, Christ, by His Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for Him.

Pastor: What must you know to live and die in the joy of this comfort?

Congregation: Three things: first, how great my sin and misery are; second, how I am set free from all my sins and misery; third, how I am to thank God for such deliverance.

❖ Creedal Song

Sanctus

Congregation

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts.
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts.
The whole earth is full of His glory,
The whole earth is full of His glory,
The whole earth is full of His glory,
Holy is the Lord.

Nolene Price

CCLI Song #21538

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❖ Scripture Reading

Genesis 12:1-3

Pastor

❖ Songs of Reflection

Forever

Congregation

Verse 1

Give thanks to the Lord
Our God and King
His love endures forever
For He is good He is above all things
His love endures forever
Sing praise sing praise

Verse 2

With a mighty hand
And an outstretched arm
His love endures forever
For the life that's been reborn
His love endures forever
Sing praise sing praise

Chris Tomlin

CCLI Song #3148428

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Pre-Chorus

Sing praise sing praise

Chorus

Forever God is faithful
Forever God is strong
Forever God is with us
Forever forever

Verse 3

From the rising to the setting sun
His love endures forever
And by the grace of God
We will carry on
His love endures forever
Sing praise sing praise

My Heart Is Filled with Thankfulness

Verse 1

My heart is filled with thankfulness
To Him who bore my pain
Who plumbd the depths of my disgrace
And gave me life again
Who crushed my curse of sinfulness
And clothed me with His light
And wrote His law of righteousness
With pow'r upon my heart

Verse 2

My heart is filled with thankfulness
To Him who walks beside
Who floods my weaknesses with strength
And causes fears to fly
Whose every promise is enough
For every step I take
Sustaining me with arms of love
And crowning me with grace

Keith Getty, Stuart Townend

CCLI Song #4108704

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Verse 3

My heart is filled with thankfulness
To Him who reigns above
Whose wisdom is my perfect peace
Whose every thought is love
For every day I have on earth
Is given by the King
So I will give my life my all
To love and follow Him

The Sermon

Mark 7:24-30

Pastor

“From Enemies to Beloved Children”

❖ Hymn of Response #455

And Can It Be

Congregation

❖ Benediction

John 14:27

Pastor

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

Postlude

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

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## Save the Date!

**Thursday, August 29** — Supper Talk: *Understanding Anger*. Covered dish supper at **6 pm** (please bring a side or dessert to share) followed by the presentation given by Robyn Huck.

**Sunday, September 1** — School-year schedule begins with worship service at **10:30 am**

**Sunday, September 8** — Sunday School begins at **9:00 am**

**Thursday, October 17**— Supper Talk: *Lemuel Haynes, the “Black Puritan”*: *His Ties to Vermont and FCCW*. Meal at **6 pm** followed by the presentation given by Preston Bristow.

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Nursery Summer Hiatus

This is the final Sunday of our nursery summer hiatus. Children of all ages are welcome and encouraged to be in the worship service. The nursery room downstairs is open with the worship service streaming on the television, and any parents are welcome to be there or in the library with their children for part or all of the service.

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School-Year Schedule

Next **Sunday, September 1st**, the morning worship service will change to our regular school-year time of **10:30 am**.

Beginning **Sunday, September 8th** we will have Sunday School weekly at **9:00 am**.

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## Nursery Attendant Position

First Congregational Church of Woodstock, Vermont (FCCW) is looking for someone to serve as our Sunday morning Nursery Attendant. Applicant should be a mature, responsible adult (18+) who loves Jesus and children and will be the anchor in caring for our little ones (ages 0-5). A volunteer assistant from the congregation will be provided and will be responsible for teaching the Sunday School lesson each week. Minimal cleaning and maintenance is required. Hours are 8:45 am-12:15 pm each Sunday and the pay is \$24/hour. For more information or to apply, please contact Karl Huck at [karlhuck@gmail.com](mailto:karlhuck@gmail.com).

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Greeters Needed!

Would you like to help welcome folks to worship on Sunday mornings? If you are able to serve in this way there is a sign-up sheet in the Billings Room near the punch bowl.

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## Weekly Gathering Opportunities

**Tuesdays, 6:00 pm** — Prayer Meeting, in person in the library and via ZOOM

**Wednesdays, 6:15 am** — Men's Bible Study, in person in the library and via ZOOM, please contact Dick Atwood at (802) 457-4120 or email [rbatwood1@gmail.com](mailto:rbatwood1@gmail.com).

