

The _____
First Congregational Church
of Woodstock _____

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

December 5th, 2021

The Order of Morning Worship

December 5th, 2021

The Second Sunday in Advent

Ten-thirty

Welcome

Elder Keith Tallon

Moment for Missions

Ben Courtemanche, The Navigators

Prelude & Silent Prayer

❖ Call to Worship

Isaiah 6

Congregation

Pastor: I saw the Lord, seated on a throne, high and exalted,

Congregation: And the train of his robe filled the temple.

Pastor: Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: with two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling to one another:

Congregation: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.”

❖ Hymn of Exultation #198

*Lift Up Your Heads,
Ye Mighty Gates!*

Congregation

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates!

Lift up your heads, O you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Ps. 24:7

1. Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates! Be - hold, the
 2. A help - er just he comes to thee, his char - iot
 3. O blest the land, the cit - y blest, where Christ the
 4. Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a

King of glo - ry waits; the King of kings is
 is hu - mil - i - ty, his king - ly crown is
 Rul - er is con - fessed! O hap - py hearts and
 tem - ple, set a - part from earth - ly use for

draw - ing near, the Sav - ior of the world is here.
 ho - li - ness, his scep - ter, pi - ty in dis - tress.
 hap - py homes to whom this King in tri - umph comes!
 heav'n's em - ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.

5. Redeemer, come! I open wide
 my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide!
 Let me thy inner presence feel;
 thy grace and love in me reveal.

6. So come, my Sovereign, enter in!
 Let new and nobler life begin!
 Thy Holy Spirit, guide us on,
 until the glorious crown be won.

In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength, but you would have none of it. Yet the Lord longs to be gracious to you; He rises to show you compassion. For the Lord is God of justice. Blessed are those who wait for Him!

Collective Confession

Psalm 51

Congregation

Be gracious to us, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; according to the greatness of Your compassion blot out our transgressions. Wash us thoroughly from our iniquity, and cleanse us from our sin. For we know our transgressions, and our sin is ever before us. Against You, You only, we have sinned, and done what is evil in Your sight, So that You are justified when You speak, and blameless when You judge.

Silent Reflection and Confession

Proclamation of Forgiveness

Hebrews 2: 18

Elder

Because Jesus Himself suffered when He was tempted, He is able to help those who are being tempted.

Offering

(collected from back to front)

Congregation

❖ Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

Congregation

Pastor: Christian, what do you believe concerning God, the Father?

Congregation: I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

Pastor: What do you believe concerning Jesus?

Congregation: I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and buried; He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

Pastor: Christian, what do you believe concerning the Holy Spirit and His work?

Congregation: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic¹ church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

❖ Creedal Song #731

Doxology

Congregation

¹The term "catholic" is used here in its generic sense of the universal church, not to refer to a denomination.

Doxology

Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Ps. 150:6

G G D Em Bm Em D G
 Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow; praise him, all

D Em C G D Em D G D G C D G
 crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host;

D G Em D Am G D G C G
 praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

❖ Scripture Reading

Matthew 4:12-17

Elder

¹² Now when he heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee. ¹³ And leaving Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴ so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

¹⁵ “The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali,
the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—

¹⁶ the people dwelling in darkness

have seen a great light,
and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death,
on them a light has dawned.”

¹⁷ From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

Pastoral Prayer

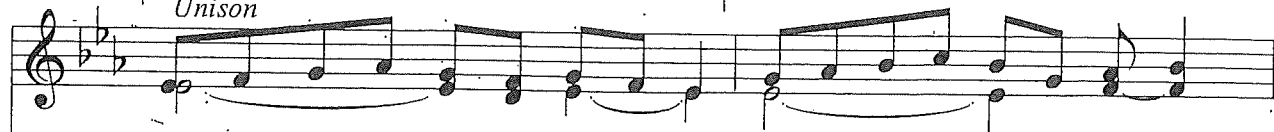
Elder

❖ Hymn of Reflection #162 *Of the Father's Love Begotten* Congregation

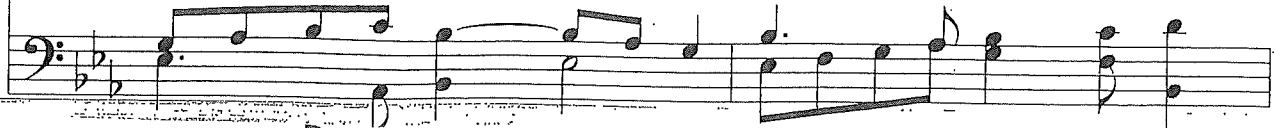
Of the Father's Love Begotten

*In the beginning was the Word... The Word was made flesh ... and we beheld his glory,
the glory as of the only begotten of the Father. John 1:1, 14 KJV*

