



*Rejoicing in God
Growing in the Gospel
Pointing people to Jesus*

August 9, 2026

Welcome to First Congregational Church of Hamilton. For many years, people have gathered here to rejoice in the gift of life, hope, and comfort we have through Jesus Christ. We hope as you gather with us today, you will encounter his beauty, mercy, and wisdom for your life, no matter who you are or what you're going through.

New To Our Church?

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

For families, we have the Nursery and Little People's Church (LPC) during the 10:00 am worship service.

- **Nursery:** Check-in/ drop-off starts at 9:50 am in the Meetinghouse.
- **LPC:** Check in on arrival at the Ministry Center entrance. Following the Children's Message, children ages 4 to 7 will be escorted by adult leaders to the LPC room (Meetinghouse-lower level).
- **Moms' Alcove** in room 11 is available for nursing moms.
- **Sermon Notes** for children are available at the Welcome Desk.

First time here? Use the QR code on the back to let us know you visited.

For large-print Bibles, please see an usher.

If you need of prayer after the service, meet with an Elder and Deacon at the platform in the front.

Join us for iced tea, lemonade, and popsicles outside on the lawn after the service.

PREPARING OUR HEARTS

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Matt Schubert

Preparing Our Hearts

"Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us." - Romans 8:34 4

* Call to Worship: Psalm 121:1-4

Vicki Best

Leader: I lift up my eyes to the mountains—where does my help come from?

People: My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.

Leader: He will not let your foot slip—he who watches over you will not slumber;

Unison: Indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

COMING WITH PRAISE

* **Hymn:** To God Be the Glory

* **Invocation, Confession of Sin, and Assurance of Pardon**

Pastor Matt Schuberth

* **Song of Response:** I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

Children's Message

Cec Horn

Please accompany children forward for the message, then exit to the hallway where children (ages 4 to 7) will be escorted across the parking lot to Little People's Church.

DRAWING NEAR FOR PRAYER

Story of Grace

Alpha

Pastoral Prayer

Pastor Oli van Ruth

Musical Offering: *At Thy Feet I Fall*

Dr. David Rox

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

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 65:17-25

Vicki Best

Sermon: *"Sunken Gardens"*

Dr. Sean McDonough

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

* **Song of Worship:** Like a River Glorious

* **Call to Prayer and Benediction**

Pastor Oli van Ruth

Postlude

*Our Ministry Leaders will be available at the front for prayer after the service:
Vicki Best, Elder; Jean Ayles, Deacon*

40 To God Be the Glory

Give unto the Lord the glory due unto His name. Psal. 29:2

Fanny J. Crosby, 1875

TO GOD BE THE GLORY 11 11 11 11 Ref.

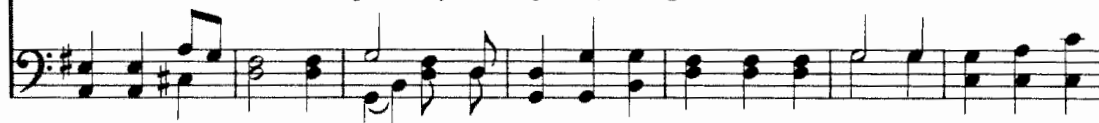
William H. Doane, 1875



1. To God be the glo - ry, great things He hath done, So loved He the world that He
2. O per-fect re - demp-tion, the pur-chase of blood, To ev - ery be - liev - er the
3. Great things He hath taught us, great things He hath done, And great our re-joic - ing thro'



gave us His Son, Who yield-ed His life an a - tone-ment for sin, And o-pened the
prom-ise of God; The vil - est of - fend - er who tru - ly be - lieves, That mo - ment from
Je - sus the Son; But pur - er, and high - er, and great - er will be Our won - der, our



Life-gate that all may go in.

Je - sus a par-don re-ceive. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the earth hear His
trans-port, when Je - sus we see.



voice! Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the peo - ple re-joice! O come to the



Fa - ther thro' Je - sus the Son, And give Him the glo - ry, great things He hath done.



I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

by Kathleen Thomerson

I want to walk as a child of the light.
I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world.
The star of my life is Jesus.

Chorus

*In Him there is no darkness at all;
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the Light of the City of God;
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.*

I want to see the brightness of God.
I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my
path,
And show me the way to the Father.

Chorus

Offertory

At Thy Feet I Fall

by Catherine Booth-Clibborn, 1888, co-founder of the Salvation Army

O Lamb of God, Thou wonderful Sin-Bearer;
Hard after thee my soul will follow on.
Like as a hart for streams in deserts dreary,
So pants my soul for Thee, for my Lord crucified.

Chorus

*At the feet I fall, yield Thee up my all,
To suffer, live or die for my Lord crucified.*

Descend the heavens, thou whom my soul adoreth,
O come just now, fill my poor longing breast.
For Thee, for Thee, I watch as for the morning,
Apart from thee I find neither joy, peace, nor rest.

Chorus

Come, Holy Ghost, thy mighty aid bestowing,
Destroy the works of sin, the self, the pride.
Burn, burn in me, my idols over throwing,
Prepare my heart for Thee, for my Lord crucified.

