



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
Church of Hamilton

Order of Service March 8, 2026

Prelude: *Jesus, Joy of Man's Desiring* | J.S. Bach

Welcome and Announcements

Preparation: *Beautiful Savior*

“He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.”
- 1 Peter 2:24

* **Call to Worship:** Psalm 100:1-5

Leader: Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.

People: Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

Leader: Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.

Unison: For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.

* **Hymn:** Crown Him With Many Crowns

* **Invocation**

* **Song of Response:** Agnus Dei

Alleluia, Alleluia

For the Lord God Almighty reigns

Alleluia, Alleluia

For the Lord God Almighty reigns

Alleluia

Holy, Holy

Are You Lord God, Almighty

Worthy is the Lamb, worthy is the Lamb

You are Holy, Holy

Are You Lord God, Almighty

Worthy is the Lamb, worthy is the Lamb

Amen

Children's Message Lisa Clay

Scripture Reading Luke 14:25-35 (ESV)

Now great crowds accompanied him, and he turned and said to them, "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.' Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.

"Salt is good, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is of no use either for the soil or for the manure pile. It is thrown away. He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

- **Song of Praise**His Mercy Is More

Pastoral Prayer

Offertory: *Ave Verum Corpus* | *W.A. Mozart*..... Trombones4Revolution

"Behold the True Body of Christ, given for our salvation"

* **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: The Cost of Discipleship"* Matt Schubert
Luke 14:25-35

- **Hymn:** Amazing Grace
- **Call to Prayer and Benediction**

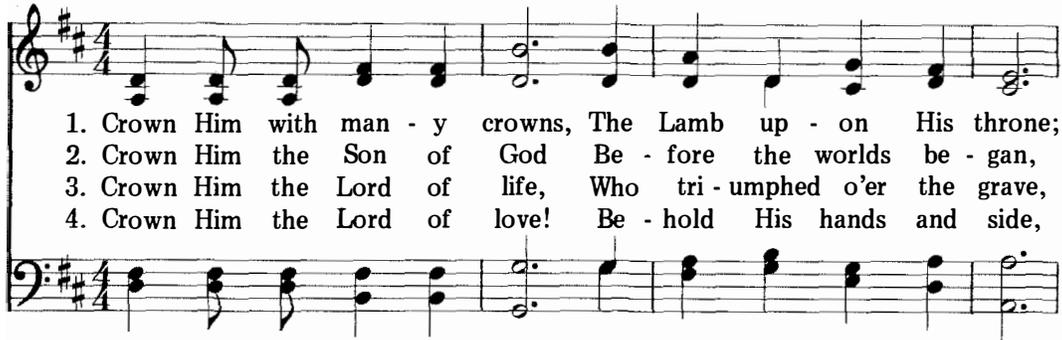
Postlude

85 Crown Him with Many Crowns

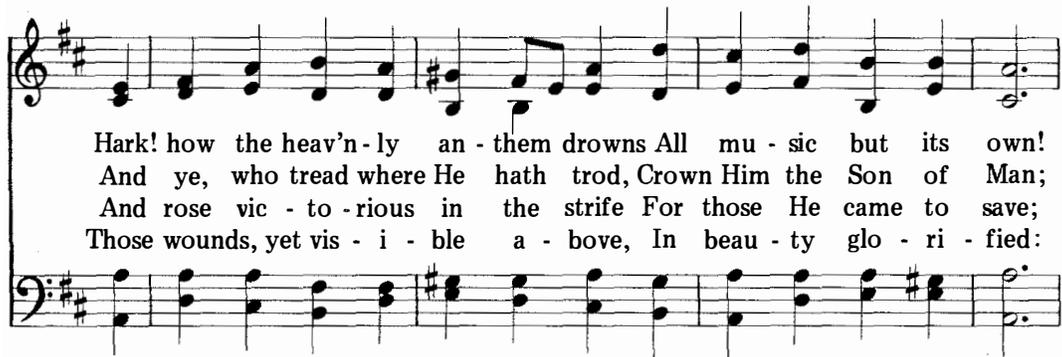
... And on His head were many crowns ... Rev. 19:12

