



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
Church of Hamilton

Order of Service March 29, 2026

Prelude:

Welcome and Announcements

*The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted,
“Hosanna to the Son of David!”
“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”
“Hosanna in the highest heaven!”
- 2 Corinthians 9:8*

* Call to Worship: Luke 19:37, 40

Leader: When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen:

People: If the people keep quiet, the very stones will cry out.

Leader: The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted:

Ned van Ruth: Hosanna to the Son of David!

Lydia Fraser: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

Emery Welch: Hosanna in the Highest!

Unison: Hosanna in the Highest!

* Hymn: Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

* Invocation

* Song of Response: Day by Day

Day by day and with each passing moment,
Strength I find, to meet my trials here;
Trusting in my Father's wise bestowment,
I've no cause for worry or for fear.
He Whose heart is kind beyond all measure
Gives unto each day what He deems best-
Lovingly, its part of pain and pleasure,
Mingling toil with peace and rest.

Every day, the Lord Himself is near me
With a special mercy for each hour;
All my cares He fain would bear, and cheer me,
He Whose Name is Counselor and Power;
The protection of His child and treasure
Is a charge that on Himself He laid;
"As thy days, thy strength shall be in measure,"
This the pledge to me He made.

Children's Message Craig Story

Scripture Reading (Insert) Psalm 118

• **Song of Worship** Worthy

Pastoral Prayer

Offertory: *Lift High the Palms* 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: *“Principles of Praise”* Dr. Jeffrey Arthurs
Psalm 118 (ESV)

• **Hymn:** All Glory, Laud and Honor

• **Call to Prayer and Benediction**

Postlude

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna 134

Hosanna; Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord. Mark 11:9

ELLACOMBE 7 6 7 6 D.

Gesangbuch, Wirttemberg, 1784

Jennette Threlfall, 1873

1. Ho - san - na, loud ho - san - na The lit - tle chil - dren sang;
2. From Ol - i - vet they fol - lowed Mid an ex - ult - ant crowd,
3. "Ho - san - na in the high - est!" That an - cient song we sing,

Through pil - lared court and tem - ple The love - ly an - them rang;
The vic - tor palm branch wav - ing, And chant - ing clear and loud;
For Christ is our Re - deem - er, The Lord of heav'n, our King;

To Je - sus, who had blessed them Close fold - ed to His breast,
The Lord of men and an - gels Rode on in low - ly state,
O may we ev - er praise Him With heart and life and voice,

The chil - dren sang their prais - es, The sim - plest and the best.
Nor scorned that lit - tle chil - dren Should on His bid - ding wait.
And in His bliss - ful pres - ence E - ter - nal - ly re - joice! A - men.

Scripture Reading

Psalm 118 (ESV)

Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!

Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever." Let the house of Aaron say, "His steadfast love endures forever." Let those who fear the Lord say, "His steadfast love endures forever."

Out of my distress I called on the Lord; the Lord answered me and set me free.

The Lord is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me? The Lord is on my side as my helper; I shall look in triumph on those who hate me.

It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in man. It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in princes.

All nations surrounded me; in the name of the Lord I cut them off! They surrounded me, surrounded me on every side; in the name of the Lord I cut them off! They surrounded me like bees; they went out like a fire among thorns; in the name of the Lord I cut them off! I was pushed hard, so that I was falling, but the Lord helped me.

The Lord is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation. Glad songs of salvation are in the tents of the righteous: "The right hand of the Lord does valiantly, the right hand of the Lord exalts, the right hand of the Lord does valiantly!"

I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the Lord. The Lord has disciplined me severely, but he has not given me over to death.

Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord. This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it. I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation. The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Save us, we pray, O Lord! O Lord, we pray, give us success!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! We bless you from the house of the Lord. The Lord is God, and he has made his light to shine upon us. Bind the festal sacrifice with cords, up to the horns of the altar!

You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God; I will extol you. Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!

Worthy

by Elevation Worship

It was my cross You bore
So I could live in the freedom You died for
And now my life is Yours
And I will sing of Your goodness forevermore

Refrain

*Worthy is Your name, Jesus
You deserve the praise
Worthy is Your name
Worthy is Your name, Jesus
You deserve the praise
Worthy is Your name*

And now my shame is gone
I stand amazed in Your love undeniable
Your grace goes on and on
And I will sing of Your goodness forevermore

Refrain

Be exalted now in the heavens
As Your glory fills this place
You alone deserve our praise
You're the name above all names (repeat)

Refrain

All Glory, Laud and Honor 131

Blessed is the King of Israel that cometh in the name of the Lord. John 12:13

Theodulph of Orleans, c. 800
Trans. by John M. Neale, 1854

ST. THEODULPH 7676 D.
Melchior Teschner, c. 1613

1. All glo - ry, laud and hon - or To Thee, Re - deem - er, King,
2. The com - pa - ny of an - gels Are prais - ing Thee on high,
3. To Thee, be - fore Thy pas - sion, They sang their hymns of praise;

To whom the lips of chil - dren Made sweet ho - san - nas ring:
And mor - tal men and all things Cre - at - ed make re - ply:
To Thee, now high ex - alt - ed, Our mel - o - dy we raise:

Thou art the King of Is - rael, Thou Da - vid's roy - al Son,
The peo - ple of the He - brews With palms be - fore Thee went:
Thou didst ac - cept their prais - es— Ac - cept the praise we bring,

Who in the Lord's name com - est, The King and bless - ed One!
Our praise and prayer and an - thems Be - fore Thee we pre - sent.
Who in all good de - light - est, Thou good and gra - cious King! A - men.

