



The _____
First Congregational Church
of Woodstock _____

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

September 17th, 2023

The Order of Morning Worship

September 17th, 2023

Ten-thirty

Welcome & Announcements

Pastor Doug Warren

Prelude & Silent Prayer

❖ Call to Worship

Psalm 122:1-4

Pastor

I was glad when they said to me,
“Let us go to the house of the LORD!”
Our feet have been standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem!
Jerusalem—built as a city
that is bound firmly together,
to which the tribes go up,
the tribes of the LORD,
as was decreed for Israel,
to give thanks to the name of the LORD.

❖ Hymn of Exultation #363

We Gather Together

Congregation

We Gather Together

363

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you. Ps. 32:8

♩ C Dm⁷ G C 7

1. We gath - er to - geth - er to ask the Lord's bless - ing;
 2. Be - side us to guide us, our God with us join - ing,
 3. We all do ex - tol thee, thou lead - er tri - um - phant,

G Am⁷ D G C D⁷ G

he chas - tens and has - tens his will to make known;
 or - dain - ing, main - tain - ing his king - dom di - vine;
 and pray that thou still our de - fend - er wilt be.

G/F C/E Dm G⁷ C

the wick - ed op - press - ing now cease from dis - tress - ing;
 so from the be - gin - ning the fight we were win - ning;
 Let thy con - gre - ga - tion en - dure thro' trib - u - la - tion:

♩ F G⁷ C Dm G⁷ C 7

sing prais - es to his name; he for - gets not his own.
 thou, Lord, wast at our side: he all glo - ry be thine!
 thy name be ev - er prais'd! O Lord, make us free!

Scriptural Call to Repentance

Matthew 5:13-16

Pastor

“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.

Prayer of 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

Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.
Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

Pastoral Prayer

Pastor

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

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.

was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us 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 #735

Gloria Patri

Congregation

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

735

Gloria Patri

*Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor
of his holiness. Ps. 29:2*

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the

Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in

the be - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er

shall be, world with - out end. A - men, a - men.

2nd cent.; tr.

GLORIA PATRI (GREATOREX)
Henry W. Greatorex, *

¹⁶“This day the Lord your God commands you to do these statutes and rules. You shall therefore be careful to do them with all your heart and with all your soul. ¹⁷You have declared today that the Lord is your God, and that you will walk in his ways, and keep his statutes and his commandments and his rules, and will obey his voice. ¹⁸And the Lord has declared today that you are a people for his treasured possession, as he has promised you, and that you are to keep all his commandments, ¹⁹and that he will set you in praise and in fame and in honor high above all nations that he has made, and that you shall be a people holy to the Lord your God, as he promised.”

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

528

Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith. Heb. 12:1, 2

1. My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,
2. May thy rich grace im - part strength to my faint - ing heart,
3. While life's dark maze I tread, and griefs a - round me spread,
4. When ends life's tran - sient dream, when death's cold, sul - len stream

Sav - ior di - vine: now hear me while I pray, take all my
my zeal in - spire; as thou hast died for me, O may my
be thou my guide; bid dark - ness turn to day, wipe sor - row's
shall o'er me roll, blest Sav - ior, then, in love, fear and dis -

guilt a - way, O let me from this day be whol - ly thine.
love to thee pure, warm, and change - less be, a liv - ing fire.
tears a - way, nor let me ev - er stray from thee a - side.
trust re - move; O bear me safe a - bove, a ran - somed soul.

The Sermon

Pastor

“Exclusive Devotion to Yahweh”

Exodus 20:3

“You shall have no other gods before me.”

❖ Hymn of Response #2

O Worship the King

Congregation

O Worship the King

All you have made will praise you, O LORD; your saints will extol you. Ps. 145:10



1. O wor - ship the King all - glo - rious a - bove, O grate - ful - ly
2. O tell of his might, O sing of his grace, whose robe is the
3. The earth with its store of won - ders un - told, Al - might - y, your
4. Your boun - ti - ful care what tongue can re - cite? It breathes in the



- sing his pow'r and his love; our shield and De - fend - er, the
light, whose can - o - py space. His char - iots of wrath the deep
pow'r has found - ed of old; has 'stab - lished it fast by a
air; it shines in the light; it streams from the hills; it de -



- An - cient of Days, pa - vil - ioned in splen - dor and gird - ed with praise.
thun - der - clouds form, and dark is his path on the wings of the storm.
change - less de - cree, and round it has cast, like a man - tle, the sea.
scends to the plain; and sweet - ly dis - tils in the dew and the rain.



5. Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,
in you do we trust, nor find you to fail;
your mercies how tender, how firm to the end,
our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend!

6. O measureless Might! Ineffable Love!
While angels delight to hymn you above,
the humbler creation, though feeble their lays,
with true adoration shall lisp to your praise.

❖ Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

Pastor

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 ~~

Prelude: Praise to the Lord (Young)

Offertory: Foundation (Held)

Postlude: Pastorella and Fanfare: II. Fanfare (Cooman)

Save the Date!

Friday, September 22 — 5:00-7:00 pm “Back to School” Dogs & S’mores

Sunday, October 8 — 3:00-5:00 pm Jerri Cole Memorial Service

Sunday, October 29 — Missionary Visit with the Klassens (stay tuned for details!)

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

Adult Sunday School

Adult Sunday School begins at **9:00 AM**, with a special 12 lesson study “Who is the Holy Spirit?” from Ligonier Ministries. In this video-based lecture series, Dr. Sinclair Ferguson will deepen our understanding of this Person of the Holy Trinity in such a way that we may come to know, not only the mighty works that He has done, but also how we may have fellowship with Him as He continues to work in the lives of God’s children. The nature and character of the Holy Spirit is wonderful to behold; please join with us, for this amazing study is sure to be of great benefit to the Christian.

“Back to School” Dogs & S’mores

You're invited to our Back to School Dogs & S'mores Event! Come by the front lawn at First Congregational Church of Woodstock for FREE grilled hot dogs, and DIY s'mores. We'll be there Friday, September 22, 2023 from 5pm-7pm.

This event is open to the public, and free for all ages. Invite your friends!



We are still hoping to run a Sunday School program for teens - please contact Robyn Huck at robynhuck@gmail.com if you're interested in helping out!

Jerri Cole Memorial Service

There will be a memorial service for Jerri Cole on Sunday, October 8th, at 3:00 pm, with a reception following. Please join us in thanking God for Jerri's life and ministry.

Tuesday Morning Ladies' Bible Study

The Ladies' Bible Study meets in person at 10:00 am at the Thompson Senior Center and via Zoom. Contact Bonnie Atwood at (802) 457-4120 or bonhope2@gmail.com for more information.

The September Prayer Letter is available on the back table.

Join the WCCC Teaching Team!

Are you looking for rewarding work with young children, part or full time? Woodstock Christian Child Care (WCCC) has immediate openings for part-time or full-time Trainees, Teacher Assistants, or Teachers for our full-day program for ages 6 weeks to PreK, and our After School Program for PreK to Grade 2. This is a great opportunity for college students interested in ECE, nursing, or human services to gain experience. WCCC has been serving children and families in the area for 29 years. If you are 18 years old or older, enjoy children, or would like to explore a career in early childhood education, please contact the WCCC Executive Director Ruth Brisson at rbrissonwccc@gmail.com. Thank you!
