

The _____
First Congregational Church
of Woodstock _____

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

March 31st, 2024
Easter Celebration Service

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Ten-thirty

Welcome

Pastor Doug Warren

Prelude & Silent Prayer

❖ Call to Worship

Pastor

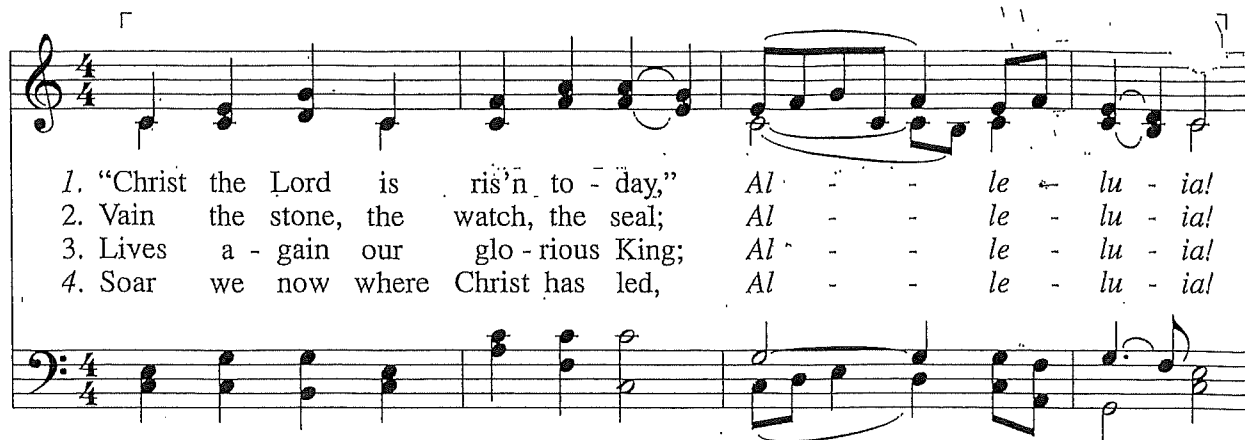
Jesus Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting? Death is swallowed up in victory. Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!

Pastor: Christ is risen!

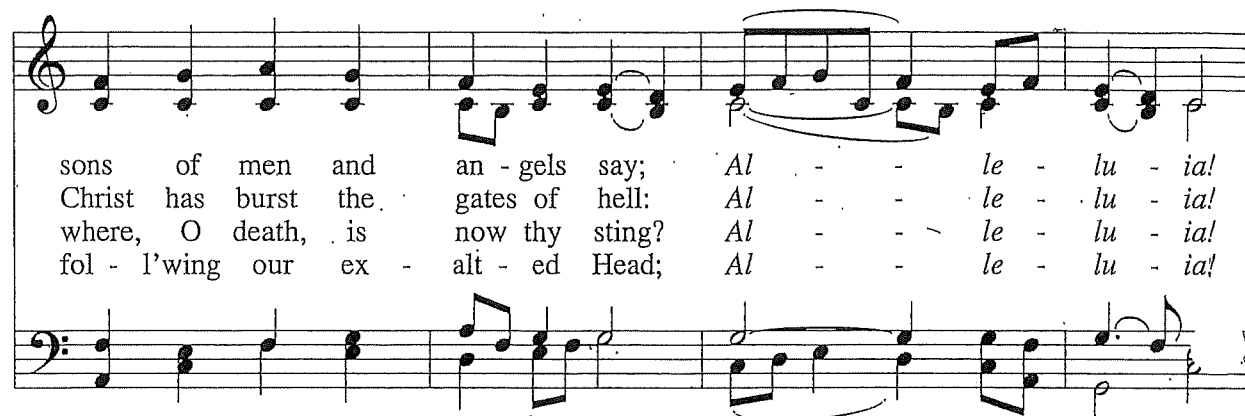
Congregation: He is risen indeed!

