



The _____
First Congregational Church
of Woodstock _____

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

January 12th, 2025

The Order of Morning Worship

January 12th, 2025

Ten-thirty

Welcome & Announcements

Elder Gil Emery

Prelude & Silent Prayer

❖ Call to Worship

based on Psalm 86

Elder

We will praise You, O Lord our God, with our whole hearts; we will glorify Your name forever; for You have delivered us from the power of death. Bring joy to Your servants, O Lord, for to You we lift up our souls. There is none like You; no deeds can compare with Yours. All the nations You have made will come and worship before You. They will bring glory to Your name, for You alone are God. Teach us now Your way, O LORD, that we may live in Your truth. Give us undivided hearts that we may fear and praise Your great name.

❖ Hymn of Exultation #7

*From All that Dwell
Below the Skies*

Congregation

From All That Dwell below the Skies

Praise the LORD, all you nations; extol him, all you peoples. Ps. 117:1

1. From all that dwell be - low the skies let the Cre -
2. In ev - ery land be - gin the song; to ev - ery
3. E - ter - nal are your mer - cies, Lord; e - ter - nal

a - tor's praise a - rise; let the Re - deem - er's name be
land the strains be - long. In cheer - ful sound all voic - es
truth at - tends your word. Your praise shall sound from shore to

sung through ev - ery land, by ev - ery tongue.
raise and fill the world with joy - ful praise.
shore till suns shall rise and set no more.

Based on Psalm 117

DUKE STREET, L.M.
John Hatton, 1799

Scriptural Call to Repentance

Psalm 46:6-9

Elder

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 Collective Confession

Congregation

Holy Father, we long to have You change our hearts. We confess to You that we do not obey You as we should. We don't think Your thoughts, speak Your truth, or do the good that You command. We do not love our neighbors as You have loved us. We bend the truth to our own purposes. We harbor bitterness when we don't get our own way. We neglect and leave the oppressed with no defender. We break Your holy law and delight in what You have forbidden. Merciful Lord, we humbly ask that You would forgive us and change our hearts. Conform us to the image of Your Son. Holy Spirit, work in us we pray, that we might be like Christ.¹

Silent Reflection and Confession

Proclamation of Forgiveness

Psalm 130:3, 7-8

Elder

If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? 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

Elder

Offering

(collected from back to front)

Congregation

Affirmation of Faith

*The Westminster Shorter Catechism*²

Congregation

Elder: Are there more Gods than one?

Congregation: There is only one, the living and true God.

Elder: How many persons are there in the godhead?

Congregation: There are three persons in the Godhead: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three

¹ Written by Pastor Doug Warren

² A catechism is a question and answer format for teaching the truths contained in Scripture. The Westminster Shorter Catechism was written in 1647 in England primarily as an aid for teaching children. It has been used by congregations and families in both worship and instruction for the past 350 years.

are one God, the same in substance and equal in power and glory.

Deacons' Offering

(collected from back to front)

Congregation

❖ Creedal Song #735

Gloria Patri

Congregation

SERVICE MUSIC:

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.

❖ Scripture Reading

Psalm 115:4-8

Elder

Their idols are silver and gold, the work of human hands.
They have mouths, but do not speak; eyes, but do not see.
They have ears, but do not hear; noses, but do not smell.
They have hands, but do not feel; feet, but do not walk;
and they do not make a sound in their throat.

Those who make them become like them; so do all who trust in them.

❖ Hymn of Reflection #44

How Great Thou Art

Congregation

How Great Thou Art

Great is the LORD, and most worthy of praise. Ps. 48:1

Capo 1: B \flat (A) E \flat (D)

1. O Lord my God, when I in awe - some won - der
 2. When thro' the woods and for - est glades I wan - der
 3. And when I think that God, his Son not spar - ing,
 4. When Christ shall come with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion

B \flat /F(A/E) F(E) B \flat (A)

con - sid - er all the worlds thy hands have made,
 and hear the birds sing sweet - ly in the trees,
 sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
 and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!

E \flat (D)

I see the stars, I hear the roll - ing thun - der,
 when I look down from loft - y moun - tain gran - deur,
 that on the cross, my bur - den glad - ly bear - ing,
 Then I shall bow in hum - ble ad - o - ra - tion,

B \flat /F(A/E) F(E) B \flat (A)

thy pow'r thro' - out the u - ni - verse dis - played.
 and hear the brook and feel the gen - tle breeze;
 he bled and died to take a - way my sin.
 and there pro - claim, my God, how great thou art.

REFRAIN

Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to thee:

how great thou art, how great thou art!

Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to thee:

how great thou art, how great thou art!

Stuart K. Hine, 1949; alt.

