



The _____
First Congregational Church
of Woodstock _____

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

September 19th, 2021

The Order of Morning Worship

September 19th, 2021

Ten-thirty

Welcome

Pastor Doug Warren

- ❖ Call to Worship Psalm 19 Congregation
Pastor: The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim
the work of His hands.
**Congregation: Day after day they pour forth speech; night after
night they acknowledge His glory.**
Pastor: There is no land or nation where their voice is not heard.
**Congregation: Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to
the ends of the world.**
- ❖ Hymn of Exultation #97 *We Praise You, O God,
Our Redeemer, Creator* Congregation

We Praise You, O God, Our Redeemer, Creator

Our Redeemer—the LORD Almighty is his name—is the Holy One of Israel. Is. 47:4

1. We praise you, O God, our Re - deem - er, Cre - a - tor;
 2. We wor - ship you, God of our fa - thers, we bless you;
 3. With voic - es u - nit - ed our prais - es we of - fer,

in grate - ful de - vo - tion our tri - bute we bring.
 through life's storm and tem - pest our Guide you have been.
 to you, great Je - ho - vah, glad an - thems we raise.

We lay it be - fore you, we kneel and a - dore you;
 When per - ils o'er - take us, es - cape you will make us,
 Your strong arm will guide us, our God is be - side us;

we bless your ho - ly name, glad prais - es we sing.
 and with your help, O Lord, our bat - tles we win.
 to you, our great Re - deem - er, for - ev - er be praise.

For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea... “Of what value is an idol, since a man has carved it? Or an image that teaches lies? For he who makes it trusts in his own creation; he makes idols that cannot speak. Woe to him who says to wood, ‘Come to life!’ Or to lifeless stone, ‘Wake up!’ Can it give guidance? It is covered with gold and silver; there is no breath in it. But the LORD is in his holy temple; let all the earth be silent before him.”

Collective Confession

Psalm 25

Congregation

Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your goodness, O LORD! For your name's sake, O LORD, pardon my guilt, for it is great. Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and afflicted. The troubles of my heart are enlarged; bring me out of my distresses. Consider my affliction and my trouble, and forgive all my sins.

Silent Reflection and Confession

Proclamation of Forgiveness

Romans 8:1

Pastor

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Offering

(collected from back to front)

Congregation

Affirmation of Faith

*The Nicene Creed*¹

Congregation

Pastor: Christian, what is it that we believe?

Congregation: 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 man; and was crucified also for us

¹ The Nicene Creed originated at the Council of Nicea (325). It was formulated to answer heresies that denied the biblical doctrine of the Trinity and of the person of Christ.

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 catholic² 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.

❖ Creedal Song #731

Doxology

Congregation

²The term "catholic" here means universal and does not mean any particular denomination.

Doxology

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

G G D Em Bm Em D G 7
 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 7 C G
 praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - - - men.

⁴ John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, ⁵and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth.

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood ⁶and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. ⁷Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen.

⁸“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”

Pastor: The grass withers, the flower fades,

Congregation: but the Word of our God will stand forever.

Pastoral Prayer

Pastor

❖ Hymn of Reflection #125 *Let All Things Now Living*

Congregation

Let All Things Now Living

Sing to the LORD, all the earth; proclaim his salvation day after day. 1 Chron. 16:23

Capo 3: ▮

1. Let all things now liv - ing a song of thanks - giv - ing
 2. His law he en - forc - es: the stars in their cours - es,

to God the Cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise,
 the sun in its or - bit, o - be - dient - ly shine;

who fash - ioned and made us, pro - tect - ed and stayed us,
 the hills and the moun - tains, the riv - ers and foun - tains,

who guides us and leads to the end of our days.
 the - deeps of the o - cean pro - claim him di - vine.