❖ Hymn of Exultation #277 *Christ the Lord is Risen Today* Congregation

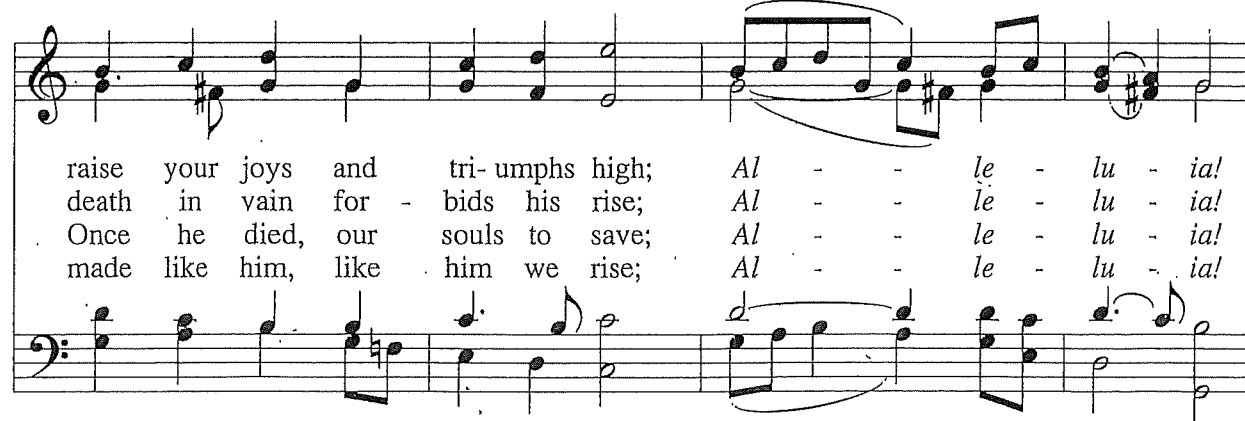
Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Cor. 15:57.



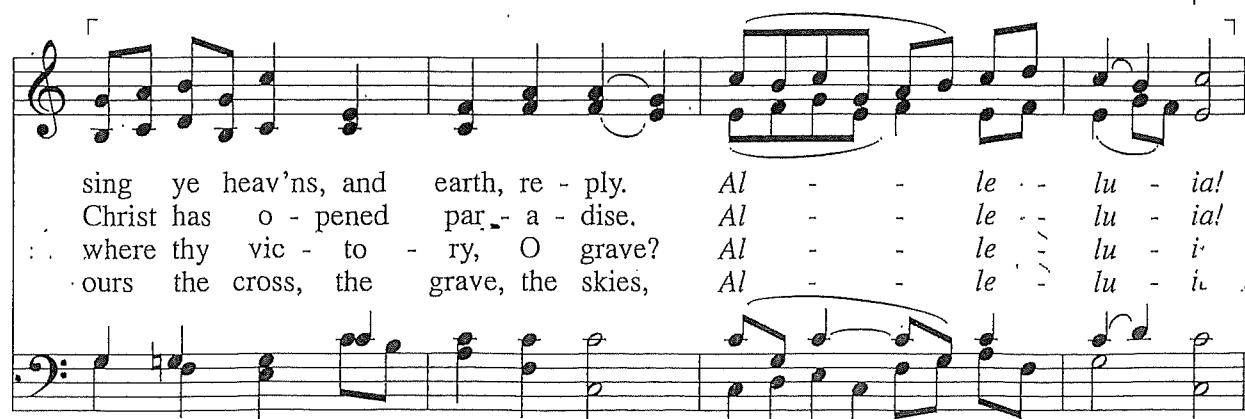
1. "Christ the Lord is ris'n to - day," Al - - le - lu - ia!
 2. Vain the stone, the watch, the seal; Al - - le - lu - ia!
 3. Lives a - gain our glo - rious King; Al - - le - lu - ia!
 4. Soar we now where Christ has led, Al - - le - lu - ia!



sons of men and an - gels say; Al - - le - lu - ia!
 Christ has burst the gates of hell: Al - - le - lu - ia!
 where, O death, is now thy sting? Al - - le - lu - ia!
 fol - l'wing our ex - alt - ed Head; Al - - le - lu - ia!



raise your joys and tri - umphs high; Al - - le - lu - ia!
 death in vain for - bids his rise; Al - - le - lu - ia!
 Once he died, our souls to save; Al - - le - lu - ia!
 made like him, like him we rise; Al - - le - lu - ia!



sing ye heav'ns, and earth, re - ply. Al - - le - lu - ia!
 Christ has o - pened par - a - dise. Al - - le - lu - ia!
 where thy vic - to - ry, O grave? Al - - le - lu - ia!
 ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Al - - le - lu - ia!

