



The _____
First Congregational Church
_____ of Woodstock _____

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

March 5th, 2023

The Order of Morning Worship

March 5th, 2023

Ten-thirty

Welcome & Announcements

Elder Peter Vanderhoof

Prelude & Silent Prayer

❖ Call to Worship

Psalm 34

Elder

❖ Hymn of Exultation #4

*All Praise to God,
Who Reigns Above*

Congregation

Scriptural Call to Repentance

Isaiah 55:6-7

Elder

Prayer of Collective Confession

Psalm 25

Congregation

Be mindful of Your mercy, O Lord, and of Your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. Do not remember the sins of our youth or our transgressions; according to Your steadfast love remember us, for Your goodness' sake, O Lord! Good and upright is the Lord; therefore He instructs sinners in the way. For Your name's sake, O Lord, pardon our guilt, for it is great. Turn to us and be gracious to us, for we are lonely and afflicted. Relieve the troubles of our hearts, and bring us out of our distress. Consider our affliction and our trouble, and forgive all our sins.

Silent Reflection and Confession

Proclamation of Forgiveness

Colossians 2:13-14

Elder

Pastoral Prayer

Elder

Offering

(collected from back to front)

Congregation

Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

Congregation

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

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

Elder: 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.

Elder: 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	<i>Doxology</i>	Congregation
❖ Scripture Reading	Leviticus 19:1-9	Elder
❖ Hymn of Reflection #332	<i>Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove</i>	Congregation
The Sermon	Ruth 2:1-3	Pastor Doug Warren
	<i>“Foreshadowing God’s Provision”</i>	
❖ Hymn of Response #32	<i>Great Is Thy Faithfulness</i>	Congregation
Communion		Congregation
❖ Communion Hymn #310	<i>Rejoice, the Lord Is King</i>	Congregation
❖ Benediction	Romans 15:13	Pastor

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

Postlude

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

*Prelude: I Know That My Redeemer Liveth (Handel/Rawsthorne)
By Faith (Townend/Getty/Getty/Larson)
Postlude: Allegro Vivace (Handel/McKinley)*

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

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Young Adult Fellowship Group will meet tonight  
at 6 pm in the church library.  
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Women's Ministry Craft Morning

Please join us on March 18th from 9-12 in the Billings Room. We are going to take a few hours to do some crafts together and be encouraged by a message. There will be light refreshments. Bring whatever craft or project you like to work on! If you don't have anything in mind to bring, there will be paper, colored pencils, paints, yarn, and other supplies available to use. Come learn something new or teach someone else what you know!

If you have any questions, please text or call Anne Denham at 607-838-3334 or email at a.denham356@gmail.com

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The March Prayer Letter is available on the back table.  
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Nursery Volunteers Needed

Can you give one Sunday this spring to help minister to the youngest members of our church family? We have a full-time nursery attendant, but we need a volunteer to help her each Sunday from 10-12. If you are willing to help one Sunday or more, or if you have questions, please contact Karis Warren at karis.warren@gmail.com or (207) 329-4190. Thank you!

Flower Committee

The Flower Committee would like to encourage our members to contribute flowers for Sunday services. This is a wonderful way to remember a loved one or to celebrate a special event. Please contact Christine Morton or Alison Briggs, or sign-up in the Billings room.



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The March Prayer Letter is available on the back table.  
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Mid Vermont Christian School

Educating for Impact

Calling missionaries to MVCS!

We are seeking qualified and enthusiastic individuals
who have a passion for Christian education!

MVCS has full-time and part-time (pt)* positions available:

Elementary School Teacher

Physical Education Teacher (pt)

Athletic Director (pt)

Instrumental Teacher (pt)

JSH Foreign Language Teacher (pt)

JSH Mathematics Teacher (STEM teacher would be ideal!)

*could be full time if combined with other positions

Please contact Vicky at headofschool@mvcs.info or 802-295-6800.

Foreshadowing God's Provision

- 1. God Provides a Worthy Kinsman (1).**

- 2. God Provides a Means for Work & Sustenance (2).**

- 3. God Directs Ruth to Her Relative's Field (3).**

Conclusion: The first three verses of this second chapter open the door just a crack so that we might see the light dawning on all the gloominess that has been so difficult for Naomi and Ruth. This foreshadowing with the introduction of Boaz and Ruth finding her way to his fields helps us to begin to see how God is going to refill Naomi's emptiness and transform her bitterness into blessing. But it is also a wonderful reminder of God's faithfulness with His people. Not only does He care about each one of us individually, but He is providentially overseeing all of us together in ways that will marvelously display His matchless glory.