Chords: F(D), Gm(Em), C(A), Bb(G), C⁷(A⁷), F(D)

C⁷(A⁷)

His ban - ners are o'er us, his light goes be - fore us,
 We too should be voic - ing our love and re - joic - ing,

F(D) Dm(Bm) C(A) G⁷(E⁷) C(A)

a pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the night,
 with glad ad - o - ra - tion a song let us raise,

F(D) Gm(Em) C(A)

'til shad - ows have van - ished and dark - ness is ban - ished,
 'til all things now liv - ing u - nite in thanks - giv - ing

F(D) B^b(G) F(D) C⁷(A⁷) F(D) 7

as for - ward we trav - el from light in - to light.
 to God in the high - est, ho - san - na and praise!

Katherine K. Davis, 1939
 Alt. 1990, mod.

ASH GROVE 12.11.12.11.D.
 Traditional Welsh melody
 Arr. by Katherine K. Davis, 1939

Text © E. C. Schirmer Music Co. Used with permission.

“Paul Transferred Under Heavy Guard”

Acts 23: 23 – 35

²³ Then he called two of the centurions and said, “Get ready two hundred soldiers, with seventy horsemen and two hundred spearmen to go as far as Caesarea at the third hour of the night. ²⁴ Also provide mounts for Paul to ride and bring him safely to Felix the governor.” ²⁵ And he wrote a letter to this effect:

²⁶ “Claudius Lysias, to his Excellency the governor Felix, greetings. ²⁷ This man was seized by the Jews and was about to be killed by them when I came upon them with the soldiers and rescued him, having learned that he was a Roman citizen. ²⁸ And desiring to know the charge for which they were accusing him, I brought him down to their council. ²⁹ I found that he was being accused about questions of their law, but charged with nothing deserving death or imprisonment. ³⁰ And when it was disclosed to me that there would be a plot against the man, I sent him to you at once, ordering his accusers also to state before you what they have against him.”

³¹ So the soldiers, according to their instructions, took Paul and brought him by night to Antipatris. ³² And on the next day they returned to the barracks, letting the horsemen go on with him. ³³ When they had come to Caesarea and delivered the letter to the governor, they presented Paul also before him. ³⁴ On reading the letter, he asked what province he was from. And when he learned that he was from Cilicia, ³⁵ he said, “I will give you a hearing when your accusers arrive.” And he commanded him to be guarded in Herod's praetorium.

Now Thank We All Our God

Now, our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name. 1 Chron. 29:13

1. Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,
 2. O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
 3. All praise and thanks to God the Father now be giv - en,

who wondrous things hath done, in whom his world rejoices;
 with ever - joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;
 the Son, and him who reigns with them in highest heav - en—

who from our mothers' arms, hath blessed us on our way
 and keep us in his grace, and guide us when perplexed,
 the one eternal God, whom earth and heav'n adore;

with count - less gifts of love, and still is ours to - day.
 and free us from all ills in this world and the next.
 for thus it was, is now, and shall be ever - more.

Benediction

2 Corinthians 13: 14

Pastor

Pastor: The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

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 ~~

Women's Ministry Survey

Ladies, please pick up a Women's Ministry survey from the back table and take a few minutes to let us know how our FCCW Women's Ministry can best serve you. Completed surveys may be placed in the box next to the surveys. Thank you!

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

Sunday School Teachers Needed

We are still in need of Sunday School teachers for the elementary age class. Please prayerfully consider committing to teach one 4-6 week unit and investing in the young lives of our church and community. For more information, please contact Terri DeDell at dedellcrew@gmail.com.

Work Days

Our next Work Day will be Saturday, September 25, 9:00-noon. We will be continuing the work of renovating our outdoor play area. Please join us—there are many ways to help!

September Newsletter is on the Table in the Narthex.

Intro to FCCW Workshop

Interested in knowing more about FCCW? Want to explore questions about the Bible in a small group? What does it mean to be a member? What opportunities are there to serve at FCCW? Consider attending the *Intro to FCCW Workshop* being offered Friday night, October 15 and Saturday morning, October 16. This two-part workshop will give insight into how FCCW functions and the importance of membership. Please contact Kristen at fccwinfo@gmail.com to register.