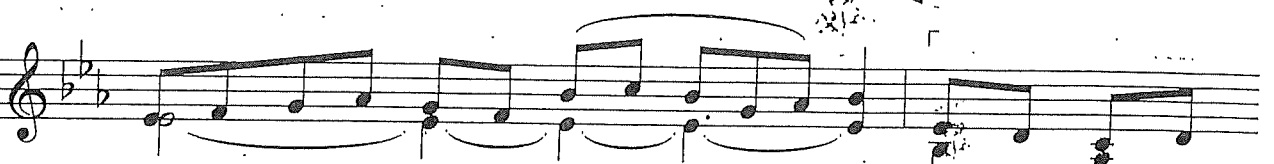
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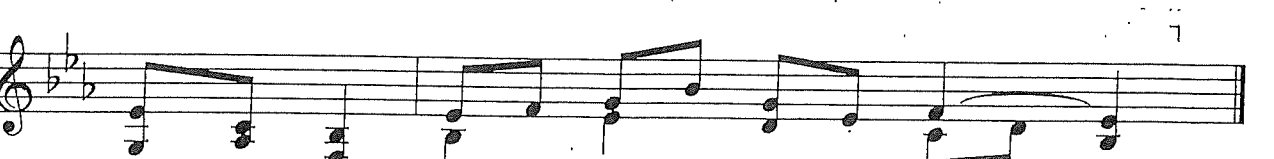
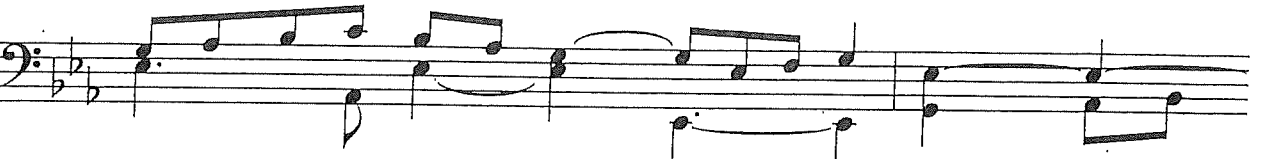
1. Of the Fa-ther's love be - got - ten, ere the worlds be - gan to be,
2. O that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, when the Vir - gin, full of grace,
3. This is he whom heav'n-taught sing - ers sang of old with one ac - cord,
4. O ye heights of heav'n, a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his prais - es sing;
5. Christ, to thee, with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly Ghost, to thee,



he is Al - pha and O - me - ga, he the Source, the End - ing - he,
by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing, bore the Sav - ior of our race;
• whom the Scrip - tures of the proph - ets prom - ised in their faith - ful word;
all do - min - ions, bow be - fore him and ex - tol our God and King;
hymn, and chant, and high thanks - giv - ing, and un - wea - ried prais - es be,



of the things that are, that have been, and that fu - ture
and the babe, the world's Re - deem - er, first re - vealed his
• now he shines, the long - ex - spect - ed; let cre - a - tion
let no tongue on earth be si - lent, ev - 'ry voice in
hon - or, glo - ry, and do - min - ion, and e - ter - nal



years shall see, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!
sa - cred face, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!
• praise its Lord, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!
con - cert ring, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!
vic - to - ry, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!



“The Hope and Joy of Isaiah”

Isaiah 9:1-5

But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

² The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shone.

³ You have multiplied the nation;
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.

⁴ For the yoke of his burden,
and the staff for his shoulder,
the rod of his oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵ For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult
and every garment rolled in blood
will be burned as fuel for the fire.

