



The _____
First Congregational Church
of Woodstock _____

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

September 8th, 2024

The Order of Morning Worship

September 8th, 2024

Ten-thirty

Welcome & Announcements

Pastor Doug Warren

Prelude & Silent Prayer

❖ Call to Worship

Revelation 15:3-4

Pastor

“Great and amazing are your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty!
Just and true are your ways, O King of the nations!
Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify your name? For you alone
are holy.

All nations will come and worship you, for your righteous acts have
been revealed.”

❖ Hymn of Exultation #30

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

Congregation

30

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations. Ps. 90:1

1. Our God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
 2. Un - der the shad - ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;
 3. Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, or earth re - ceived her frame,
 4. A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone;

our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
 suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
 from ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.
 short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

5. The busy tribes of flesh and blood,
 with all their lives and cares,
 are carried downward by your flood,
 and lost in foll'wing years.
6. Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
 bears all its sons away;
 they fly forgotten, as a dream
 dies at the op'ning day.
7. Our God, our help in ages past,
 our hope for years to come:
 O be our guard while troubles last,
 and our eternal home.

Scriptural Call to Repentance based on Daniel 9 Pastor

“O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, we have sinned and done wrong and acted wickedly and rebelled, turning aside from your commandments and rules. We have sinned against you and to us belongs open shame. To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness, for we have rebelled against him and have not obeyed the voice of the Lord our God by walking in his laws, which he set before us by his servants the prophets. O my God, incline your ear and hear. Open your eyes and see our desolations, and the city that is called by your name. For we do not present our pleas before you because of our righteousness, but because of your great mercy revealed in Christ. O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive. O Lord, pay attention and act. Delay not, for your own sake, O my God, because your city and your people are called by your name.”

Prayer of Collective Confession ancient prayer Congregation

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Silent Reflection and Confession

Proclamation of Forgiveness 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 Pastor

Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

Pastoral Prayer Pastor

Offering (collected from back to front) Congregation

Affirmation of Faith *Belgic Confession, Articles 1, 20* Congregation

We all believe with the heart, and confess with the mouth, that there is one only simple and spiritual Being, which we call God; and that He

is eternal, incomprehensible, invisible, immutable, infinite, almighty, perfectly wise, just, good, and the overflowing fountain of all good.

We believe that God, who is perfectly merciful and just, sent His Son to assume that nature in which the disobedience was committed, to make satisfaction in the same and to bear the punishment of sin by His most bitter passion and death. God therefore manifested His justice against His Son when He laid our iniquities upon Him and poured forth His mercy and goodness on us, who were guilty and worthy of damnation, out of mere and perfect love, giving His Son unto death for us and raising Him for our justification, that through Him we might obtain immortality and life eternal.

Deacons' Offering (collected from back to front) Congregation

❖ Creedal Song #735 *Gloria Patri* Congregation

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.

❖ Scripture Reading

Second Corinthians 12:9-10

Pastor

But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for *my power is made perfect in weakness.*” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

❖ Hymn of Reflection #146

Break Thou the Bread of Life

Congregation

Break Thou the Bread of Life

From now on give us this bread. John 6:34

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are arranged in four verses. Chord symbols are placed above the vocal line: F, D, G, D, A, 7, D, A/E, E7, A, A7, D, A/C#, E, A, A7, F, D, Em/G, A, A7, D, 7.

1. Break thou the bread of life, dear Lord, to me,
 2. Bless thou the truth, dear Lord, to me, to me,
 3. Thou art the Bread of Life, O Lord, to me,
 4. O send thy Spir - it, Lord, now un - to me,

as thou didst break the loaves be - side the sea;
 as thou didst bless the bread by Gal - i - lee;
 thy ho - ly Word the truth that sav - eth me;
 that he may touch mine eyes and make me see:

through - out the sa - cred page I seek thee, Lord,
 then shall all bond - age cease, all fet - ters fall;
 give me to eat and live with thee a - bove;
 show me the truth con - cealed with - in thy Word,

my spir - it pants for thee, O liv - ing Word.
 and I shall find my peace, my All in all.
 teach me to love thy truth, for thou art love.
 and in thy Book re - vealed I see the Lord.

“Our Satisfying God”

Mark 8:1-9

In those days, when again a great crowd had gathered, and they had nothing to eat, he called his disciples to him and said to them, ²“I have compassion on the crowd, because they have been with me now three days and have nothing to eat. ³And if I send them away hungry to their homes, they will faint on the way. And some of them have come from far away.” ⁴And his disciples answered him, “How can one feed these people with bread here in this desolate place?” ⁵And he asked them, “How many loaves do you have?” They said, “Seven.” ⁶And he directed the crowd to sit down on the ground. And he took the seven loaves, and having given thanks, he broke them and gave them to his disciples to set before the people; and they set them before the crowd. ⁷And they had a few small fish. And having blessed them, he said that these also should be set before them. ⁸And they ate and were satisfied. And they took up the broken pieces left over, seven baskets full. ⁹And there were about four thousand people. And he sent them away.