5. Hail; the Lord of earth and heav'n! Alleluia!
 Praise to thee by both be giv'n; Alleluia!
 thee we greet triumphant now; Alleluia!
 hail, the Resurrection, thou! Alleluia!

⁹ You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

Collective Confession

Gracious Lord, we confess now that we dishonor You in our words and thoughts and deeds. Depending on our own strength we stumble; proclaiming our own goodness, we sin; glorying in our own righteousness we corrupt everything we touch. Turning our faces from You, Lord, we desire the things of this world to satisfy us. We pray now, Lord, for You to forgive all of our many sins; to cleanse the darkness from our lives, and to turn our faces and our hearts back towards You. We pray these things in the name of Your most precious Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Silent Reflection and Confession

¹³ And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, ¹⁴ by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.

Pastoral Prayer

Offering

(collected from back to front)

Description of Easter Sacrificial Offering Recipient

Scripture Reading

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. ³ For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not

according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. ⁸Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

Affirmation of Faith

Romans 10:9-10

Congregation

If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. Amen.

Easter Sacrificial Offering (collected from back to front)

Congregation

❖ Hymn of Reflection #275 *The Strife is O'er, the Battle Done* Congregation

The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done

275

Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory? Luke 24:26.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

1. The strife is o'er, the bat - tle done; the vic - to - ry of life is
 2. The pow'rs of death have done their worst, but Christ their le - gions hath dis -
 3. The three sad days have quick - ly sped; he ris - es glo - rious from the
 4. He closed the yawn - ing gates of hell; the bars from heav'n's high por - tals
 5. Lord, by the stripes which wound - ed thee, from death's dread sting thy ser - vants

won; the song of tri - umph has be - gun. Al - le - lu - ia!
 persed: let shouts of ho - ly joy out - burst. Al - le - lu - ia!
 dead: all glo - ry to our ris - en Head! Al - le - lu - ia!
 fell: let hymns of praise his tri - umphs tell. Al - le - lu - ia!
 free, that we may live and sing to thee. Al - le - lu - ia!

Latin hymn
Tr. by Francis Pott, 1861

PALESTRINA 8.8.8.al.
Giovanni P. da Palestrina, 1591; arr.

“Wishful Thinking or Resurrection Hope?”

Mark 16:1-8

When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. ² And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. ³ And they were saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?” ⁴ And looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back—it was very large. ⁵ And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed. ⁶ And he said to them, “Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him. ⁷ But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.” ⁸ And they went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

❖ Hymn of Response #274

Thine Be the Glory

Congregation

Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Cor. 15:57

1. Thine be the glo - ry, ris - en, con - qu'ring Son; end - less is the
 2. Lo! Je - sus meets us, ris - en from the tomb; lov - ing - ly he
 3. No more we doubt thee, glo - rious Prince - of life; life is naught with -

vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won; an - gels in bright rai - ment
 greets us, scat - ters fear and gloom; let the church with glad - ness,
 out thee: aid us in our strife; make us more than con - qu'rors,

rolled the stone a - way, kept the fold - ed grave - clothes,
 hymns of tri - umph sing, for her Lord now liv - eth,
 thro' thy death - less love: bring us safe thro' Jor - dan

REFRAIN

where thy bod - y lay.
 death hath lost its sting. Thine be the glo - ry, ris - en, con - qu'ring Son;
 to thy home a - bove.

end - less is the vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won.

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.

