



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
Church of Hamilton

Order of Service March 1, 2026

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Preparation: *O God, We Do Exalt Your Name*..... Choir

“The Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let the one who hears say, “Come!” Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life.”

- Revelation 22:17

* **Call to Worship:** Psalm 95:1-3 (ESV)

Leader: Oh come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

People: Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving.

Leader: Let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

Unison: For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

* **Hymn:** The God of Abraham Praise

* **Invocation**

* **Song of Response:** Amazing Love

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken
I'm accepted, You were condemned
And I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
Because You died and rose again (repeat)

You are my King
You are my King
Jesus, You are my King
You are my King

Refrain

*Amazing love, how can it be
That You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true
And it's my joy to honor You
In all I do, to honor You*

Refrain

Children's Message Cec Horn

Scripture Reading Luke 14:1-14

One Sabbath, when Jesus went to eat in the house of a prominent Pharisee, he was being carefully watched. There in front of him was a man suffering from abnormal swelling of his body. Jesus asked the Pharisees and experts in the law, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath or not?" But they remained silent. So taking hold of the man, he healed him and sent him on his way. Then he asked them, "If one of you has a child or an ox that falls into a well on the Sabbath day, will you not immediately pull it out?" And they had nothing to say.

When he noticed how the guests picked the places of honor at the table, he told them this parable: "When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honor, for a person more distinguished than you may have been invited. If so, the host who invited both of you will come and say to you, 'Give this person your seat.' Then, humiliated, you will have to take the least important place. But when you are invited, take the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he will say to you, 'Friend, move up to a better place.' Then you will be honored in the presence of all the other guests. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted." Then Jesus said to his host, "When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

Prayer For Our Church Family

Offertory: *Trisagion - Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal*..... Choir

* **Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise Him all creatures here below
Praise Him above ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost
Amen

Sermon: *"Following Jesus: Banquet Lessons"*..... Kevin Baird
Luke 14:1-24

- **Song of Praise:** We Will Feast
 - **Apostles' Creed**
- Prayer of Renewal**
- Celebrating the Lord's Supper**
- **Hymn:** On a Hill Far Away (only verse 4)
 - **Call to Prayer and Benediction**