Paul Transferred Under Heavy Guard

1. Tribune Carries Out His Duty to Safeguard Prisoner (23-25).

2. Tribune Deftly Covers His Own Tracks (26-30).

3. Everyone Here Is Shown Doing Their Duty (31-35).

CONCLUSION: Jesus is orchestrating His Kingdom's expansion on earth through His people certainly, but He also has total control over all other kingdoms, including Rome. He is the One, after all, who has entrusted the sword to governors and kings to administer His justice for the time being. Here even with the fallen sinfulness of self-serving rulers, we see justice being safeguarded with Paul receiving protection and appropriate due process of the law. King Jesus is able to bring about justice regardless of man's machinations. Let us trust Him as we seek to peacably testify to His resurrection.

Romans 13:1-7

“Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. ² Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. ³ For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, ⁴ for he is God’s servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not **bear the sword** in vain. For **he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God’s wrath on the wrongdoer.** ⁵ Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God’s wrath but also for the sake of conscience. ⁶ For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. ⁷ Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.”

Second Timothy 4:1-5

I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

Revelation 1:4-8

John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen. “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”

Matthew 22:15-22

Then the Pharisees went and plotted how to entangle him in his words. And they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are true and teach the way of God truthfully, and you do not care about anyone’s opinion, for you are not swayed by appearances. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?” But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why put me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. And Jesus said to them, “Whose likeness and inscription is this?” They said, “Caesar’s.” Then he said to them, “Therefore **render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.**” When they heard it, they marveled. And they left him and went away.

Taking Gathered Worship Home

Our plans often go awry because of things beyond our control. But nothing is beyond God's control. He works here through lowly soldiers and governors alike. He is completely faithful to all He has promised to do and cannot be thwarted. Trust in Him!

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 23:23-35; Romans 13:1-7; Second Timothy 4:1-5; Revelation 1:4-8; Matthew 22:15-22.** DISCUSS How is King Jesus establishing His Kingdom on earth? How does His sovereignty comfort you? Challenge you? PRAY "Lord Christ, thank You for preserving and protecting us. Thank You for faithfully doing exactly as You promised to save us."

Sunday Evening

Come join the *Young Adults' Fellowship* tonight at 6pm. Pray for them!

Monday

READ **Acts 23:23-35; Romans 13:1-7; Daniel 4:34-35.** DISCUSS How does God use government? What is it supposed to do? How does it accomplish God's will? Is its authority absolute? MEDITATE on **Matthew 4:17.** PRAY, "Lord Jesus, thank You for the gift of government. With all its faults it is still Your means to keep order."

Tuesday

READ **Acts 23:23-35; Second Timothy 4:1-5; Hebrews 1:1-3.** DISCUSS Who upholds all things? How are they upheld? Who is ruling and reigning now? Is He trustworthy? MEDITATE on **Matthew 4:17.** PRAY, "Lord, Your authority alone is complete. Thank You for ruling and reigning over all things even now. Teach us to trust Your sovereignty and to submit to Your Word joyfully."

Wednesday

READ **Acts 23:23-35; Revelation 1:4-8; Psalm 135:1-21**. DISCUSS, How does God compare to the kings of the nations? Why do we doubt Him? How are you turning from your rebellion against Him today? MEDITATE on **Matthew 4:17**. PRAY “Lord, forgive us for resisting You. Teach us to submit to You completely in all our ways. Allow us to humble ourselves before You.”

Thursday

READ **Acts 23:23-35; Matthew 22:15-22; Romans 13:1-7**. DISCUSS, What are we supposed to give to Caesar? What are we to give to God? What is the difference? Which are you wrestling with today? MEDITATE on **Matthew 4:17**. PRAY “Father, make us as submissive and joyful as Jesus was in submitting to You coming to save us. Holy Spirit, embolden us to witness to Christ.”

Friday

READ **Acts 23:23-35; Romans 13:1-7; Second Timothy 4:1-5; Revelation 1:4-8; Matthew 22:15-22**. 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! MEDITATE on **Matthew 4:17**. PRAY for renewal and revival across our land.

Saturday

PREPARE today for the worship service tomorrow. *There will be both the in-person and live-stream services available.* READ **Acts 24:1-27; Job chapters 38-41**. Invite others to join you for either *in-person or live-stream service* tomorrow. Ask Jesus to be glorified in our testimony of Him.

Romans 8:38-39

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