



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL  
Church of Hamilton

## Order of Service April 26, 2026

### Prelude:

### Welcome and Announcements

*And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."*

*- Luke 19:9-10*

\* **Call to Worship:** Isaiah 51:3-5 ..... Priscilla Masterson

Leader: The LORD will surely comfort Zion and will look with compassion on all her ruins; he will make her deserts like Eden, her wastelands like the garden of the LORD.

**People: Joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the sound of singing.**

Leader: "Listen to me, my people; hear me, my nation: Instruction will go out from me; my justice will become a light to the nations.

**Unison: My righteousness draws near speedily, my salvation is on the way, and my arm will bring justice to the nations."**

\* **Hymn** All Creatures of Our God and King (verses 1, 3-5)

\* **Invocation** ..... Pastor Kevin Baird

\* **Song of Response:** ..... We Fall Down/You Are Awesome in This Place

We fall down	And we cry holy, holy, holy	You are awesome in this place
We lay our crowns	We cry holy, holy, holy	Mighty God
At the feet of Jesus	We cry holy, holy, holy	You are awesome in this place
The greatness of	Is the lamb	Abba Father
Mercy and love		You are worthy of all praise
At the feet of Jesus		To You our lives we raise
		You are awesome in this place
		Mighty God

**Children's Message** ..... Lauren Sager

**Scripture Reading:** Ezekiel 34:11-24 ..... Priscilla Masterson

“For this is what the Sovereign Lord says: I myself will search for my sheep and look after them. As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them, so will I look after my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on a day of clouds and darkness. I will bring them out from the nations and gather them from the countries, and I will bring them into their own land. I will pasture them on the mountains of Israel, in the ravines and in all the settlements in the land. I will tend them in a good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel will be their grazing land. There they will lie down in good grazing land, and there they will feed in a rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will tend my sheep and have them lie down, declares the Sovereign Lord. I will search for the lost and bring back the strays. I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak, but the sleek and the strong I will destroy. I will shepherd the flock with justice.

“As for you, my flock, this is what the Sovereign Lord says: I will judge between one sheep and another, and between rams and goats. Is it not enough for you to feed on the good pasture? Must you also trample the rest of your pasture with your feet? Is it not enough for you to drink clear water? Must you also muddy the rest with your feet? Must my flock feed on what you have trampled and drink what you have muddied with your feet?

“Therefore this is what the Sovereign Lord says to them: See, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you shove with flank and shoulder, butting all the weak sheep with your horns until you have driven them away, I will save my flock, and they will no longer be plundered. I will judge between one sheep and another. I will place over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he will tend them; he will tend them and be their shepherd. I the Lord will be their God, and my servant David will be prince among them. I the Lord have spoken.

- **Hymn:** Be Thou My Vision

**Pastoral Prayer** ..... Pastor Matt Schubert

**Musical Offering:** *Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling* ..... Yuka Langlais

\* **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:** “*Zacchaeus*” ..... Pastor Oli van Ruth  
Luke 19:1-10

- **Song of Worship** ..... Jesus, Strong and Kind
- **Call to Prayer and Benediction** ..... Pastor Oli van Ruth

**Postlude**

## **Warrant for the 2026 Mid-Year Congregational Meeting**

TO THE MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH OF HAMILTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Greetings:

A Special Business Meeting of the congregation will be held Monday, April 27, at 7:00 pm at First Congregational Church of Hamilton in Heritage Hall to consider the following Articles:

**Article 1:** To receive the recommendation of the Search Committee, as endorsed by the Board of Elders, to call Lisa Clay, a member of our Church, to serve as Director of Women's Ministry and take any action thereon.

**Article 2:** To receive the recommendation of the Board of Elders that the congregation affirm the calls of the current Executive Director (Cece Gough) and the Directors of the Children's Ministry (Chrysa Bliati) and the Music Ministry (Hana Lee) and take any action thereon.

The meeting will also include presentations by Lead Pastors Kevin Baird and Oli van Ruth, as well as by the Board of Elders and other standing committees.