Postlude

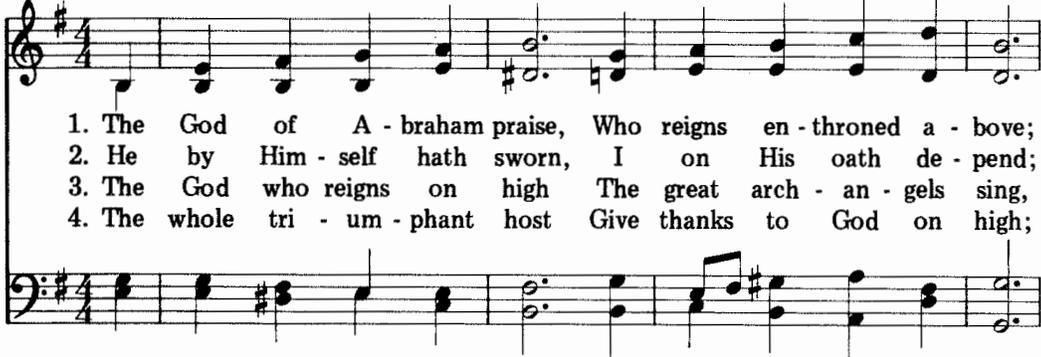
The God of Abraham Praise 36

And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM. Exo. 3:14

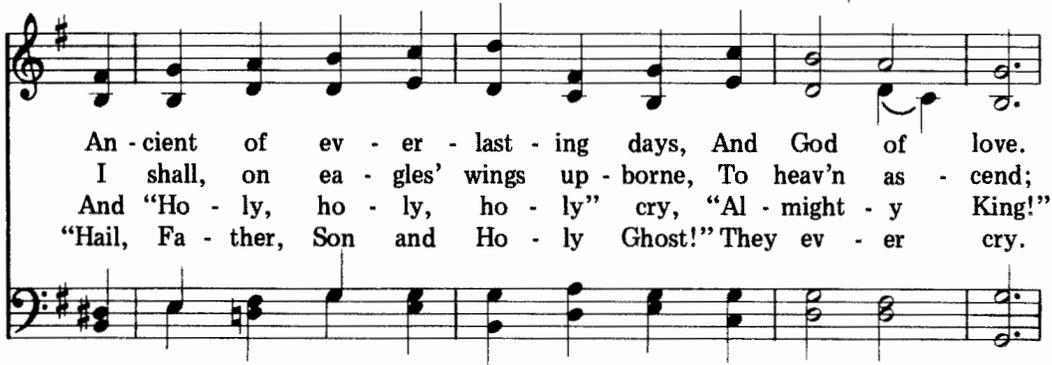
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Thomas Olivers, 1770
Based on Jewish *Doxology*

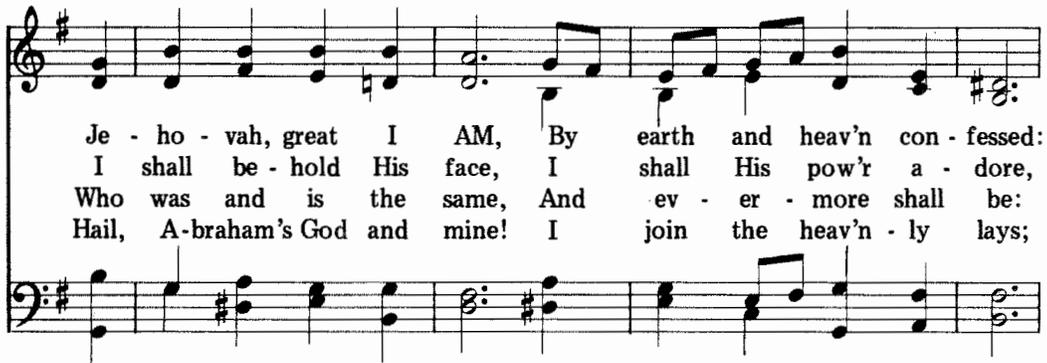
Synagogue melody
Arr. by Meyer Lyon, 1770



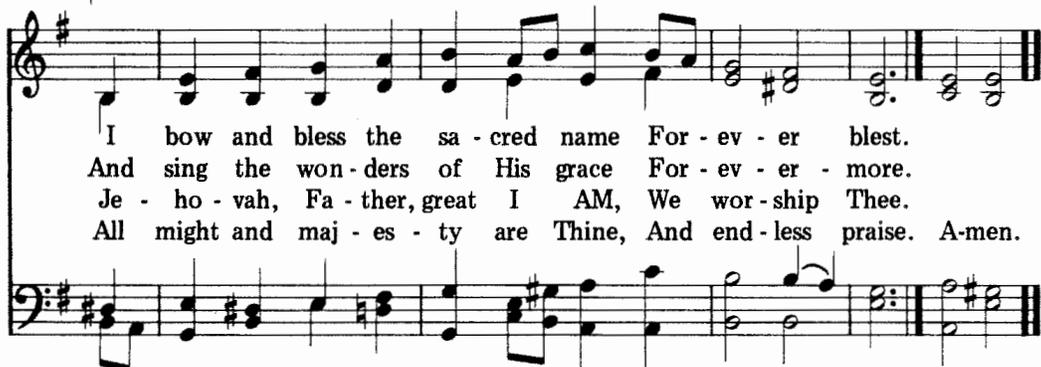
1. The God of A - braham praise, Who reigns en - throned a - bove;
2. He by Him - self hath sworn, I on His oath de - pend;
3. The God who reigns on high The great arch - an - gels sing,
4. The whole tri - um - phant host Give thanks to God on high;



An - cient of ev - er - last - ing days, And God of love.
I shall, on ea - gles' wings up - borne, To heav'n as - cend;
And "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly" cry, "Al - might - y King!"
"Hail, Fa - ther, Son and Ho - ly Ghost!" They ev - er cry.