Leviticus 19:1-9

And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, ²“Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them, *You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy.* ³Every one of you shall revere his mother and his father, and you shall keep my Sabbaths: *I am the Lord your God.* ⁴Do not turn to idols or make for yourselves any gods of cast metal: *I am the Lord your God.* ⁵“When you offer a sacrifice of peace offerings to the Lord, *you shall offer it so that you may be accepted.* ⁶It shall be eaten the same day you offer it or on the day after, and anything left over until the third day shall be burned up with fire. ⁷If it is eaten at all on the third day, it is tainted; it will not be accepted, ⁸and everyone who eats it shall bear his iniquity, because he has profaned what is holy to the Lord, and that person shall be cut off from his people. ⁹“*When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field right up to its edge, neither shall you gather the gleanings after your harvest.*

Second Thessalonians 3:6-12

“Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from any brother who is *walking in idleness* and not in accord with the tradition that you received from us. ⁷For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us, because we were not idle when we were with you, ⁸nor did we eat anyone’s bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day, *that we might not be a burden to any of you.* ⁹It was not because we do not have that right, but to give you in ourselves an example to imitate. ¹⁰For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: *If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat.* ¹¹For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. ¹²Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living.”

Psalms 135:5-6

For I know that the Lord is great, and that our Lord is above all gods. *Whatever the Lord pleases, He does,* in heaven and on earth, in the seas and all deeps.

Matthew 10:26-33

²⁶“So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. ²⁷What I tell you in the dark, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. ²⁸And *do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.* ²⁹Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. ³⁰But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. ³¹Fear not, therefore; *you are of more value than many sparrows.* ³²So everyone who acknowledges me before men, *I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven,* ³³but whoever denies me before men, *I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.*

Taking Gathered Worship Home

We found Naomi and Ruth returned to Bethlehem empty and embittered. How is God going to work through them? What will He do in His faithful loving-kindness? This week He gives us a glimmer.

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 **Ruth 2:1-3; Leviticus 19:1-9; Second Thessalonians 3:6-12; Psalm 135:1-21; Matthew 10:26-33.** DISCUSS What is your favorite foreshadowing in literature or movies? Why do you like it? When Christ was born, Peter tells us that the angels longed to look at how He would accomplish this salvation. We get a sense of that here. MEDITATE on **Leviticus 23:22.** PRAY “Jesus, You are sovereign over all history, even *our* history. Help us to trust You completely.”

Sunday Evening

Young Adult Fellowship meets tonight at 6pm. Pray for them.

Monday

READ **Ruth 2:1-3; Leviticus 19:1-9; Psalm 104:24-33.** DISCUSS How did God provide for His people in relation to eating? Can you see how this was a blessing both for the poor and the landowners? SERVE by putting someone else’s interests *above your own!* MEDITATE on **Leviticus 23:22.** PRAY, “Father, thank You for Your gracious provision. Enable us to be truly grateful to You in all things.”

Tuesday

READ **Ruth 2:1-3; Second Thessalonians 3:6-12; Psalm 145:10-18.** DISCUSS How is the provision in Thessalonians the same as it was in Leviticus? How is the Church (both in OT and NT) to look to God alone for all we need? How does that encourage hard work? SERVE by considering someone else’s needs *above your own!* MEDITATE on **Leviticus 23:22.** PRAY, “Lord God, You have given us all we need. Teach us trust You in all things by obeying Your holy Word.”

Wednesday

READ **Ruth 2:1-3; Psalm 135:1-21; Psalm 104:24-33**. DISCUSS How does God's providence free us to trust Christ? How do trust in Christ and hard work go together? SERVE by *contacting someone from FCCW you haven't seen in a while. Demonstrate care for them more than yourself!* MEDITATE on **Leviticus 23:22**. PRAY, "Lord, protect us from presumption and idleness. Renew us in faith to love You with all our energy."

Thursday

READ **Ruth 2:1-3; Matthew 10:26-33; Psalm 145:10-18**. DISCUSS How does knowing that God cares for us more than the sparrows help us to love one another with brotherly affection? Rejoice in God's sovereignty in all things. SERVE by putting someone else's interests *above your own!* MEDITATE on **Leviticus 23:22**. PRAY, "Lord, make us grateful to You for all Your blessings and to seek You more than them."

Friday

READ **Ruth 2:1-3; Leviticus 19:1-9; Second Thessalonians 3:6-12; Psalm 135:1-21; Matthew 10:26-33**. DISCUSS, What has the Holy Spirit been teaching you this week through these passages? MEDITATE on **Leviticus 23:22**. PRAY that we at FCCW would *rejoice in God's good providence*.

Saturday

PREPARE for *gathered worship tomorrow*. READ **Ruth 2:1-23**. Invite others to join you tomorrow for the *worship service @ 10:30*. Ask Jesus to *help us trust Him instead of giving into bitterness and doubt*.

Leviticus 23:22

"And *when you reap the harvest of your land*, you shall not reap your field right up to its edge, nor shall you gather the gleanings after your harvest. *You shall leave them for the poor and for the sojourner*: I am the Lord your God."