



The _____
First Congregational Church
of Woodstock _____

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

June 19th, 2022

The Order of Morning Worship

June 19th, 2022

Nine-thirty

Welcome

Pastor Doug Warren

Prelude & Silent Prayer

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|--|--|--------------|
| ❖ Call to Worship | Matthew 5:13-16 | Pastor |
| ❖ Invocation | | Pastor |
| ❖ Hymn of Exultation #501 | <i>Just As I Am, Without One Plea</i> | Congregation |
| Scriptural Call to Repentance | 2 Chronicles 7:11-22 | Pastor |
| Collective Confession | based on Ezra 10:2-3 | Congregation |
| We have broken faith with our God and have disobeyed His holy commands, but even now there is hope for God's People in spite of our sin. Therefore let us make a covenant with our God to flee from sin, according to the counsel of my lord and of those who tremble at the commandment of our God, and let it be done according to the Law. | | |
| Silent Reflection and Confession | | |
| Proclamation of Forgiveness | Psalm 32:1-2 | Pastor |
| Offering | (collected from back to front) | Congregation |
| Pastoral Prayer | | Pastor |
| ❖ Creedal Song | <i>Barocha</i> | Congregation |
| ❖ Scripture Reading | Second Chronicles 30:6b-9 | Pastor |
| ❖ Hymn of Reflection | <i>God Be Merciful to Me</i> | Congregation |
| The Sermon | Second Chronicles 7:14 <i>"What is Our Role?"</i> | Pastor |
| ❖ Hymn of Response #498 | <i>Jesus! What a Friend for Sinners</i> | Congregation |

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

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

Postlude

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

Day of Prayer & Fasting

Calling all FCCW to join us for a day of prayer and fasting, Friday, June 24. We will meet at the church for Morning Prayer at 8:00 am and Evening Prayer at 7:00 pm. There will also be a sign up for a 24 hour prayer chain—stay tuned.

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

Market on the Green

FCCW Community Outreach Team is excited for our annual face painting booth at Market on The Green in Woodstock, VT. The event takes place each Wednesday, June 1-Oct 12 from 3-6pm. We will offer free face painting for all ages, coloring books, and story time. Please come by to say hello; we will be under the purple FCCW tent, rain or shine. There are 30+ vendors at this year's market on the green which includes live music, food, and drinks. If you would like to help in any way with this amazing outreach opportunity please contact Hayley Bauer at hayleylgriffith@gmail.com

The June Prayer Letter is available in the narthex.



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 positions available:

Music Director & Teacher (band & chorus teaching could be split into two part time positions), Elementary School Teacher, JSH Foreign Language Teacher, JSH Mathematics Teacher and part-time High School Art.

Please inquire through the school office ~ mvcs@mvcs.info or 802-295-6800.

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.

What Is Our Role?

1. The Whole Creation Is Cursed and Trapped in a Death Spiral.

2. God Has Blessed the World with His People to Restrain Evil.

3. We Have Failed as Salt and Light and Need to Repent.

4. Let Us Humble Ourselves, Pray, and Turn from Wickedness.

CONCLUSION: Our community is diseased and trapped in sin and death that it cannot escape. It is our fault both for our participation in the sin that brought this death and our failure to share the living water we have been given. We must stop all the ways that we together as a congregation are refusing to obey God and turn to Christ by faith. Only Jesus can heal our community. Let us turn to Him together and confess our sin in humility. Let us faithfully serve Christ as the salt and light that He has called us to be here where He has placed us by His grace.

Matthew 5:13-16

“You are *the salt of the earth*, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet. “You are *the light of the world*. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Ezra 10:1-14 (1-5 here included)

While Ezra prayed and made confession, weeping and casting himself down before the house of God, a very great assembly of men, women, and children, gathered to him out of Israel, for the people wept bitterly. ² And Shecaniah the son of Jehiel, of the sons of Elam, addressed Ezra: “We have broken faith with our God and have married foreign women from the peoples of the land, but even now there is hope for Israel in spite of this. ³ Therefore let us make a covenant with our God to put away all these wives and their children, according to the counsel of my lord and of those who tremble at the commandment of our God, and let it be done according to the Law. ⁴ Arise, for it is your task, and we are with you; be strong and do it.” ⁵ Then *Ezra arose and made the leading priests and Levites and all Israel take an oath that they would do as had been said. So they took the oath.*

Second Chronicles 7:11-22

¹¹ Thus *Solomon finished the house of the Lord* and the king’s house. All that Solomon had planned to do in the house of the Lord and in his own house he successfully accomplished. ¹² Then the Lord appeared to Solomon in the night and said to him: “*I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for myself as a house of sacrifice.* ¹³ *When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command the locust to devour the land, or send pestilence among my people,* ¹⁴ *if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.* ¹⁵ Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayer that is made in this place. ¹⁶ For now *I have chosen and consecrated this house that my name may be there forever.* My eyes and my heart will be there for all time. ¹⁷ And as for you, if you will walk before me as David your father walked, doing according to all that I have commanded you and keeping my statutes and my rules, ¹⁸ then I will establish your royal throne, as I covenanted with David your father, saying, ‘You shall not lack a man to rule Israel.’