Je - ho - vah, great I AM, By earth and heav'n con - fessed:
I shall be - hold His face, I shall His pow'r a - dore,
Who was and is the same, And ev - er - more shall be:
Hail, A - braham's God and mine! I join the heav'n - ly lays;



I bow and bless the sa - cred name For - ev - er blest.
And sing the won - ders of His grace For - ev - er - more.
Je - ho - vah, Fa - ther, great I AM, We wor - ship Thee.
All might and maj - es - ty are Thine, And end - less praise. A - men.

HIS ATTRIBUTES

We Will Feast In The House Of Zion

Words and Music by
Sandra McCracken and Joshua Moore

CHORUS

♩ = 71

F Dm7 B♭ F Dm C B♭ Gm C

We will feast in the house of Zi - on. We will sing with our hearts re - stored. He has

5 F Dm7 B♭ F Dm C B♭ C F

done great things, we will say to - geth - er. We will feast and weep no more.

VERSE

10 B♭ Dm B♭ C

We will not be burned by the fire; He is the Lord, our
In the dark of night, be - fore the dawn, my soul, be not a -
Ev - 'ry vow we've bro - ken and be - trayed, You are the faith - ful

14 Dm B♭ Dm B♭ C

God. We are not con - sumed by the flood; up - held, pro - tect - ed,
fraid. For the prom - ised morn - ing, oh, how long? Oh, God of Ja - cob,
one. And from the gar - den to the grave, bind us to - geth - er,

18 Dm C/E

gath - - - ered up.
be my strength.
bring sha - - lom.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth and in
Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord:
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary;
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried:
he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead:
he ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of
God the Father Almighty:
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost: the holy catholic * Church;
the communion of saints: the forgiveness of sins:
the resurrection of the body: and the life everlasting. Amen

*Here the word means universal, such as the universal bond of genuine believers across the world.

Sing only verse 4

On a Hill Far Away 236

Who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame . . . Heb. 12:2

OLD RUGGED CROSS Irreg. Ref.

George Bennard, 1913

George Bennard, 1913

1. On a hill far a - way stood an old rug - ged cross, The em - blem of
2. O that old rug - ged cross, so de - spised by the world, Has a won - drous at -
3. In the old rug - ged cross, stained with blood so di - vine, A won - drous
* 4. To the old rug - ged cross I will ev - er be true, Its shame and re -

suf - fering and shame; And I love that old cross where the dear - est and best
trac - tion for me; For the dear Lamb of God left His glo - ry a - bove
beau - ty I see; For 'twas on that old cross Je - sus suf - fered and died
* proach glad - ly bear; Then He'll call me some day to my home far a - way,

Refrain
For a world of lost sin - ners was slain.
To bear it to dark Cal - va - ry. So I'll cher - ish the old rug - ged
To par - don and sanc - ti - fy me. cross,
* Where His glo - ry for - ev - er I'll share. the

cross, Till my tro - phies at last I lay down; I will cling to the
old rug - ged cross,

old rug - ged cross, And ex - change it some day for a crown.
cross, the old rug - ged cross,

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THE WORK OF CHRIST



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
Church of Hamilton

ANNOUNCEMENTS

March 1, 2026

Our mission is to rejoice in God, grow in the gospel, and point people to Jesus.

Signup for events



DATES TO REMEMBER

- March 3 - Stephen Ministry Training, 6:45 pm
- March 6 - College-Age Group, 6:00 pm
- March 7 - Front Porch Stories, 7:00 pm
- March 8 - Blessing Milestone, 9:45 am
- March 13 - High School Broom Hockey, 8:00 pm
- March 16 - Pilgrim's Pint, 7:00 pm

NEW TO OUR CHURCH?