Respectfully submitted,  
Walker Martin  
FCCH Clerk

# 59 All Creatures of Our God and King

All Thy works shall praise Thee, O Lord. Psa. 145:10

St. Francis of Assisi, 1225  
Trans. by William H. Draper, 1926

LASST UNS ERFREUEN L.M. Alleluias  
Geistliche Kirchengesäng, Cologne, 1623

1. All crea-tures of our God and King, Lift up your voice and with us sing  
2. Thou rush-ing wind that art so strong, Ye clouds that sail in heav'n a - long,  
3. Thou flow-ing wa-ter, pure and clear, Make mu-sic for thy Lord to hear,  
4. And all ye men of ten-der heart, For-giv-ing oth-ers, take your part,  
5. Let all things their Cre-a - tor bless, And wor-ship Him in hum-ble - ness,

Al-le - lu - ia, Al-le - lu - ia! Thou burn-ing sun with gold - en beam,  
O praise Him, Al-le - lu - ia! Thou ris - ing morn in praise re - joice,  
Al-le - lu - ia, Al-le - lu - ia! Thou fire so mas - ter - ful and bright,  
O sing ye, Al-le - lu - ia! Ye who long pain and sor - row bear,  
O praise Him, Al-le - lu - ia! Praise, praise the Fa - ther, praise the Son,

Thou sil - ver moon with soft - er gleam, O praise Him, O praise Him,  
Ye lights of eve - ning, find a voice, O praise Him, O praise Him,  
That giv - est man both warmth and light, O praise Him, O praise Him,  
Praise God and on Him cast your care, O praise Him, O praise Him,  
And praise the Spir - it, three in one, O praise Him, O praise Him,

Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! A - men.

This tune in a unison setting, No. 166

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GOD THE FATHER: HIS WORKS IN CREATION

# Be Thou My Vision 344

What things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Phil. 3:7

Irish hymn, c. 8th century  
Trans. by Mary E. Byrne, 1905  
Versified by Eleanor H. Hull, 1912

SLANE 10 10 10 10  
Traditional Irish melody  
Arr. by Donald P. Hustad, 1973

## Unison

1. Be Thou my Vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;  
2. Be Thou my Wis - dom, and Thou my true Word;  
3. Rich - es I heed not, nor man's emp - ty praise,  
4. High King of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art—  
I ev - er with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;  
Thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;  
May I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun!

Thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
Thou my great Fa - ther, I Thy true son;  
Thou and Thou on - ly, first in my heart,  
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

Wak - ing or sleep - ing, Thy pres - ence my light.  
Thou in me dwell - ing, and I with Thee one.  
High King of heav - en, my Treas - ure Thou art.  
Still be my Vi - sion, O Rul - er of all. A - men.

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HOPE AND ASPIRATION

## **Jesus, Strong and Kind**

by City Alight

Jesus said  
That if I thirst  
I should come to him  
No one else can satisfy  
I should come to him

Jesus said  
If I am weak  
I should come to him  
No one else can be my strength  
I should come to him

*Chorus*

*For the Lord is good and faithful  
He will keep us day and night  
We can always run to Jesus  
Jesus, strong and kind*

Jesus said  
That if I fear  
I should come to him  
No one else can be my shield  
I should come to him

*Chorus*

Jesus said if I am lost  
He will come to me  
And he showed me on that cross  
He will come to me

*Chorus*





FIRST CONGREGATIONAL  
Church of Hamilton

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

April 26, 2026

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

Signup for events



## DATES TO REMEMBER

- Today - Community Conversations, 9:45 am & 7:00 pm
- April 27 - Mid-Year Congregational Meeting, 7:00 pm
- April 30 - Community Conversations, 7:00 pm
- May 2 - Men's Breakfast, 8:00 am - registration closes today!
- May 3 - New Members Class, 9:45 am
- May 3 - Parenting Class for Word & Bridge Milestone, 9:45 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
  - *Understanding 1st & 2nd Corinthians* with Dr. Eckhardt Schnabel, MC Room 22

**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](mailto: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.

Download our app



## PRAYER CONNECTION GROUPS

Last year, we established several Prayer Connection groups and assigned all members and regular attenders of our church family to a group. Our Elders and Deacons serve as shepherds for the different groups and have been faithfully praying for them. If you haven't been contacted about being placed in a Prayer Connection group, please first check your junk or spam folder. If you don't see anything there, we'd love to include you—just contact the church office at [fcchamilton.org](mailto:fcchamilton.org) and let us know you'd like to be added to a Prayer Connection group.

## MID-YEAR CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Our Mid-Year Congregational Meeting is Monday, April 27, at 7:00 pm in Heritage Hall. We will discuss and vote on several items, including Lisa Clay's candidacy for Women's Ministry Director. We will also hear ministry updates from Pastor Kevin, Pastor Oli, and our boards and committees.

## COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

The elders are hosting Community Conversations as a follow-up to the church survey. We encourage you to come and share your thoughts and ideas as we enter a new and exciting season of ministry at FCCH. *You do not need to have submitted the survey to attend.* Choose a date that fits your schedule. We have intentionally scheduled two options during the Sunday School hour for those who might prefer a daytime meeting. Sign up using the QR code above.