❖ Hymn of Response #620

*O Lord, I Love You,
My Shield, My Tower*

Congregation

O Lord, I Love You, My Shield, My Tower

620

I love you, O LORD, my strength. Ps. 18:1

1. O Lord, I love you, my shield, my tow'r, my strong -
 2. Cords of death had bound my heart with fear; tid - al
 3. Sav - ing might brought an - swer, Lord Most High. Dark your
 4. You came down, al - might - y Lord, my stay, drew me

hold, my rock, my sav - ing pow'r. I wor - ship you! Bless
 waves of Sa - tan crest - ed near. "God, my God," I cried,
 path; your storm clouds swept the sky; light - ning flashed, deep thun -
 up and drove my foes a - way. Your right hand put Sa -

your ho - ly name! What un - ceas - ing praise your mer - cies claim!
 "hear from your throne; save me from these depths, make mer - cy known!"
 der spoke your word. Wa - ters part - ed; death your sum - mons heard.
 tan's host to flight, then clasped me, em - braced in your de - light.

5. Now among all nations I would sing,
 praising our anointed Lord, our King.
 Hear his cry of triumph from the grave,
 see him leap the wall of death to save.

6. His the righteousness that claims reward,
 his the saving coming of the Lord.
 Hail him, Victor in that deadly strife:
 Jesus is our rock, our Prince of life.

Communion

Congregation

❖ Communion Hymn #168

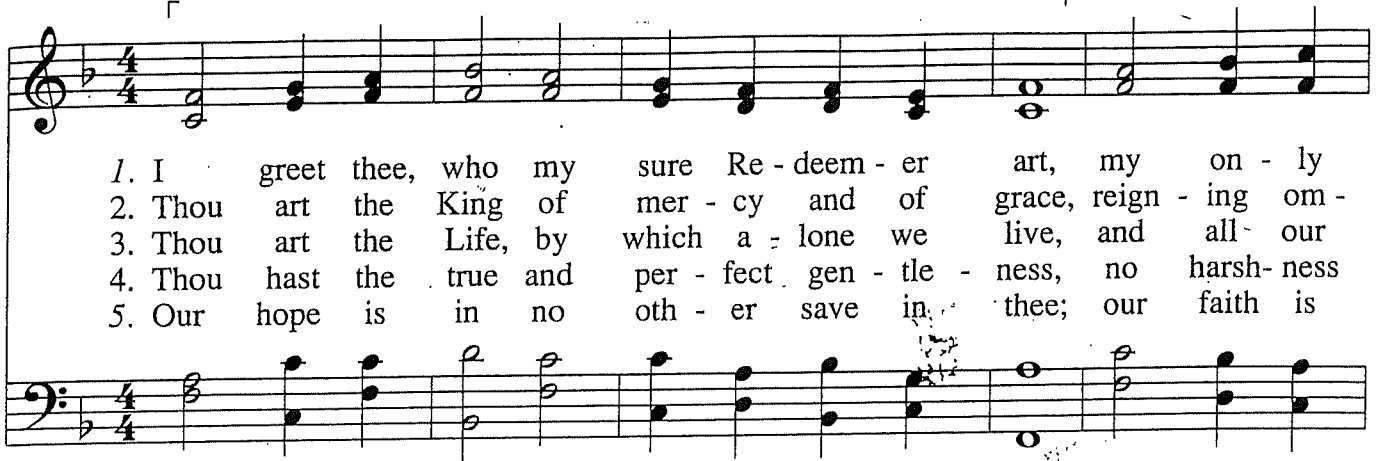
*I Greet Thee, Who
My Sure Redeemer Art*

