



The \_\_\_\_\_  
First Congregational Church  
\_\_\_\_\_ of Woodstock \_\_\_\_\_

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

*January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
Communion Sunday*

# *The Order of Morning Worship*

January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Ten-thirty

Welcome & Announcements

Elder Tom Johnston

Prelude & Silent Prayer

- |                                 |                       |              |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| ❖ Call to Worship               | Isaiah 6:1b-3         | Elder        |
| ❖ Hymn of Exultation            | <i>We Three Kings</i> | Congregation |
| Scriptural Call to Repentance   | Isaiah 30:15, 18      | Elder        |
| Prayer of Collective Confession | Psalm 51              | Congregation |

**Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your steadfast love; according to Your abundant mercy blot out our transgressions. Wash us thoroughly from our iniquity, and cleanse us from our sin! For we know our transgressions, and our sin is ever before us. Against You, You only, have we sinned and done what is evil in Your sight, so that You may be justified in Your words and blameless in Your judgment.**

Silent Reflection and Confession

Proclamation of Forgiveness

Hebrews 2:18

Elder

Pastoral Prayer

Elder

Offering

(collected from back to front)

Congregation

Affirmation of Faith

*The Apostles' Creed*

Congregation

Elder: Christian, what do you believe concerning God, the Father?

**Congregation: I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.**

Elder: What do you believe concerning Jesus?

**Congregation: I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and buried; He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand**



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## 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](mailto:fccwinfo@gmail.com).

Nursery Volunteer Schedule for January/February:

|                            |                           |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1/5 Kristen Warren & _____ | 2/2 _____ & _____         |
| 1/12 Tom Johnston & _____  | 2/9 Robyn Huck & _____    |
| 1/19 Robyn Huck & _____    | 2/16 Keri Bristow & _____ |
| 1/26 Keri Bristow & _____  | 2/23 Keri Bristow & _____ |

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## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:rbatwood1@gmail.com).

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## 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.

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## 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](https://facebook.com/fccwoodstock) and follow today!

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## **Mark's Gospel—Jesus' True Identity Reveals the Magnitude of His Sacrifice**

10:30 Morning Worship Service:

Mark 11:27-33

### **Who Is in Charge Here?!**

*Jesus Rules with Wisdom.*

**1. What Does It Mean that Jesus Is the Lord of His Temple?**

**2. Jesus Silenced the Sanhedrin.**

**3. We Need to Bow Before Our Sovereign Lord.**

Conclusion: We, as the human race, have been questioning and challenging God's authority from the beginning. Here the chief priests, scribes, and elders do so in a breath-taking way. But Jesus does not have to answer to them. Their only authority is derived and He is the One who gave it to them in the first place. Yet this passage is not just about *their* audacity, but is intended to help us to see our own impudence. How do we question God's authority? How do you tend to undercut His ability to hold you accountable?

## Second Chronicles 7:11-22

<sup>11</sup> Thus Solomon finished the house of the Lord and the king's house. All that Solomon had planned to do in the house of the Lord and in his own house he successfully accomplished. <sup>12</sup> Then the Lord appeared to Solomon in the night and said to him: "*I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for myself as a house of sacrifice.*" <sup>13</sup> When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command the locust to devour the land, or send pestilence among my people, <sup>14</sup> if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land. <sup>15</sup> Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayer that is made in this place. <sup>16</sup> *For now I have chosen and consecrated this house that my name may be there forever.* My eyes and my heart will be there for all time. <sup>17</sup> And as for you, if you will walk before me as David your father walked, doing according to all that I have commanded you and keeping my statutes and my rules, <sup>18</sup> then I will establish your royal throne, as I covenanted with David your father, saying, 'You shall not lack a man to rule Israel.'  
<sup>19</sup> "But if you turn aside and forsake my statutes and my commandments that I have set before you, and go and serve other gods and worship them, <sup>20</sup> then I will pluck you up from my land that I have given you, and *this house that I have consecrated for my name,* I will cast out of my sight, and I will make it a proverb and a byword among all peoples. <sup>21</sup> And at this house, which was exalted, everyone passing by will be astonished and say, 'Why has the Lord done thus to this land and to this house?' <sup>22</sup> Then they will say, 'Because they abandoned the Lord, the God of their fathers who brought them out of the land of Egypt, and laid hold on other gods and worshiped them and served them. Therefore he has brought all this disaster on them.'"