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Genesis 12:1-3

Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. And *I will make of you a great nation*, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and *in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.*”

Genesis 22:15-18

And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven and said, “By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.”

Genesis 26:3-5

Sojourn in this land, and I will be with you and will bless you, for to you and to your offspring I will give all these lands, and *I will establish the oath that I swore to Abraham your father*. I will multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and will give to your offspring all these lands. And *in your offspring all the nations of the earth shall be blessed*, because Abraham obeyed my voice and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws.”

Psalms 22:27-28

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD,
and *all the families of the nations* shall worship before you.
For kingship belongs to the Lord, and he rules over the nations.

Philippians 2:5-18

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Revelation 5:9-10

And they sang a new song, saying,
“Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals,
for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God
from every tribe and language and people and nation,
and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God,
and they shall reign on the earth.”

Taking Gathered Worship Home

Imagine an enemy whose family has loathed you for generations. They have slaughtered your people and mocked your God. They have derided “your kind” for millennia. As people who mostly don’t even know our great-grandparents, let alone who hated them, this can be difficult for us to grasp. But the gospel transcends not just current hostilities, but those that have burned from before our memories. This is *the power of God’s love*.

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

READ **Mark 7:24-30; Genesis 12:1-3; 22:15-18; 26:3-5; Psalm 22:27-28; Philippians 2:5-18; Revelation 5:9-10**. DISCUSS What is the significance of Christ’s interaction with this woman? How is it connected with God’s promises? How does this impact your life? SERVE someone in need. MEDITATE on **Revelation 17:14**. PRAY “Jesus, *You will be worshipped* by a throng of those from all tribes, tongues, and nations! Please allow our praise of Your mercy to be joyfully given.”

Monday

READ **Mark 7:24-30; Genesis 12:1-3; 22:15-18; 26:3-5**. DISCUSS How did the nations factor into the promises of God to Abraham? Why is this significant to understanding Mark’s Gospel? MEDITATE on **Revelation 17:14**. PRAY, “Lord, *You are faithful in all Your promises*. You have done and will do all that You have said. We praise You!”

Tuesday

READ **Mark 7:24-30; Genesis 12:1-3; Psalm 22:27-28**. DISCUSS How does this Psalm anticipate and delight in God’s fulfillment of His promise to Abram? How does that promise relate to you? How should this affect the way we live now? SERVE by considering someone else’s needs *above your own!* MEDITATE on **Revelation 17:14**. PRAY, “Jesus, thank You for loving enemies *like us* and making us into Your beloved siblings. Teach us to walk in Your ways, to love others as You love us.”

Wednesday

READ **7:24-30; Genesis 22:15-18; Philippians 2:5-18; Revelation 5:9-10**. DISCUSS How does the Syrophenician woman's approach to Jesus demonstrate the humility we are called to in Philippians? How are you repenting of your presumption in approaching Christ? MEDITATE on **Revelation 17:14**. PRAY, "Lord, thank You for Your great patience with us. Enable us to humble ourselves to approach You as we should. Receive our worship in Your holy name."

Thursday

READ **Mark 7:24-30; Genesis 26:3-5; Revelation 5:9-10**. DISCUSS Abraham received so much from God. What about you? How are you obeying Christ because of His goodness to you? SERVE by demonstrating God's tenderness! MEDITATE on **Revelation 17:14**. PRAY, "Jesus, we can never thank You adequately."

Friday

READ **Mark 7:24-30; Genesis 12:1-3; 22:15-18; 26:3-5; Psalm 22:27-28; Philippians 2:5-18; Revelation 5:9-10**. DISCUSS How has the Holy Spirit been guiding you *this week through these passages*? MEDITATE on **Revelation 17:14**. PRAY that we at FCCW would *be made more and more holy with Christ*.

Saturday

PREPARE for *gathered worship tomorrow*. READ **Mark 7:1-37**. Invite others to join you tomorrow and remember the new **10:30** time for the worship service. Ask Jesus to *meet us and transform us together*.

Meditate on Revelation 17:14

"They will make war on the Lamb,
and the Lamb will conquer them,
for He is Lord of lords and King of kings,
and those with Him are called and chosen and faithful."