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

Postlude

~~ Organist: Jonathan Denham ~~

~~ Handbells: Jonathan Denham, Kyle Huck,
Heidi Tucker, Kristen Warren ~~

~~ Please ensure cell phones are off ~~

Preludes: Hallelujah Chorus from The Messiah (Handel)

Trumpet Voluntary in D Major (Clarke)

Offertory: An Easter Story (Robards)

Sacrificial Offering: All Things New (Peterson/Shive/Gullahorn)

Postlude: Prelude in G Major (J. S. Bach)

The Easter Plants Are Given in Loving Memory of:

Robert Powell, Marion & Louis Van Dyk by Carol Powell

David B. Johnston by Doris Johnston

Allen & Irene Owens by Gail Owens

C. Everett Koop by Cora Koop

Sue Houlberg by the Warren Family

Easter Sacrificial Offering

Our special Easter Sacrificial Offering today is for Harvest Ministries, directed by Caleb Rayapati, in Secunderabad, India. They are in need of a new vehicle to enable them to travel throughout the region and minister in many ways to these remote villages in the name of Jesus. Check out the front-page feature of the FCCW March Prayer Letter for more information and some pictures!

Save the Date!

Saturday, April 6, 8:00-9:00 am — Men's Prayer Breakfast

Friday, April 12-Saturday, April 13 — Intro to FCCW Workshop

Saturday, April 20, 9:00 am-3:30 pm — CCEF Conference

Saturday, April 20, 5:30-8:00 pm — Community Barn Dance & Chili Supper

Thursday, May 30, 6:00 pm — Supper Talk: Beyond "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God." Who was Jonathan Edwards and why should we know about him? Meal at 6 pm followed by the presentation given by Paul Hoehner

Friday, June 7 — Congregational Prayer Gathering

Sunday, July 21 — Church Picnic on the WCCC playground (rain date July 28)

Saturday, August 24 — Libby Warren's wedding here at FCCW

Introduction 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 *Introduction to FCCW Workshop* being offered **Friday** night, **April 12**, from **6-9 pm** (includes dinner) and **Saturday** morning, **April 13**, from **9 am-noon** (includes continental breakfast.) This two-part workshop will give insight into how FCCW functions and the importance of membership. To register, please contact Kristen at fccwinfo@gmail.com.

Session One—Worship

Session Two—Joyous Knowledge

Session Three—Radical Love for One Another

Session Four—Extending His Grace

Session Five—Belonging to His Community

There will be no Young Adult Fellowship Group tonight.

