



The _____
First Congregational Church
of Woodstock _____

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

December 8th, 2024
The Second Sunday in Advent

The Order of Morning Worship

December 8th, 2023

The Second Sunday in Advent

Ten-thirty

Welcome & Announcements

Pastor Doug Warren

Prelude & Silent Prayer

The Advent Reading

Leader: This week we light two candles. The Promise Candle from last week and now also the Prophet Candle. Why do we light candles during this season when we focus on our longing for Christ's return?

Congregation: Jesus said, "I am the Light of the world. He who follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the Light of Life."

Leader: What is the meaning of the second lighted candle?

Congregation: The second lighted candle represents Messiah's role as the Prophet to which all the other prophets pointed.

Leader: What were the prophets anointed to do?

Congregation: The prophets spoke the Word of God and called people to faith in Him and repentance from their wicked ways.

Leader: What did God promise about sending Messiah as *the* Prophet?

Congregation: God promises He will raise up a prophet like Moses who will speak His Word exactly as the Father commands (Deuteronomy 18).

Leader: How did Messiah fulfill this promise as *the* Prophet?

Congregation: John tells us that Jesus is the very Word of God and Jesus repeatedly told us that He spoke exactly what the Father commanded Him to speak (John 12:44-50).

❖ Call to Worship

based on Joel 2:1

Pastor

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy hill.

Let all who live in the Land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming.

It is close at hand. Come, let us worship God.

❖ Hymn of Exultation #214

*Angels We Have
Heard on High*

Congregation

Angels We Have Heard on High

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.
Luke 2:14

1. An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2. Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3. Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o back their joy - ous strains.
Say what may the tid - ings be, which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.

REFRAIN

Glo - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o,

glo - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Scriptural Call to Repentance

Psalm 46:6-9

Pastor

The nations rage, the kingdoms totter; He utters His voice, the earth melts. The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. Come, behold the works of the LORD, how He has brought desolations on the earth; He breaks the bow and shatters the spear; He burns the chariots with fire.

Prayer of Confession

Pastor

Lord, we come to You who are faithful in all Your promises, Just as You promised Daniel to redeem Your people, so You have done. Yet we are a faithless people. We have not been devoted to You alone, We have forsaken You more times than we can count. We confess our divided hearts. We turn from our idols and cling to You Christ. Hear our prayer and make us more like You through Your Holy Spirit.¹

Silent Reflection and Confession

Proclamation of Forgiveness

Psalm 130:3-4, 7-8

Pastor

If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared.

O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with Him is plentiful redemption. And He will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

Pastoral Prayer

Pastor

Advent Scripture

Luke 1:26-38

Pastor

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord

¹ Written by Pastor Doug Warren

God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”

And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.” And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

Offering (collected from back to front) Congregation

❖ Scripture Reading Deuteronomy 18:15-19 Pastor

¹⁵ “The Lord your *God will raise up for you a prophet* like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen— ¹⁶ just as you desired of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the Lord my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.’ ¹⁷ And the Lord said to me, ‘They are right in what they have spoken. ¹⁸ *I will raise up for them a prophet* like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. ¹⁹ And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him.

❖ Hymn of Reflection #193 *Let All Mortal Flesh* Congregation
Keep Silence

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

The LORD is in his holy temple; let all the earth be silent before him. Hab. 2:20

Unison

1. Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence, and with fear and
 2. King of kings, yet born of Mar - y, as of old on
 3. Rank on rank the host of heav - en spreads its van - guard
 4. At his feet the six - winged ser - aph; cher - u - bim, with

trem - bling stand; pon - der noth - ing earth - ly - mind - ed,
 earth he stood, Lord of lords, in hu - man ves - ture,
 on the way, as the Light of light de - scend - eth
 sleep - less eye, veil their fac - es to the pres - ence,

for with bless - ing in his hand, Christ our God to
 in the bod - y and the blood, he will give to
 from the realms of end - less day, that the pow'rs of
 as with cease - less voice they cry, "Al - le - lu - ia,

earth de - scend - eth, our full hom - age to de - mand.
 all the faith - ful his own self for heav'n - ly food.
 hell may van - ish as the dark - ness clears a - way.
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

“First in the Kingdom”

Mark 10:32-45

³² And they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking ahead of them. And they were amazed, and those who followed were afraid. And taking the twelve again, he began to tell them what was to happen to him, ³³ saying, “See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death and deliver him over to the Gentiles. ³⁴ And they will mock him and spit on him, and flog him and kill him. And after three days he will rise.”