❖ Hymn of Response *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* Congregation

COME, THOU FOUNT OF EVERY BLESSING

Robert Robinson, 1758
Bob Kauflin, alt. lyrics vs. 4

Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music*
Part Second, 1813

$\text{♩} = 82$ D A7 D A D D/F# G D D/A A7

1. Come, Thou fount of ev - 'ry bless - ing, tune my heart to sing Thy
2. Hith - er - to Thy love has blessed me, Thou hast brought me to this
3. Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con - strained to
4. Oh, that day when freed from sin - ning, I shall see Thy love - ly

D A7 D A D D/F# G D D/A A7

grace; streams of mer - cy nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est
place, and I know Thy hand will bring me safe - ly home by Thy good
be; let Thy good - ness, like a fet - ter, bind my wan - d'ring heart to
face, full ar - rayed in blood - washed lin - en, how I'll sing Thy sov - ereign

D D/F# Em D F#m G G/D D D/F# Em D F#m G

praise. Teach me some me - lo - dious son - net, sung by flam - ing tongues a -
grace. Je - sus sought me when a strang - er, wan - d'ring from the fold of
Thee. Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I
grace. Come, my Lord, no long - er tar - ry, bring Thy prom - is - es to

D A7 D A D D/F# G D D/A A7 D

bove; praise the mount, I'm fixed up - on it, mount of Thy re - deem - ing love.
God: He, to res - cue me from dan - ger, in - ter - posed His pre - cious blood.
love: here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for Thy courts a - bove.
pass, for I know Thy pow'r will keep me till I'm home with Thee at last.

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

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

Postlude

~~ Organist: Jonathan Denham ~~

~~ Please ensure cell phones are off ~~

Prelude: Old Hundredth (Hildebrand)

Offertory: Aria (Handel/McKinley)

Deacon's Offering: Everlasting God (Brown/Riley, Arr. Bennett)

Postlude: Ye Servants of God: Prelude on Hanover (Birchwood)

Deacons' Offering – Today, September 8th

Our church receives many requests for help from not just within our church body but the community at large. The deacons have a great many opportunities to share God's love with folks in need, whether it is paying a bill for them or buying them a pair of glasses. This is a vital ministry that our church has to reach into our communities and share the gospel in a loving, gracious way. If you are in need or know someone who is, please contact Dan Bruce, the Deacons' Mercy Minister at home (802) 457-3975, at his cell number (802) 345-8870, or email him at rhondan08@myfairpoint.net.

School-Year Schedule

We are now celebrating Sunday Morning Worship at **10:30 am** and Sunday School beginning at **9:00 am** each Sunday. This is a great time to build a good habit. If you have not been attending Sunday School in the past, now is the perfect opportunity to start! If you have not been attending worship services in person, why not begin with the fall schedule change?! There is a nursery available. Hope to see you here!

Sunday School begins today!

Today we begin Sunday School for the 2024-25 school year. At 9:00AM we all gather in the Billings Room to sing songs of praise and thanksgiving. The songs are selected and led by Jonathan Denham, with all the age groups in mind.

During this large group song time we take a collection that is sent to a child in Uganda who is being cared for by Another Hope Children's Ministry. This year we will again be supporting Motovu Enock, a teenager hoping to attend university. Please consider contributing to this collection each week. It can be a great way to teach children about Christian missions and generosity as we give a portion of what we have to someone in need.

At 9:15 we separate into classes. This year we'll have two children's classes to serve the age brackets of the families we currently have at church. The Primary Class, taught by Annie Denham, will teach the preschool and young elementary students with games, songs, crafts, and Bible stories. Their topic for the fall is "God Provides for His People." The Teen Class, taught by Keri Bristow, will be doing a study of Philippians that hones in on questions relevant to their lives. The adults will stay in the Billings Room to watch the Sinclair Ferguson video series *Sojourners and Exiles* and participate in discussion led by the elders.

Please join us for Sunday School this year. It's an important component of family-building; personal growth in faith; and development of friendship and fellowship as we learn about God's Word together. If you have questions or you'd like to help, please contact Sunday School superintendent Robyn Huck at robynhuck@gmail.com, or one of the teachers.

Save the Date!

Today! Sunday, September 8 — Sunday School begins at **9:00 am**

Next Sunday, September 15 — 3:00-4:30 pm Vespers

Friday, September 13, 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm — Concert of Prayer

Friday, October 4, 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm — An Evening of Praise & Worship

Thursday, October 17— Supper Talk: *Lemuel Haynes, the "Black Puritan"*:
His Ties to Vermont and FCCW. Meal at **6 pm** followed by the presentation given by Preston Bristow.

Nursery Attendant Position

First Congregational Church of Woodstock, Vermont (FCCW) is looking for someone to serve as our Sunday morning Nursery Attendant. Applicant should be a mature, responsible adult (18+) who loves Jesus and children and will be the anchor in caring for our little ones (ages 0-5). A volunteer assistant from the congregation will be provided and will be responsible for teaching the Sunday School lesson each week. Minimal cleaning and maintenance is required. Hours are 8:45 am-12:15 pm each Sunday and the pay is \$24/hour. For more information or to apply, please contact Karl Huck at karlhuck@gmail.com.

Nursery Volunteers Needed

Can you give one Sunday to help minister to the youngest members of our church family? If you are willing to help one Sunday or more, you can find the sign-up sheet in the Billings Room, or contact Karis Warren at karis.warren@gmail.com or (207) 329-4190. Thank you!

Fall Supper Clubs

By popular demand we will be continuing supper clubs through the fall. See the sign-up sheet in the Billings Room or contact Michelle D'Hooghe at shellid71@gmail.com.

September Prayer Letter

Copies are available on the back table. Our ministry of the month is Elevation Family Ministries. Formerly known as Elevation Christian Academy, this ministry which seeks to wrap around the entire family with God's love and to elevate through hope and healing in Christ.

Pick up a copy of the prayer letter and read about the work that God is doing in and through Elevation Family Ministries!

Greeters Needed!

Would you like to help welcome folks to worship on Sunday mornings? If you are able to serve in this way there is a sign-up sheet in the Billings Room near the punch bowl.

Weekly Gathering Opportunities

Tuesdays, 7:00 am — (resuming this Tuesday, Sept. 10!) 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 — (resuming Sept. 17) Ladies' Bible Study meets in person at FCCW 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.