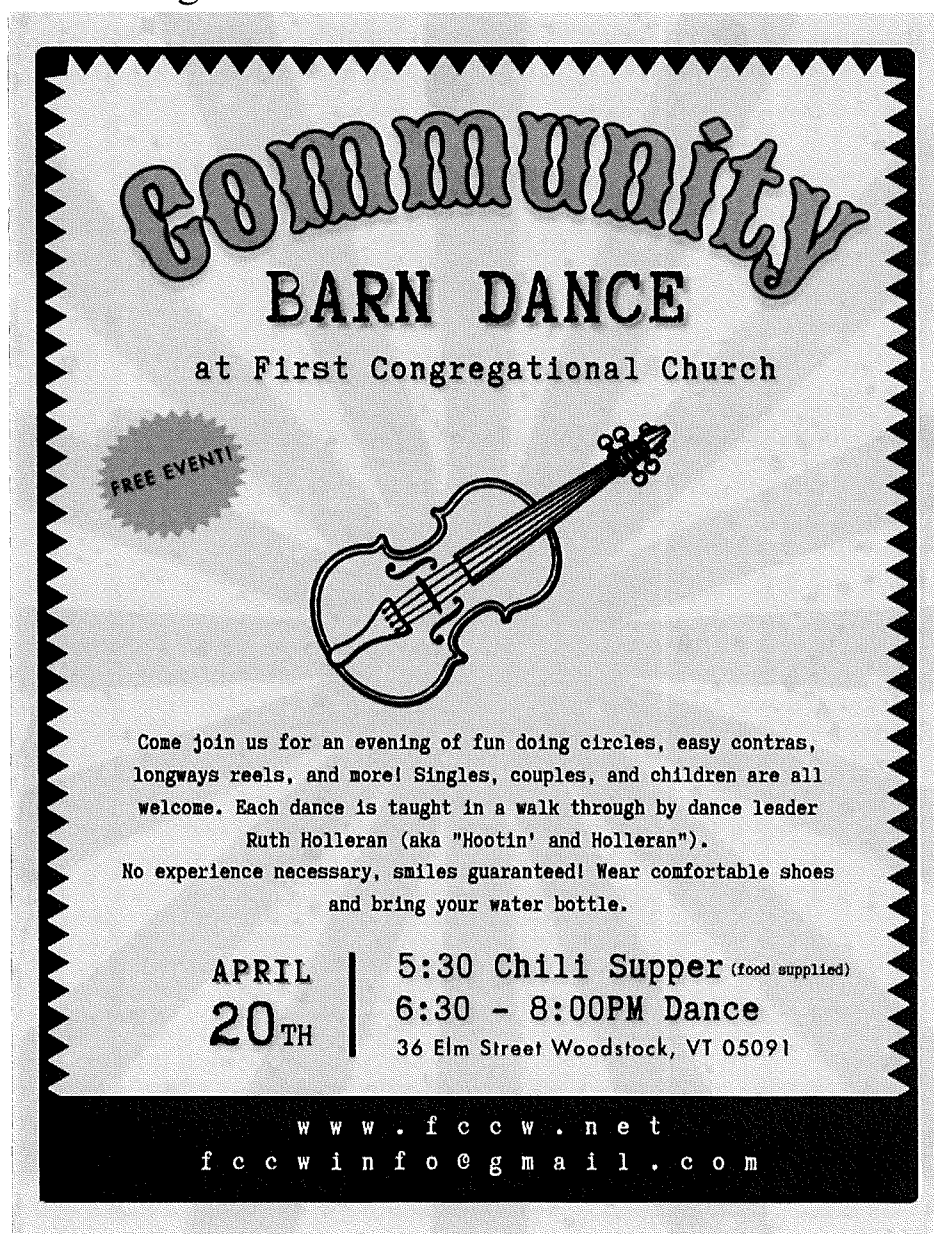
Community Barn Dance & Chili Supper

Our Community Barn Dance & Chili Supper is coming up on Saturday, April 20th! The COT has a fun evening planned and everyone is welcome (see details on the graphic below.) This is a great event for us to invite our friends and neighbors to!

Besides coming yourself and inviting others, there are several ways in which you can help. Here are the needs:

- Teams of 3-4 people each for set up and clean up
- 4-5 people to each make a pot of chili to feed 10 people each
- 4-5 people to each make a dessert

If you can help with any of these needs, please reply to this email or on the sign-up sheet in the Billings Room.



Greeter Sign Up

There is a sign-up sheet in the Billings Room for Sunday morning greeters. If you would like to help welcome folks on Sunday morning please take a moment to sign up! Questions? Check with Rosmarie Vanderhoof.

Nursery Staff Position

We are looking to hire someone as our Nursery Attendant. Please join us in praying for the Lord to raise up a mature, responsible adult (18+) who loves Jesus and children and who would be the anchor for caring for the little ones on Sunday mornings, assisted by volunteers from the congregation. For more information or to apply, please contact Karl Huck at karlhuck@gmail.com. Thank you.

Woodstock Congregational Church

MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 2024

8-9
AM

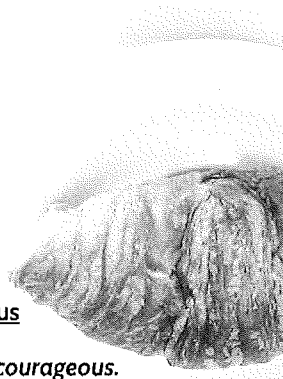
**We keep it simple: Discuss a
topic over breakfast, follow with
prayer, and out in an hour.**

Preston Bristow will facilitate

ENTER BY CHURCH BACK DOOR

This month's topic: Be Strong and Courageous

*"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous.
Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord
your God will be with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9*



Weekly Gathering Opportunities

Sundays, 6:00 pm — Young Adult Fellowship Group in the library

Tuesdays, 7:00 am — Middle School & High School Bible Study—meet at Maplefields to grab breakfast, then on to the church for study, discussion, and prayer.

Tuesdays, 10:00 am — Ladies' Bible Study meets in person at the Thompson Senior Center and via ZOOM, please contact Bonnie Atwood at (802) 457-4120 or email bonhope2@gmail.com.

Tuesdays, 6:00 pm — Prayer Meeting, in person in the library and via ZOOM

Wednesdays, 6:15 am — Men's Bible Study, in person in the library and via ZOOM, please contact Dick Atwood at (802) 457-4120 or email rbatwood1@gmail.com.