## **NEW MEMBERS CLASS**

We invite you to join our New Members class, held in two sessions: Sunday, May 3, from 9:45 to 10:45 am, and Wednesday, May 6, from 6:30 to 8:30 pm in the Wigglesworth-Cutler House. Find out what it means to be a member of our FCCH community. Sign up using the QR code above or email [info@fcchamilton.org](mailto:info@fcchamilton.org).

## **DEVOTE YOURSELF TO THE PUBLIC READING OF SCRIPTURE**

Join us from 9:00 am to noon on Saturday, May 16, in the Meetinghouse Chapel for an engaging program on reading scripture in public. Dr. Jeff Arthurs will teach us how to prepare spiritually, mentally, and emotionally for public reading while sharing biblical insights and best practices. Sign up using the QR code above.

## **PILGRIM'S PINT**

Prove It: A History of Modern Skepticism & the World It Assumes

Throughout most of human history, people viewed the world through a frame of reference that was inherently transcendent and metaphysical. The heavens weren't ever that far off. However, today it is not uncommon to hear claims that science and reason will soon replace this frame of reference in the modern mind entirely. Could this be an inevitable outcome of scientific advancement? Or could it be that this naturalistic frame of reference actually shrinks what we can understand about the reality of our world? Or, better yet, perhaps modern skeptics have more in common with their religious forebears than one might think. Join us on Monday, May 11, as Rev. Chip Copp dives into the relatively recent phenomenon of modern skepticism and examines the scaffolding that supports it.

## **SPIRITUAL HERITAGE TOUR MAY RETURN**

Several people have asked if we might offer another Spiritual Heritage Tour, similar to the one held last fall. We are considering hosting this tour on Saturday, July 11, from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. The tour would begin at our church, visit several historic sites in Ipswich and Newburyport, and conclude at Pulpit Rock in Rowley. You may have seen the recent film *A Great Awakening*, which highlights the lives of George Whitefield and Benjamin Franklin. This tour would explore themes from that era, including George Whitefield's ministry, colonial congregational life, and Puritanism—with even a brief “visit” from Whitefield himself! At this point, we are simply gauging interest. If you would like to attend, please contact David Horn at [dhorn@gcts.edu](mailto:dhorn@gcts.edu) within the next two weeks.

## **GRIEFSHARE**

GriefShare meets on Mondays at 7:30 pm on Zoom. The group is still accepting members for this session. All who are grieving the loss of a loved one are welcome. The GriefShare group provides a safe, confidential, and Christ-centered place to share and to listen. For further information, please contact John Clark at (978) 375-6329. To register for the group, visit [GriefShare.org](http://GriefShare.org) and search for First Congregational Church of Hamilton.

## **WATCH THE CHOSEN WITH US!**

You're 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 of this historical drama about the life of Jesus Christ, as seen through the eyes of those who knew him. Contact Robin Davis with questions, [redrobindavis@gmail.com](mailto:redrobindavis@gmail.com).

## **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](mailto: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](mailto:cbliati@fcchamilton.org) to help.

## **CHILDREN'S MINISTRY**

- Parents of first- and fifth-grade children are invited to attend the Parenting Milestone class on Sunday, May 3, at 9:45 am in the café. Learn more about the upcoming *Word/Bridge* Milestone and workshop practical ways to help children engage with God's Word. You'll also be able to inscribe your child's Bible, which will be presented on Sunday, May 10.
  - **Word Milestone:** First-graders will receive a Bible on Sunday, May 10, during our 8:30 am service.
  - **Bridge Milestone:** Fifth-graders will receive a new, age-appropriate Bible on Sunday, May 10, during our 11:00 am service.
- **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 open! We're also looking for volunteers to help make VBS a great experience. Use the QR code on the front page to register a child or sign up to volunteer.

## **YOUTH MINISTRY**

- **High School Youth Group** meets Tuesdays from 7:00 to 8:45 pm.
- **Middle School Youth Group** meets Wednesdays from 7:00 to 8:30 pm.
  - Explore registration is open! Students entering grades 6, 7, and 8 are invited to join us as we explore the North Shore and our faith this July 13–17, from 9:00 am to noon. Register using the QR code on the front page.

## **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](mailto:mschuberth@fcchamilton.org).

*If you would like to receive our weekly email, sign up at [fcchamilton.org](http://fcchamilton.org) or email the church office at [info@fcchamilton.org](mailto:info@fcchamilton.org).*

*If you signed up and are not receiving it, check your spam folder and add [info@fcchamilton.org](mailto:info@fcchamilton.org) to your address book.*

*All submissions for the announcements must be received in the church office by Wednesday at noon. Thank you!*