¹⁹ “*But if you turn aside and forsake my statutes and my commandments that I have set before you, and go and serve other gods and worship them,* ²⁰ then I will pluck you up from my land that I have given you, and this house that I have consecrated for my name, I will cast out of my sight, and I will make it a proverb and a byword among all peoples. ²¹ And at this house, which was exalted, everyone passing by will be astonished and say, ‘Why has the Lord done thus to this land and to this house?’ ²² Then they will say, ‘Because they abandoned the Lord, the God of their fathers who brought them out of the land of Egypt, and laid hold on other gods and worshiped them and served them. Therefore he has brought all this disaster on them.’”

Taking Gathered Worship Home

When things go terribly wrong, the world looks around for whom to blame. *Followers of Christ should already know who to blame—us.* God's people have rebelled against the Lord most High like Jonah, and everyone else on the ship is imperiled as a result. But as much as we have brought disastrous consequences upon our neighbors, *God has provided a way in Christ for us to be a blessing instead.* Let's explore that this week.

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 **Second Chronicles 7:11-22; Matthew 5:13-16; Ezra 10:1-14; Genesis 3:14-19; Romans 8:18-25; Deuteronomy 9:4-6.** DISCUSS How are we culpable for our neighbors' misery? What does godly collective repentance look like? PRAY "Jesus, help us to be honest with You and one another about our sins."

Sunday Evening

The *Young Adults' Fellowship* meets tonight at **6pm** in FCCW's library.

Monday

READ **Second Chronicles 7:11-22; Genesis 3:14-19** (especially v. 17); **Romans 8:18-25.** DISCUSS How much of Creation is affected by sin? Why is it cursed? SERVE by putting someone else's interest *above your own!* MEDITATE on **Second Chronicles 7:14.** PRAY, "Lord, help us to see our culpability in the peril of our neighbors."

Tuesday

READ **Second Chronicles 7:11-22; Genesis 12:1-3; 18:18; 22:18; 26:4; 28:14; Deuteronomy 9:4-6; Jeremiah 29:1-7.** DISCUSS God swore His people would be a blessing to all. What is it *about us* that makes that so? MEDITATE on **Second Chronicles 7:14.** PRAY, "Lord, Your grace is breath-taking! Thank You for using us in spite of our stubbornness. Humble us, we beg You."

Wednesday

READ **Second Chronicles 7:11-22; Matthew 5:13-16; John 8:12; Jeremiah 29:1-7**. DISCUSS Why does Jesus say we are to be salt and light? What do they do? How does that affect the world around us? SERVE by being salt & light—feed, clothe, or care for someone today in Christ’s name. MEDITATE on **Second Chronicles 7:14**. PRAY, “Lord, *make us salty* we beg You. Allow our light to shine throughout the Upper Valley.”

Thursday

READ **Second Chronicles 7:11-22; Ezra 10:1-14**. DISCUSS What was the sin of those returning to the Land with Ezra? What are yours? What are ours collectively at FCCW? SERVE by being salt & light—*listen* to someone today in Christ’s name. Humble yourself by putting their needs above your own. MEDITATE on **Second Chronicles 7:14**. PRAY, “Lord, thank You for giving us the privilege of serving You and our neighbors in Your name.”

Friday

READ **Second Chronicles 7:11-22; Matthew 5:13-16; Ezra 10:1-14; Genesis 3:14-19; Romans 8:18-25; Deuteronomy 9:4-6**. DISCUSS, How has God been encouraging you from these passages this week? PRAY AND FAST TODAY and *please join your brothers and sisters at FCCW for the Morning & Evening Services* if you are able. MEDITATE on **Second Chronicles 7:14**. PRAY that we at FCCW would *repent of our sin*.

Saturday

PREPARE today for the worship service tomorrow which is *available both in-person and via live-stream*. READ **Philippians 2:12-30**. Invite others to join you tomorrow for the 9:30 service. Ask Jesus to gather us together joyfully to praise Him.

Second Chronicles 7:14

“...if *my people who are called by my name* humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and *will forgive their sin and heal their land*.”