O STORE GUD 11.10.11.10.ref.
 Swedish folk melody
 Arr. by Stuart K. Hine, 1949

The author's original words for "worlds" and "rolling" in st. 1 are "works" and "mighty."
 Text and tune © 1953, renewed 1981, Manna Music, Inc. International copyright secured. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

“Limping Along”

1 Kings 18:1-46

After many days the word of the Lord came to Elijah, in the third year, saying, “Go, show yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain upon the earth.”² So Elijah went to show himself to Ahab. Now the famine was severe in Samaria.³ And Ahab called Obadiah, who was over the household. (Now Obadiah feared the Lord greatly,⁴ and when Jezebel cut off the prophets of the Lord, Obadiah took a hundred prophets and hid them by fifties in a cave and fed them with bread and water.)⁵ And Ahab said to Obadiah, “Go through the land to all the springs of water and to all the valleys. Perhaps we may find grass and save the horses and mules alive, and not lose some of the animals.”⁶ So they divided the land between them to pass through it. Ahab went in one direction by himself, and Obadiah went in another direction by himself.

⁷ And as Obadiah was on the way, behold, Elijah met him. And Obadiah recognized him and fell on his face and said, “Is it you, my lord Elijah?”⁸ And he answered him, “It is I. Go, tell your lord, ‘Behold, Elijah is here.’”⁹ And he said, “How have I sinned, that you would give your servant into the hand of Ahab, to kill me?”¹⁰ As the Lord your God lives, there is no nation or kingdom where my lord has not sent to seek you. And when they would say, ‘He is not here,’ he would take an oath of the kingdom or nation, that they had not found you.¹¹ And now you say, ‘Go, tell your lord, “Behold, Elijah is here.”’¹² And as soon as I have gone from you, the Spirit of the Lord will carry you I know not where. And so, when I come and tell Ahab and he cannot find you, he will kill me, although I your servant have feared the Lord from my youth.¹³ Has it not been told my lord what I did when Jezebel killed the prophets of the Lord, how I hid a hundred men of the Lord's prophets by fifties in a cave and fed them with bread and water?¹⁴ And now you say, ‘Go, tell your lord, “Behold, Elijah is here”’; and he will kill me.”¹⁵ And Elijah said, “As the Lord of hosts lives, before whom I stand, I will surely show myself to him today.”¹⁶ So Obadiah went to meet Ahab, and told him. And Ahab went to meet Elijah.

¹⁷ When Ahab saw Elijah, Ahab said to him, “Is it you, you troubler of Israel?”¹⁸ And he answered, “I have not troubled Israel, but you have, and your father's house, because you have abandoned the commandments of the Lord and followed the Baals.¹⁹ Now therefore send and gather all Israel to me at Mount Carmel, and the 450 prophets of Baal and the 400 prophets

of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table.”

²⁰ So Ahab sent to all the people of Israel and gathered the prophets together at Mount Carmel.²¹ And Elijah came near to all the people and said, “How long will you go limping between two different opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him.” And the people did not answer him a word.²² Then Elijah said to the people, “I, even I only, am left a prophet of the Lord, but Baal's prophets are 450 men.²³ Let two bulls be given to us, and let them choose one bull for themselves and cut it in pieces and lay it on the wood, but put no fire to it. And I will prepare the other bull and lay it on the wood and put no fire to it.²⁴ And you call upon the name of your god, and I will call upon the name of the Lord, and the God who answers by fire, he is God.” And all the people answered, “It is well spoken.”²⁵ Then Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, “Choose for yourselves one bull and prepare it first, for you are many, and call upon the name of your god, but put no fire to it.”²⁶ And they took the bull that was given them, and they prepared it and called upon the name of Baal from morning until noon, saying, “O Baal, answer us!” But there was no voice, and no one answered. And they limped around the altar that they had made.²⁷ And at noon Elijah mocked them, saying, “Cry aloud, for he is a god. Either he is musing, or he is relieving himself, or he is on a journey, or perhaps he is asleep and must be awakened.”²⁸ And they cried aloud and cut themselves after their custom with swords and lances, until the blood gushed out upon them.²⁹ And as midday passed, they raved on until the time of the offering of the oblation, but there was no voice. No one answered; no one paid attention.

³⁰ Then Elijah said to all the people, “Come near to me.” And all the people came near to him. And he repaired the altar of the Lord that had been thrown down.³¹ Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the Lord came, saying, “Israel shall be your name,”³² and with the stones he built an altar in the name of the Lord. And he made a trench about the altar, as great as would contain two seahs of seed.³³ And he put the wood in order and cut the bull in pieces and laid it on the wood. And he said, “Fill four jars with water and pour it on the burnt offering and on the wood.”³⁴ And he said, “Do it a second time.” And they did it a second time. And he said, “Do it a third time.” And they did it a third time.³⁵ And the water ran around the altar and filled the trench also with water.

