



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
Church of Hamilton

Order of Service May 17, 2026

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

*“Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all share the one loaf.”
- 1 Corinthians 10:17*

* **Call to Worship:** Psalm 90:1-2, 16-17 Priscilla Masterson

Leader: Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations.

People: Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the whole world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

Leader: May your deeds be shown to your servants, your splendor to their children.

Unison: May the favor of the Lord our God rest on us; establish the work of our hands for us—yes, establish the work of our hands.

* **Hymn:** Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty

* **Invocation** Pastor Oli van Ruth

* **Song of Response:** What a Beautiful Name It Is

You were the Word at the beginning
One with God the Lord Most High
Your hidden glory in creation
Now revealed in You our Christ

*What a beautiful name it is
What a beautiful name it is
The name of Jesus Christ my King
What a beautiful name it is
Nothing compares to this
What a beautiful name it is
The name of Jesus*

You didn't want Heaven without us
So Jesus You brought Heaven down
My sin was great Your love was greater
What could separate us now?

*What a wonderful name it is
What a wonderful name it is
The name of Jesus Christ my King
What a wonderful name it is
Nothing compares to this
*What a wonderful name it is
The name of Jesus (*repeat)*

Children's Message Lisa Clay

Scripture Reading: Exodus 12:17-28 Priscilla Masterson

“Celebrate the Festival of Unleavened Bread, because it was on this very day that I brought your divisions out of Egypt. Celebrate this day as a lasting ordinance for the generations to come. In the first month you are to eat bread made without yeast, from the evening of the fourteenth day until the evening of the twenty-first day. For seven days no yeast is to be found in your houses. And anyone, whether foreigner or native-born, who eats anything with yeast in it must be cut off from the community of Israel. Eat nothing made with yeast. Wherever you live, you must eat unleavened bread.”

Then Moses summoned all the elders of Israel and said to them, “Go at once and select the animals for your families and slaughter the Passover lamb. Take a bunch of hyssop, dip it into the blood in the basin and put some of the blood on the top and on both sides of the doorframe. None of you shall go out of the door of your house until morning. When the Lord goes through the land to strike down the Egyptians, he will see the blood on the top and sides of the doorframe and will pass over that doorway, and he will not permit the destroyer to enter your houses and strike you down.

“Obey these instructions as a lasting ordinance for you and your descendants. When you enter the land that the Lord will give you as he promised, observe this ceremony. And when your children ask you, ‘What does this ceremony mean to you?’ then tell them, ‘It is the Passover sacrifice to the Lord, who passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt and spared our homes when he struck down the Egyptians.’” Then the people bowed down and worshiped. The Israelites did just what the Lord commanded Moses and Aaron.

* **Song of Worship** There is a Higher Throne

Pastoral Prayer Pastor Matt Schubert

Musical Offering: *No Condemnation* Elena Lazaridou

* **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: “*The Lord’s Great Desire*” Pastor Kevin Baird
Luke 22:7-23

• **Hymn:** Jesus! What a Friend for Sinners (verses 1,3 and 5)

• **Call to Prayer and Benediction** Pastor Kevin Baird

Postlude

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty 1

They rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God almighty. Rev. 4:8

NICAEA 11 12 12 10

John B. Dykes, 1861

Reginald Heber, 1826

1. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!
2. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! all the saints a - dore Thee,
3. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! though the dark - ness hide Thee,
4. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!

Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to Thee;
Cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;
Though the eye of sin - ful man Thy glo - ry may not see,
All Thy works shall praise Thy name, in earth, and sky, and sea;

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! mer - ci - ful and might - y!
Cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore Thee,
On - ly Thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side Thee,
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! mer - ci - ful and might - y!

God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!
Which wert and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.
Per - fect in pow'r, in love, and pu - ri - ty.
God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty! A-men.

There Is a Higher Throne

by Keith Getty and Kristyn Getty

There is a higher throne
Than all this world has known,
Where faithful ones from ev'ry tongue
Will one day come.

Before the Son we stand,
Made faultless through the Lamb;
Believing hearts find promised grace—
Salvation comes.