## Ephesians 1:15-23

<sup>15</sup> For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, <sup>16</sup> I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, <sup>17</sup> that *the God of our Lord Jesus Christ,* the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, <sup>18</sup> having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, <sup>19</sup> and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might <sup>20</sup> that he worked in **Christ** when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, <sup>21</sup> *far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.* <sup>22</sup> And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, <sup>23</sup> which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

## Colossians 2:9-10

For in Christ the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority.

# Taking Gathered Worship Home

Have you ever had your authority to do something questioned? Who do you think you are? You can't do that! Jesus comes to the temple that He had built for the praise of His everlasting name and the very people who He charged with its oversight don't do anything about His arrival at first. And then only after repeated trips, what they do is question His right to be there doing the things He is doing. How do you tend to question God's authority in your own life?

*Please use the devotional material below each day this week to praise Christ. Ask Jesus to teach us His ways that we may walk in them to accomplish His purposes.*

## Sunday Morning

**READ Mark 11:27-33; Second Chronicles 7:11-22; Psalm 81:1-16; Ephesians 1:15-23; Colossians 2:9-10; First Corinthians 6:1-8.** DISCUSS Why does the authority of Jesus matter? Where did His authority come from? Why would He not tell these religious leaders? How do we often question His authority? SERVE someone in need. MEDITATE on **James 4:7-10**. PRAY "Jesus, forgive us for our audacity. Teach us to not only recognize and submit to Your authority, but to love You as our Sovereign."

## Monday

**READ Mark 11:27-33; Second Chronicles 7:11-22; Psalm 81:1-16.** DISCUSS What does the dedication of Solomon's temple have to do with Jesus' exercising authority in Jerusalem? Why is Jesus' total authority good news? MEDITATE on **James 4:7-10**. PRAY, "Jesus, thank You for being sovereign over all things. Teach us to rejoice in Your authority."

## Tuesday

**READ Mark 11:27-33; Ephesians 1:15-23; Colossians 2:9-10; First Corinthians 6:1-8.** DISCUSS What does it mean for Jesus to be far above all rule and authority? How are you serving Him as such? SERVE by considering someone else's needs *above your own!* MEDITATE on **James 4:7-10**. PRAY, "Lord Jesus, You are Lord of all. Teach us what joyful submission to You in all things looks like."



### Wednesday

READ **Mark 11:27-33; Colossians 2:9-10; Psalm 81:1-16**. DISCUSS How are you failing to submit to Christ's authority today? How do you need to trust His promises to do so? By faith, bow before Him! MEDITATE on **James 4:7-10**. PRAY, "Lord, embolden us to believe Your promises. Teach us that we can trust You."

### Thursday

READ **Mark 11:27-33; First Corinthians 6:1-8; Psalm 81:1-16**. DISCUSS Paul teaches the Corinthians that Christ has given us some of His authority and that they were neglecting this. How can we do the same? SERVE by demonstrating God's tenderness! MEDITATE on **James 4:7-10**. PRAY, "Lord, please enable us to love one another and rather be defrauded than to hurt one another."

### Friday

READ **Mark 11:27-33; Second Chronicles 7:11-22; Psalm 81:1-16; Ephesians 1:15-23; Colossians 2:9-10; First Corinthians 6:1-8**. DISCUSS How has the Holy Spirit been guiding you *this week through these passages*? MEDITATE on **James 4:7-10**. PRAY that we at FCCW would *be delighted in Christ*.

### Saturday

PREPARE today for *gathered worship tomorrow*. READ **Mark 12:1-44**. Invite others to join you tomorrow for Sunday School at **9:00** and the **10:30** worship service. Ask the Lord to *make us more like Jesus*.

## Meditate on James 4:7-10

<sup>7</sup> Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. <sup>8</sup> Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. <sup>9</sup> Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. <sup>10</sup> Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.