³⁵ And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came up to him and said to him, “Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.” ³⁶ And he said to them, “What do you want me to do for you?” ³⁷ And they said to him, “Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.” ³⁸ Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?” ³⁹ And they said to him, “We are able.” And Jesus said to them, “The cup that I drink you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized, ⁴⁰ but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.” ⁴¹ And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant at James and John. ⁴² And Jesus called them to him and said to them, “You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. ⁴³ But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴ and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. ⁴⁵ For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? Matt. 2:2

1. What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar - y's lap - is sleep - ing
 2. Why lies he in such mean es - tate, where ox and ass are feed - ing
 3. So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to own him

Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet, while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
 Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
 the King of kings sal - va - tion brings, let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing:
 Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you:
 Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by:

haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y.
 hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y.
 joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y.

Isaiah says,

“The root of Jesse shall come, the One who rises to rule the Gentiles;
In Him the Gentiles hope.”

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
So that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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

Postlude

~~ Organist: Jonathan Denham ~~

~~ Please ensure cell phones are off ~~

Prelude: Infant Holy, Infant Lowly (Martin)

Offertory: Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery (Boswell/Papa/Bleecker)

Postlude: O Hail this Brightest Day of Days (J. S. Bach)

Save the Date!

Friday, December 13 — Wassail Weekend Events

4:30 pm Building & History Tour

5:00 pm Organ Concert

5:30 pm Building & History Tour

Saturday, December 14 — Wassail Weekend Events

11:00 am-2:00 pm Hot Wassail & S'mores

2:00 pm Parade Watch Party

3:00 pm The Ten of NYC A Capella Concert

Tuesday, December 24 — Christmas Eve

5:00 pm Candlelight Service with nursery

7:00 pm Candlelight Service

Vespers Today

Vespers will be held today at the Woodstock Terrace at 3:00 pm, the Homestead at 3:30 pm and the Mertens House at 4:00 pm. All are welcome to join—you will be blessed!

Wassail Weekend

The Community Outreach Team would appreciate help with Wassail Weekend Saturday, December 14. We could use help from 10:00 to prepare Wassail punch, and set up the outdoor tables and firepit in the later morning. We would love to have people to serve the Wassail, to help with s'mores and to tend the fire. We also need some firewood donated. We stop serving the punch at the end of the parade. Please let Keri Bristow kerilynbristow@gmail.com or (603) 359-3948 or Sheryl Hoehner schoehner@gmail.com or (434) 466-6052 know if you are able to help. All ages welcome!

Advent & Christmas Devotional

Be sure to pick up your own copy of the Advent & Christmas Devotional book from the back table, and feel free to take some for your friends as well! For the next several weeks we will be using this booklet for daily devotions rather than the weekly Taking Gathered Worship home.

Christmas Poinsettias

Poinsettias always add to the festive color of Christmas and can be given as a memorial to a loved one and taken home after the Christmas Eve Service. To order a 6" red or white Poinsettia, contact Elaine Johnston (call 802-457-3012) or Alison Briggs (briggsboat@gmail.com) before December 12, 2024. Poinsettias are \$12 each. Please remember to make your check out to FCCW, with Flower Committee on the memo line. Also include the name of the person you wish to memorialize.

Christmas Eve Services

This year we will have two traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Services on Tuesday, December 24, one at **5:00 pm** (nursery provided) and one at **7:00 pm**. Pick up a few of the invitations on the back table and invite your friends and family to join you as we celebrate Christ's birth!

Tabletalk

Copies of *Tabletalk* magazine are available in the narthex. You are welcome to pick up a copy to take home.

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 with the fall schedule in the Billings Room, or contact Kristen at fccwinfo@gmail.com.

Nursery Volunteer Schedule for December:

12/1 Paige Gibbs & Keri Bristow
12/8 Alison Briggs & Steve Briggs
12/15 Paige Gibbs & Robyn Huck
12/22 Keri Bristow & Tom Johnston
12/24 (5:00 service) _____ & _____
12/29 Robyn Huck & Karl Huck

Weekly Gathering Opportunities

Tuesdays, 7:00 am — FCCW Breakfast Club (Middle School & High School Bible Study)—meet at Maplefields to grab breakfast, then on to the church for study, discussion, and prayer. Contact Michael Byrne at michael@clickthruvt.com.

Tuesdays, 10:00 am —Ladies' Bible Study meets in person at FCCW and via ZOOM, please contact Bonnie Atwood at (802) 457-4120 or email bonhope2@gmail.com. (*will not meet 12/24 & 12/31*)

Tuesdays, 6:00 pm — Prayer Meeting, in person in the library and via ZOOM (*will not meet 12/24 & 12/31*)

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.

December Prayer Letter

This year's Christmas Sacrificial Offering will be split between one of our supported missionaries, Elevation Family Ministries, and Samaritan's Purse, targeting U.S. Disaster Relief. Pick up a copy of the December Prayer Letter to read more about these ministries.