³⁶ And at the time of the offering of the oblation, Elijah the prophet came near and said, “O Lord, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known

this day that you are God in Israel, and that I am your servant, and that I have done all these things at your word.³⁷ Answer me, O Lord, answer me, that this people may know that you, O Lord, are God, and that you have turned their hearts back.”³⁸ Then the fire of the Lord fell and consumed the burnt offering and the wood and the stones and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench.³⁹ And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces and said, “The Lord, he is God; the Lord, he is God.”⁴⁰ And Elijah said to them, “Seize the prophets of Baal; let not one of them escape.” And they seized them. And Elijah brought them down to the brook Kishon and slaughtered them there.

⁴¹ And Elijah said to Ahab, “Go up, eat and drink, for there is a sound of the rushing of rain.”⁴² So Ahab went up to eat and to drink. And Elijah went up to the top of Mount Carmel. And he bowed himself down on the earth and put his face between his knees.⁴³ And he said to his servant, “Go up now, look toward the sea.” And he went up and looked and said, “There is nothing.” And he said, “Go again,” seven times.⁴⁴ And at the seventh time he said, “Behold, a little cloud like a man's hand is rising from the sea.” And he said, “Go up, say to Ahab, ‘Prepare your chariot and go down, lest the rain stop you.’”⁴⁵ And in a little while the heavens grew black with clouds and wind, and there was a great rain. And Ahab rode and went to Jezreel.⁴⁶ And the hand of the Lord was on Elijah, and he gathered up his garment and ran before Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel.

Be Still, My Soul

Be patient, then, brothers; until the Lord's coming. Jas. 5:7

1. Be still, my soul: the Lord is on your side;
 2. Be still, my soul: your God will un - der - take
 3. Be still, my soul: when dear - est friends de - part,
 4. Be still, my soul: the hour is has - t'ning on

bear pa - tient - ly the cross of grief or pain; leave to your
 to guide the fu - ture as he has the past. Your hope, your
 and all is dark - ened in the vale of tears, then shall you
 when we shall be for - ev - er with the Lord, when dis - ap -

God to or - der and pro - vide; in ev - 'ry change he
 con - fi - dence let noth - ing shake; all now mys - te - rious
 bet - ter know his love, his heart, who comes to soothe your
 point - ment, grief, and fear are gone, sor - row for - got, love's

faith - ful will re - main. Be still, my soul: your best, your heav'n - ly
 shall be bright at last. Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still
 sor - row and your fears. Be still, my soul: your Je - sus can re -
 pur - est joys re - stored. Be still, my soul: when change and tears are

Friend through thorn - y ways leads to a joy - ful 'end.
 know his voice who ruled them while he dwelt be - 'low.
 pay from his own full - ness all he takes a - way.
 past, all safe and bless - ed we shall meet at last.

To Him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before His glorious presence without fault and with great joy—to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forever more.

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

Postlude

~~ Organist: Jonathan Denham ~~
 ~~ Please ensure cell phones are off ~~

Prelude: Fanfare (Cooman)
 Offertory: Come Thou Fount (Wyeth/Koerts)
 Deacon's Offering: Every Promise (Getty/Townend)
 Postlude: All glory be to God on High (Telemann)

Save the Date!

Friday, January 17, 6:30-8:00 pm — Concert of Prayer

Sunday, February 9, 9:00-10:00 — Discussion of mission & vision statements during Adult Sunday School

Friday, February 21 & Saturday, February 22 — Introduction to FCCW Workshop

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 January/February:

1/5 Kristen Warren & Heidi Tucker	2/2 _____ & _____
1/12 Elaine Johnston & Jennifer Barnes	2/9 Robyn Huck & _____
1/19 Robyn Huck & _____	2/16 Keri Bristow & _____
1/26 Keri Bristow & _____	2/23 Keri Bristow & _____

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, **February 21**, from **6-9 pm** (includes dinner) and **Saturday** morning, **February 22**, 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

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.

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.

FCCW on Facebook

Are you following FCCW on Facebook? If you are, please be sure to like and share our posts! If not, you can find us at facebook.com/fccwoodstock and follow today!

January Prayer Letter

Our missionaries of the month are **Ben & Sarah Courtemanche**. Pick up a copy of the prayer letter (on the back table) and read about what God is doing through the Courtemanches' ministry with the **Navigators** on college campuses throughout the Northeast, as well as some specific ways you can pray for them and the students and staff they minister to.