Matthew Bridges, 1851, and
Godfrey Thring, 1874

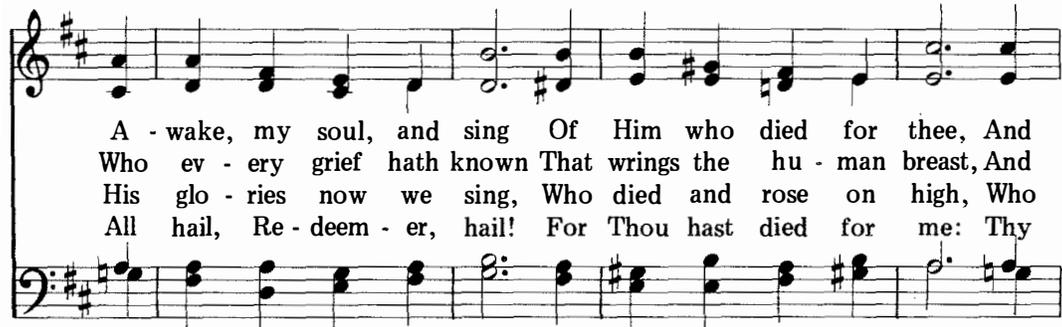
DIADEMATA S.M.D.
George J. Elvey, 1868



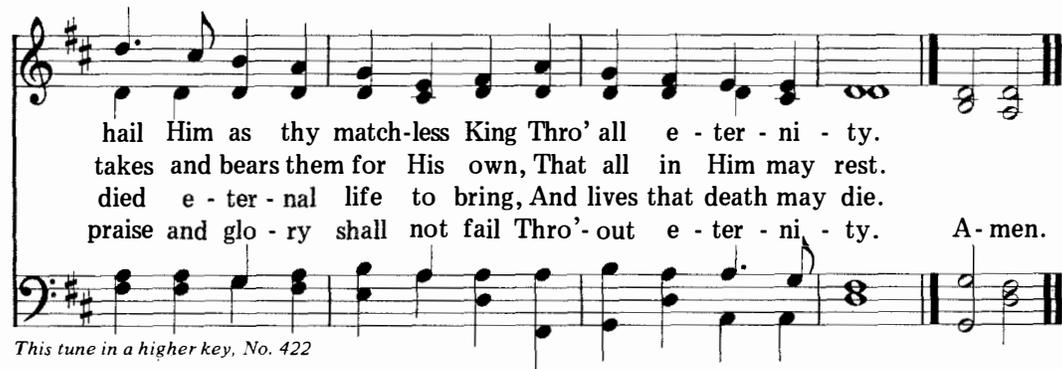
1. Crown Him with man - y crowns, The Lamb up - on His throne;
2. Crown Him the Son of God Be - fore the worlds be - gan,
3. Crown Him the Lord of life, Who tri - umphed o'er the grave,
4. Crown Him the Lord of love! Be - hold His hands and side,



Hark! how the heav'n - ly an - them drowns All mu - sic but its own!
And ye, who tread where He hath trod, Crown Him the Son of Man;
And rose vic - to - rious in the strife For those He came to save;
Those wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, In beau - ty glo - ri - fied:



A - wake, my soul, and sing Of Him who died for thee, And
Who ev - ery grief hath known That wrings the hu - man breast, And
His glo - ries now we sing, Who died and rose on high, Who
All hail, Re - deem - er, hail! For Thou hast died for me: Thy



hail Him as thy match-less King Thro' all e - ter - ni - ty.
takes and bears them for His own, That all in Him may rest.
died e - ter - nal life to bring, And lives that death may die.
praise and glo - ry shall not fail Thro'-out e - ter - ni - ty. A - men.