Welcome! We are glad you chose to join us this morning! If you have questions please ask an usher.

For families we provide children's church. During our 8:30 am service, our supervised Nursery is for infants through age 3, and our Little People's Church (LPC) program is for children age 4 through 1st grade. LPC meets following the Children's Message. During the 11:00 am service, the Nursery room is staffed as a combined space for infants and toddlers.

Sunday School for all ages at 9:45 am

- Infants, preschool and kindergarten age children gather in the Meetinghouse
- Elementary age children meet in the lower level of the Ministry Center
- Middle schoolers meet in the Ministry Center, Room 11
- High schoolers meet in the Barn
- Adult classes
 - *Becoming a Sanctuary* with Yuka Langlais and Lisa Clay, Meetinghouse Chapel
 - *So Great a Salvation* with Dr. Jack Davis, MC Room 21
 - *Loving God with Head, Heart, and Hands* with Dr. Kerilyn Harkaway-Krieger, MC Room 23/24

Download our app



Additional resources: We have the Deacons fund, prayer chain, helping hands ministry, meals ministry, pastoral counseling, and other resources to help. Contact us at info@fcchamilton.org.

Hearing-Assist Devices and Large-Print Bibles: We have hearing-assist devices that help reduce ambient noise when listening to the sermon in the sanctuary; we also have large-print bibles. Please see an usher for assistance.

PRAYER AFTER EACH WORSHIP SERVICE

Every week, an invitation is issued for prayer after the service. We recognize God's care for us and our need to depend on him. We welcome you to find counsel and prayer from our prayer team. Instead of having to locate the prayer room, you'll be able to pray with an elder, deacon, and pastor on the white bench at the front of the church, after the service. You can still choose to move to the prayer room.

NIGHT OF PRAYER

As we reflect this Lenten season on the work of Jesus that changed our lives, we are thankful for the gift of prayer. Join us for an evening of guided prayer as a church. We encourage children, youth, and adults to come together in the sanctuary on Wednesday, March 25 from 7:00 to 8:00 pm.

STEPHEN MINISTRY TRAINING IS HAPPENING!

Our Stephen Ministry training begins on Tuesday, March 3, at 6:45 pm and will continue every other Tuesday for 20 weeks. If you are interested in attending, there's time to register before our first class. Use the QR code above to sign up.

FRONT PORCH STORIES

Join us for Season 6, Episode 1 of Front Porch Stories! It's a night of live and true stories from people like you, on Saturday, March 7, at 7:00 pm in the Barn. Enjoy coffee, dessert, and stories from Cec Horn, John Mulvihill, and Lisa Steigerwalt. \$5 suggested donation at the door. Intended for adults and children 13+. RSVP using the QR code on the front page.

CLIMATE CHANGE ROUNDTABLE

Wednesday, March 18, 6:30 to 8:30 pm in Heritage Hall

The First Congregational Church of Hamilton (FCCH) and the American Scientific Affiliation (ASA) are co-sponsoring this roundtable discussion featuring Jessica Moerman, President/CEO of the Evangelical Environmental Network. The evening will include Jessica's presentation, *Climate Change: What God's Creation Is Telling Us and What We Can Do*, followed by a light dinner and facilitated table discussions on the topic. The event is open to the general public. Sign up using the QR code on the front page.

PILGRIM'S PINT PUB THEOLOGY NIGHT

Join us at Post Restaurant (16 Bay Rd.) for our next lecture on Monday, March 16 from 7:00 to 8:00pm. Dr. Karen Mason will discuss *A Theology of Life in the Face of Suicide*. Sign up using the QR code on the front page.