HIS TRIUMPHAL ENTRY



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
Church of Hamilton

ANNOUNCEMENTS

March 29, 2026

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

Signup for events



DATES TO REMEMBER

- March 31 - *The Chosen*, 7:00 pm
- April 2 - Maundy Thursday, 7:00 pm
- April 3 - Good Friday, 1:00 pm
- April 5 - Easter Sunrise Service, 6:15 am, GCTS parking lot
- April 5 - Easter Worship Service, 10:00 am, Gordon College Memorial Chapel
- April 11 - Family Movie Night, *Light of the World*, 5:00 pm
- April 11 - Poetry Night, 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
 - *Understanding 1st & 2nd Corinthians* with Dr. Eckhardt Schnabel, MC Room 22

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.

ROSE ON PULPIT

The rose on the pulpit this morning is to welcome Aseneth Castaneda and Daniel Scavongelli's daughter, born on March 14!

EASTER CHOIR INVITATION

Consider joining the Easter Choir this year. It is truly a blessing and a joy to lift our voices together in praise as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord. Required rehearsals are April 2, after the Maundy Thursday Service, and Saturday, April 4, at 9:00 am.

EASTER NURSERY

We have a wonderful opportunity to serve families in our church by volunteering in the nursery for children 1 – 3 years old during the Easter Sunday service at Gordon Chapel. Help us create space for parents of young children to fully participate in worship. We need three adults and four teenagers to serve as caregivers. Help is also needed on Saturday for setup and on Sunday for breakdown after the service. We also need a vehicle for transport. If you can help in any way, please contact Children's Ministry Director, Chrysa Bliati, at cbliati@fcchamilton.org.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

- **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. Today is the last day to drop your leftover/new yarn in one of our bins. Donation bins are in Fellowship Foyer and the Ministry Center hallway.
- **Diaper Drive:** LifeShare invites you to donate a package of diapers (size 1, 2, or 3) to our Diaper Drive to benefit the parents and babies of Your Options Medical. Our last day of collection is today. Drop donated diapers in the collection crib in the Meetinghouse hallway.
- **Snack Drive for Beverly Bootstraps:** Our 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders are preparing snack bags to distribute to local families in need through Beverly Bootstraps. We need granola bars, goldfish crackers, Annie's gummy fruit snacks, peanut butter crackers, trail mix, pretzels, and cheese crackers. Collection bins are in Fellowship Foyer and the Ministry Center hallway through Sunday, April 12.

WATCH THE CHOSEN WITH US!

You are invited to gather and watch the film series *The Chosen* on Tuesday evenings from 7:00 to 8:30 pm, at the home of Jack and Robin Davis (57 Lois Street, Hamilton). David Horn leads the discussion about this historical drama on the life of Jesus Christ as seen through the eyes of those who knew him. Contact Robin Davis with questions, redrobindavis@gmail.com.

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'll have treats to eat, and all are welcome to come and hear the poems and stories of our poets and poetry readers.

LIFE AFTER FIFTY (LAF) GETAWAY WEEKEND

Join the LAF group for a Spring Getaway Weekend, April 24 – 26, at the White Mountain Resort in North Conway, NH. It's an all-inclusive weekend with deluxe accommodations, meals, and activities! Dr. Sean McDonough is our guest speaker. Cost is \$390/person, double-occupancy or \$619/person, single-occupancy. For reservations, call 800-533-6301 and reference "LAF Club." Reservations should be booked by March 24. Contact John Clark with questions at 978-375-6329.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

- **Created New: An Easter Experience for Kids!** Children in kindergarten to grade 5 are encouraged to attend a special Children's Ministry experience today during the Sunday School hour. We will walk through the powerful story of redemption—from creation and the fall, to the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus—and discover what it means to live in a new identity as God's children. Meet in your Sunday School classroom to join the fun!
- **Family Movie Night:** Join the Children's Ministry for a fun night of pizza and a movie on Saturday, April 11, from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. Meet in Heritage Hall to see the movie "Light of the World." \$15 suggested donation per family. We encourage you to invite your friends to watch this exciting movie about the story of Jesus through the eyes of John, his youngest disciple.

YOUTH MINISTRY

There is no youth group this week. We encourage our students and their families to attend our Holy Week services. Youth group will resume on April 7 and 8.

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. 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.