This tune in a higher key, No. 422

JESUS CHRIST

His Mercy Is More

by Matt Papa, Matt Boswell

*Praise the Lord, His mercy is more
Stronger than darkness, new every morn
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more*

What love could remember, no wrongs we have done
Omniscient all-knowing, He counts not their sum
Thrown into a sea, without bottom or shore
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more

What patience would wait as we constantly roam
What Father so tender is calling us home
He welcomes the weakest, the vilest, the poor
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more

*Praise the Lord, His mercy is more
Stronger than darkness, new every morn
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more*

What riches of kindness He lavished on us
His blood was the payment, His life was the cost
We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more

*Praise the Lord, His mercy is more
Stronger than darkness, new every morn
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more*

288 Amazing Grace! How Sweet the Sound

God is able to make all grace abound toward you . . . II Cor. 9:8

John Newton, 1779
St. 4, source unknown

AMAZING GRACE C.M.
Traditional American melody
Arr. by Edwin O. Excell, 1900

1. A - maz - ing grace! how sweet the sound That saved a wretch like me!
2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, And grace my fears re-lieved;
3. Through man - y dan - gers, toils and snares, I have al - read - y come;
4. When we've been there ten thou-sand years, Bright shin - ing as the sun,

The first system of musical notation consists of a treble and bass staff in 3/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass line is in the bass staff. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

I once was lost, but now am found, Was blind, but now I see.
How pre - cious did that grace ap - pear The hour I first be - lieved!
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, And grace will lead me home.
We've no less days to sing God's praise Than when we first be - gun.

The second system of musical notation continues the melody and bass line from the first system. It includes the same treble and bass staves and concludes with a double bar line. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
Church of Hamilton

ANNOUNCEMENTS

March 8, 2026

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

Signup for events



DATES TO REMEMBER

- Today - Blessing Milestone, 9:45 am
- March 13 - High School Broom Hockey, 8:00 pm
- March 16 - Pilgrim's Pint, 7:00 pm
- March 18 - Climate Change Event, 6:30 pm
- March 21 - Family Board Game Night, 5:00 pm

HOLY WEEK

- March 29 - Palm Sunday, 8:30 am & 11:00 am
- April 2 - Maundy Thursday, 7:00 pm
- April 3 - Good Friday, 1:00 pm
- April 5 - Easter Sunrise Service, 6:15 am
- April 5 - Easter Worship Service, 10:00 am

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.

NIGHT OF PRAYER

This Lenten season, as we reflect 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.

PILGRIM'S PINT PUB THEOLOGY NIGHT

The Moral Weight of Being: When Life Becomes a Burden Instead of a Gift

Dr. Karen Mason, Professor of Psychology, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary

At nearly 50,000 deaths annually, suicide is one of the leading causes of death for young people in America. Yet buried within the data is a quiet yet clear revelation: those who attend religious services regularly are significantly less likely to attempt or die by suicide. While suffering exists in many forms, Christian theology holds a firm conviction that pain is not without purpose, grief is not final, and life is worth the living. More than a positive thought during difficult times, this 'theology of suffering' is essential to persevering amidst suffering. And in a culture that is hesitant to speak in moral terms, perhaps a stance that values life despite despair could be a moral good for those in suicidal crises. Join us at Post Restaurant (16 Bay Road) on Monday, March 16, as Dr. Karen Mason shares her work on the nature of suicide and urges a cultural reorientation towards the understanding of suffering. Sign up using the QR code above.

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 Rev. Dr. Jessica Moerman, President and 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 above.

STEPHEN MINISTRY TRAINING

Our first Stephen Ministry training was postponed this past week due to weather. The class will now begin on Tuesday, March 17, at 6:45 pm. If you are interested in attending, there's time to register before our first class. Use the QR code above to sign up.

A CALL FOR POETRY

"Poetry is when an emotion has found its thought, and the thought has found words." - Robert Frost

Join us Saturday, April 11, at 7:00 pm in the Meetinghouse Chapel for an evening of sharing poems and the stories behind them. If you're a poet or have a favorite poem you'd like to share, please contact Bill Devitt, writetobilldevitt@gmail.com, or Pastor Kevin, kbaird@fcchamilton.org. We will have treats to eat, and all are welcome to come and hear the poems and stories of our poets and poetry readers.

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 today, 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 meets on Friday evenings from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at the van Ruths' home in Hamilton. Our next meeting is March 20. 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. For 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 needs 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.