ELDER BOARD ADDITION

The Elders and Nominating Committee are pleased to announce the Jonathan Heppner has been appointed an Elder to replace Louis Brown, who stepped down after faithfully serving for four years. We praise God for raising up Jonathan to serve at this time, and ask you to continue to pray for all the leaders of our church as they seek to serve Christ in all things.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

- **Blessing Milestone:** Parents and caregivers of preschoolers ages 3 years–pre-kindergarten, are invited to the second Milestone in the Rites of Passage for Lifelong Faith, called "Blessing." Join us for a discussion on Sunday, March 8, from 9:45 to 10:45 am in the Meetinghouse 1st floor classroom. You will receive resources for prayer, Bible-reading, and blessings to encourage your child's heart at home. Use the QR code on the front page to sign up.
- **Family Board Game Night:** The Children's Ministry is hosting an evening of fun with board games and pizza on Saturday, March 21, from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. Families and individuals of all ages are welcome to this cross-generational evening of playing games! \$15/family suggested donation at the door. Please register using the QR code on the front page, so we know how many to expect for dinner.
- **Vacation Bible School** is back this summer, July 13–17, from 9:00 am to noon, for children from preschool through entering grade 5. Registration is now open! We're also looking for volunteers to help make VBS a great experience. Use the QR code on the front page to sign up.

YOUTH MINISTRY

- **High School Youth Group** meets Tuesdays from 7:00 to 8:45 pm.
 - **Broom Hockey:** It's that time of year when the high school students grab their brooms and get ready to rumble in a friendly game of BROOM HOCKEY! We'll take on Ipswich Presbyterian Church on Friday, March 13, from 8:00 pm to midnight. Use the QR code on the front page to sign up.
- **Middle School Youth Group** meets Wednesdays from 7:00 to 8:30 pm.

COLLEGE-AGE MINISTRY

Our College-Age Group has changed their meeting time to Friday evenings from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at the van Ruths' home in Hamilton. This season, we'll discover the compelling, beautiful, counter-cultural manner of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount. Use the QR code on the front page to access the college WhatsApp.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Our Young Adults Group meets on Mondays at 7:00 pm. To receive more information, contact Pastor Matt at mschuberth@fcchamilton.org.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

- **AV Team:** Want to help our church with technology? We're looking for volunteers to help with our Sunday Service sound and livestream. No experience needed—training provided! If interested, contact Jay Foss, Director of Sound and Technology, at av@fcchamilton.org.
- **Children's Ministry:** We need volunteers to staff our Nursery during the 11:00 am worship service. We also need one adult helper to work alongside the lead teacher during the Preschool Sunday School class. Contact Chrysa Bliati at cbliati@fcchamilton.org to help.
- **Easter Yarn Donation Drive:** Women in Transition is looking for yarn donations for inmates. These incarcerated women give to others through knitting and crocheting, but are running out of yarn. Please drop your leftover/new yarn in one of our bins by Sunday, March 29. Donation bins are in Fellowship Foyer and the Ministry Center hallway.

*If you would like to receive our weekly email, sign up at fcchamilton.org, or the church office, info@fcchamilton.org.
 If you signed up and are not receiving them, check your spam folder and add info@fcchamilton.org to your address book.
All submissions for the announcements must be received in the church office by Wednesdays at noon. Thank you!*

PLACE YOUR ORDER FOR EASTER FLOWERS!

Keeping with tradition, we are asking for your help to bring some Easter beauty to the Gordon College Chapel with Easter lilies, tulips, and daffodils. If you would like to purchase and lend flowers for the chapel on Easter Sunday, please indicate the type of flower, the quantity, and whether you would like to give your flowers in honor or memory of someone. Orders are due by Sunday, March 15. Remember to pick them up after the Easter Service on Sunday, April 5.

Name: _____

Phone/Email: _____

I wish to lend: Easter Lily (\$18 each) #___ Tulip (\$27 each) #___ Daffodil (\$26 each) #___

Given in honor/memory of (circle one): _____

Drop this form and a check (made out to First Congregational Church) in the offering plate or use the QR code to the right.