Congregation

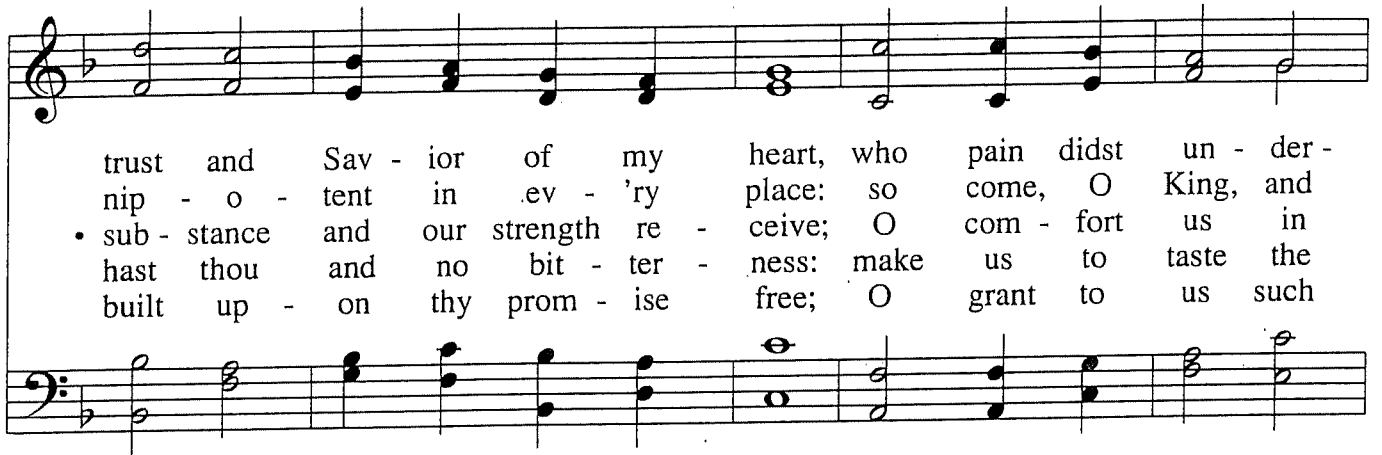
I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art

168

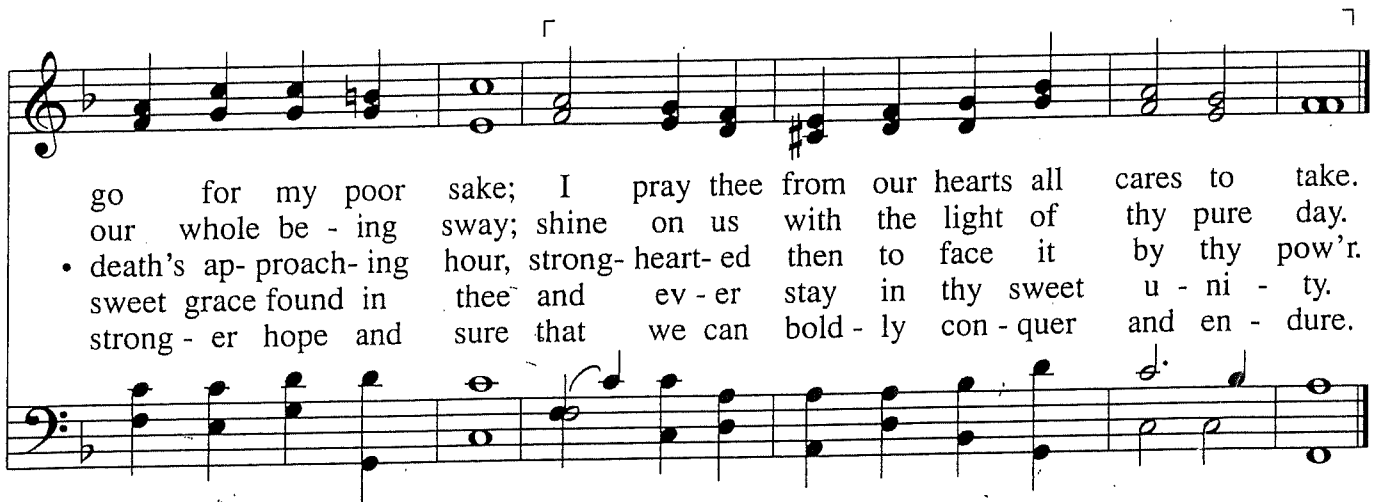
Who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age. Gal. 1:4