Refrain

*Hear heaven's voices sing;
Their thund'rous anthem rings
Through em'erald courts and sapphire skies.
Their praises rise.
All glory, wisdom, pow'r,
Strength, thanks, and honor are
To God our King, who reigns on high
Forevermore.*

And there we'll find our home,
Our life before the throne;
We'll honor Him in perfect song
Where we belong.

He'll wipe each tear-stained eye
As thirst and hunger die.
The Lamb becomes our Shepherd King;
We'll reign with Him

Refrain

Sing verses 1, 3 and 5

Jesus! What a Friend for Sinners 99

Behold . . . a friend of publicans and sinners! Luke 7:34

HYFRYDOL 8787D.

J. Wilbur Chapman, 1910

Rowland H. Prichard, c. 1830
Arr. by Robert Harkness, 1910

* 1. Je - sus! what a Friend for sin - ners! Je - sus! Lov - er of my soul;
2. Je - sus! what a Strength in weak - ness! Let me hide my - self in Him;
* 3. Je - sus! what a Help in sor - row! While the bil - lows o'er me roll,
4. Je - sus! what a Guide and Keep - er! While the tem - pest still is high,
* 5. Je - sus! I do now re - ceive Him, More than all in Him I find,

* Friends may fail me, foes as - sail me, He, my Sav - ior, makes me whole.
Tempt - ed, tried, and some - times fail - ing, He, my Strength, my vic - t'ry wins.
* E - ven when my heart is break - ing, He, my Com - fort, helps my soul.
Storms a - bout me, night o'er - takes me, He, my Pi - lot, hears my cry.
* He hath grant - ed me for - give - ness, I am His, and He is mine.

Refrain

Hal - le - lu - jah! what a Sav - ior! Hal - le - lu - jah! what a Friend!

Sav - ing, help - ing, keep - ing, lov - ing, He is with me to the end.

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HIS PRAISE

LUKAN REFLECTIONS

by Bill Devitt

I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer.

*Blood stained the doors of Jerusalem.
The Angel of Death passed over them.*

And holding up the bread He said to His disciples, "This is my body, which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me. Likewise He took the cup, saying, This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is shed for you."

*And we give thanks to the Father
For sending His Son,
The one eternally destined for the cross,
The one called Jesus
Who with His terrible but holy loss,
Became that precious redeemer,
The ransom for mankind –
Remembered to this day,
In the sacred gift of bread and wine.*

Behold, the hand of the betrayer is with me at the table. Woe to that man by whom he is betrayed.

*And what of Judas's kiss,
Heavy with the traitorous silver?
Or the cry of the lopped off ear,
When darkness had fully descended,
Upon the hill known as the Skull,
With Satan there to announce your life would soon be ended?*

"Who is greater, he who sits at the table, or he who serves? I am among you as one who serves. And Jesus took the towel, wrapped it around His waist, wet it, started washing the disciples' feet; Peter refused: "You shall never wash my feet." and entreated Jesus to let him wash His feet. With that Jesus replied, "Unless I wash your feet, you have no part with me."

*And what of a servant's heart. So rare.
Who among you would humble himself?
Who would even dare?*

continued on next page

Peter said to Jesus: Lord," I am ready to go with you both to prison and to death."And Jesus answered, "I tell you Peter, the rooster will not crow this day, until you deny that you know me three times.

Yes, that terrible number three.
The sound of crying in the darkness.
No, No. Woe is me.

Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.

Bone-bruised body hung limp upon a tree.
Hands, feet, nail-pierced all.
Parched lips mocked with bitter gall.
Blood stained brow adorned with crown of thorns;
For this were you born
My love-scorned Christ.

Father, into your hands I commit my spirit. Having said this He breathed His last.

Now the entire universe
Bears witness to your lifeless body;
Your truth, whole truth
And nothing but the truth,
Lying beneath the sequined night
More eloquent than words.

The Lord has risen indeed.

This is not the end. No.
For then spoke the Lamb.
I come because I am
The Son of God,
Who is all love,
And if I die I do it gladly;
For by my blood and body
Are you made worthy
Of a place with me in all eternity.