1. I greet thee, who my sure Re - deem - er art, my on - ly
2. Thou art the King of mer - cy and of grace, reign - ing om -
3. Thou art the Life, by which a - lone we live, and all - our
4. Thou hast the true and per - fect gen - tle - ness, no harsh - ness
5. Our hope is in no oth - er save in thee; our faith is



trust and Sav - ior of my heart, who pain didst un - der -
nip - o - tent in ev - 'ry place: so come, O King, and
• sub - stance and our strength re - ceive; O com - fort us in
hast thou and no bit - ter - ness: make us to taste the
built up - on thy prom - ise free; O grant to us such



go for my poor sake; I pray thee from our hearts all cares to take.
our whole be - ing sway; shine on us with the light of thy pure day.
• death's ap - proach - ing hour, strong - heart - ed then to face it by thy pow'r.
sweet grace found in thee and ev - er stay in thy sweet u - ni - ty.
strong - er hope and sure that we can bold - ly con - quer and en - dure.

Benediction

Hebrews 13: 20-21

Pastor Doug Warren

Pastor: Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, even Jesus our Lord, equip you in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever.

Congregation: Thanks be to God. Amen.

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

Postlude

~~ Organist: Jonathan Denham ~~

~~ Please ensure cell phones are off ~~

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

Christmas Poinsettias

Poinsettias always add to the festive color of Christmas, and can be given as a memorial to a loved one and taken home after the Christmas Eve service. To order a 6" red or white Poinsettia call Carol Powell at 457-3833 before Dec. 13th.

The December prayer letter is on the table in the narthex.

Wassail Weekend

FCCW will be hosting two events on Saturday, December 11th. We will be handing out hot wassail outside in the courtyard (stay tuned for details) and there will be a carol-based concert inside from 3:00-4:00 pm. Join us and invite your friends and neighbors!

Guest Speaker: Ernest Shipman

I was born in 1959 & grew up in Atlanta, GA. I was raised in a Christian home and came to faith at age 14. I moved to NH in 1985 to get married. I have been married to Wendy since 1986. We have two adult children: Sam, who lives in Chattanooga (who incidentally is friends with Molly Holleran, whose parents go to the church) and Emma, who is married & lives near us.

I have 2 connections to the church! In the mid 1990's, Wendy's sister took a job at Dartmouth Hospital and she attended the church. We used to visit her often and Sunday mornings were always a treat. We got to be friends of the Koops as well. I am an ordained ruling elder in the Presbyterian Church of America, and I am friends with Pastor Warren as he and I are both members of the same Presbytery.

In addition to being a ruling elder (and a member of Exeter Presbyterian church), I have been called to preach and have been licensed by the Presbytery. I do pulpit supply and preach as I am needed. My passion is preaching the Gospel and doing one on one discipleship.

When not in ministry, Wendy & I have a mini farm (really a former blueberry farm) in New Durham, NH. I am semi-retired, having been in business since 1991 and recently sold both of my businesses. I used to own a commercial sign shop (my wife is very artistic), and I used to also own a small retail firearms store.

God has been very faithful to us!

My life verse is:

Only fear the Lord and serve him faithfully with all your heart. For consider what great things he has done for you. 1st Samuel 12:24

Christmas Eve

FCCW will have two in-person Christmas Eve services this year, at 5:00 pm and 7:00 pm. Reserved seating is required. Seats may be reserved at www.fccw.net/ChristmasEve. The services will also be streamed live.

Property Manager/Custodian Position

We are looking for a Property Manager and Custodian for FCCW as Justin & Stephanie Sterling are transitioning out of the position after three years of exceptional service. This position requires the person to work a flexible schedule, be able to handle a variety of tasks, and be a good steward of FCCW property. Please contact Steve Selbo at 802-299-6446 or e-mail him at steve.selbo@outlook.com for more details or to submit an application. Thank you.

Nursery Volunteers Needed!

We are so thankful that we have been able to reopen the nursery and have received much appreciation from the families who benefit from it. However, we are very much in need of additional helpers! If you can help one Sunday or several please sign up on the schedule in the Billings Room or contact Karis at (207) 329-4190 or karis.warren@gmail.com.

Teachers Needed

WCCC is in need of **Teachers/Assistants**, and **Substitutes**. Please contact Ruth Brisson at rbrissonwccc@gmail.com or 410-925-7959, if you are interested in serving in any of these roles.