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
Church of Hamilton

ANNOUNCEMENTS

May 17, 2026

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

Signup for events



DATES TO REMEMBER

- Today - Appreciation Coffee for Nursery Volunteers, 9:45 am
- Today - Graduating Seniors Commissioning Milestone, 11:00 am
- May 29 - Women's Ministry Hot Potato Food & Fun, 6:30 pm
- May 30 - Front Porch Stories, 7:00 pm
- May 31 - Senior Dessert, 6:00 pm
- June 3 - 5th Grade Bridge Milestone, 6:30 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.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY HOT POTATO FOOD & FUN

The Women's Ministry is hosting a Hot Potato Food & Fun event on Friday, May 29, at 6:30 pm in the Ministry Center. Women of all ages are welcome to enjoy a build-your-own-baked-potato bar and some fun games. Fellowship with us and hear from our newly appointed Women's Ministry Director, Lisa Clay. Please RSVP, so we know how many potatoes to bake. Sign up using the QR code above.

FRONT PORCH STORIES

Join us for Season 6, Episode 2 of Front Porch Stories! It's a night of live and true stories from people like you, on Saturday, May 30, at 7:00 pm in the Barn. Enjoy coffee, dessert, and connecting with friends. \$5 suggested donation at the door. Intended for adults and children 13+. RSVP using the QR code above.

FCCH MARRIAGE MINISTRY PRESENTS: SUMMER DATE NIGHTS

Make this a summer to deepen and enliven your marriage! FCCH is hosting four date nights—July 6, July 20, August 3, and August 17, from 7:00 to 9:00 pm—for married couples to renew and strengthen their relationship. Enjoy a dessert from the Post, a film by Alpha Marriage, and a time to talk as a couple. The cost is \$80 per couple, childcare included. To learn more and sign up, use the QR code on the front page.

SUMMER WORSHIP AND CHURCH PICNIC

Beginning June 14, we'll move to one worship service at 10:00 am in Heritage Hall in the Ministry Center. Following the service on June 14, join us for our annual church picnic. Hamburgers, hot dogs, and drinks are provided. Families with last names A-L, please bring a salad or side to share; M-Z, a dessert to share.

FCCH SOFTBALL

The FCCH Softball Team's season has begun! All are welcome to attend the games on Monday nights to cheer our team on. The next game is Monday, May 18, at 6:30 pm at Burnham's Field in Gloucester.

SPIRITUAL HERITAGE TOUR IS BACK!

Dr. David Horn will be hosting a Spiritual Heritage tour on Saturday, July 11, from 9:00 am to 1:30 pm. Our journey will begin at our church, visit several historic sites in Ipswich and Newburyport, and conclude at Pulpit Rock in Rowley. Many of you may have seen the recent film, *A Great Awakening*, which highlights the lives of George Whitefield and Benjamin Franklin. The tour will explore themes from that era, including the Great Awakening, colonial congregational life, and Puritanism—with even a brief visit from George Whitefield himself! Sign up using the QR code on the front page.

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.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

- **The LifeShare group** at FCCH is sponsoring their annual Baby Bottle Fundraiser to benefit Your Options Medical! This ministry provides free life-affirming pregnancy confirmation services and ongoing help and support to women and couples facing an unplanned pregnancy. Take home a baby bottle or donation envelope from Fellowship Foyer to fill with coins, cash, or checks made out to YOUR OPTIONS MEDICAL. To donate online, use the QR code provided. Return your baby bottle by Father's Day, June 21.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

- **Appreciation Coffee for Nursery Volunteers** - If you worked in the nursery at all this year, please stop by the first-floor classroom in the Meetinghouse for a "thank you" treat at 9:45 am today!
- **5th Grade Bridge Milestone:** We are excited to invite our current fifth-grade students to celebrate their transition to Middle School Youth Group! Students and their parents are invited to attend Middle School Youth Group on Wednesday, June 3, at 6:30 pm. We'll have dinner together, and then the students will join youth group at 7:00 pm.
- **Vacation Bible School!** VBS will take place July 13–17, from 9:00 am to noon, for children from preschool through entering grade 5. Registration is open! We're 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.
 - Senior Dessert for graduating seniors and their parents is on Sunday, May 31, at 6:00 pm. The Ting Family will be hosting. Sign up using the QR code on the front page.
- **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.

If you would like to receive our weekly email, sign up at fcchamilton.org or email the church office at info@fcchamilton.org.

If you signed up and are not receiving it, 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 Wednesday at noon. Thank you!