Chorus

Like a River Glorious 397

Then had Thy peace been as a river . . . Isa. 48:18

WYE VALLEY 6 5 6 5 D. Ref.

Frances R. Havergal, 1878

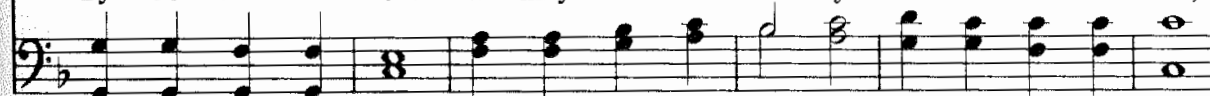
James Mountain, 1876



1. Like a riv - er glo - rious Is God's per - fect peace, O - ver all vic - to - rious
2. Hid - den in the hol - low Of His bless - ed hand, Nev - er foe can fol - low,
3. Ev - ery joy or tri - al Fall - eth from a - bove, Traced up - on our di - al

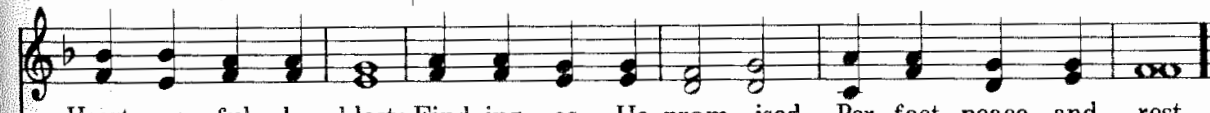


In its bright in - crease; Per - fect, yet it flow - eth Full - er ev - ery day,
Nev - er trai - tor stand; Not a surge of wor - ry, Not a shade of care,
By the Sun of Love. We may trust Him ful - ly All for us to do;

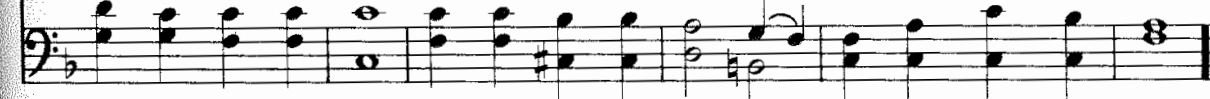


Refrain

Per - fect, yet it grow - eth Deep - er all the way.
Not a blast of hur - ry Touch the spir - it there. Stayed up - on Je - ho - vah,
They who trust Him whol - ly Find Him whol - ly true.



Hearts are ful - ly blest; Find - ing, as He prom - ised, Per - fect peace and rest.



SERMON TEXT & NOTES

Isaiah 65:17-25

17“See, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind. **18** But be glad and rejoice forever in what I will create, for I will create Jerusalem to be a delight and its people a joy. **19** I will rejoice over Jerusalem and take delight in my people; the sound of weeping and of crying will be heard in it no more.

20 “Never again will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not live out his years; the one who dies at a hundred will be thought a mere child; the one who fails to reach a hundred will be considered accursed. 21 They will build houses and dwell in them; they will plant vineyards and eat their fruit. 22 No longer will they build houses and others live in them, or plant and others eat. For as the days of a tree, so will be the days of my people; my chosen ones will long enjoy the work of their hands. 23 They will not labor in vain, nor will they bear children doomed to misfortune; for they will be a people blessed by the Lord, they and their descendants with them. 24 Before they call I will answer; while they are still speaking I will hear. 25 The wolf and the lamb will feed together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox, and dust will be the serpent’s food. They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain,” says the Lord.

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Announcements

- **Opportunities to Serve:** Volunteer in the nursery/LPC this summer, or for our year-round Meals and Rides ministries, campus monitors, or AV team. Use the QR code to sign up to serve.
- **Sunday Scribbles for Kids!** FCCH Children's Ministry highly recommends this interactive journal designed to help children actively listen during Sunday worship services. Use the QR code to find out more about purchasing your own *Sunday Scribbles*.
- **The Alpha Course Is Back!** Invite someone to join you on Monday, September 14, at 6:30 pm for dinner (free) and launch night. Week 1: "Is There More to Life Than This?" For invitations cards and volunteer sign-ups, see the table in the hallway or contact Diann Lloyd-Dennis at dldennismn@gmail.com.
- **Worship at Asbury Grove:** Join us at Asbury Grove (15 Lee Park, South Hamilton) on Sunday, August 16, at 4:00 pm to hear Pastor Oli preach during the outdoor vespers service.
- **Women's Bible Studies:** We will study the book of Romans, using the *N.T. Wright for Everyone Bible Study Guides*. SonLight begins on Tuesday, September 15, at 9:45 am, and NightLight begins on Thursday, September 17, at 7:00 pm. Sign up with the QR code, or in person after the worship service.

Signup for events



August Events | For details, scan the QR code above.

- 9 **Life After Fifty Pool Party** | 2:00 to 5:00 pm, John Clark's home in Ipswich
- 11 **High School Pool Party** | 6:30 to 8:30 pm, John Clark's home in Ipswich
- 12 **Middle School Pool Party** | 6:30 to 8:30 pm, TBD
- 16 **Vespers Service with Oli van Ruth** | 4:00 pm, Asbury Grove, under the pines
- 22 **Summer Something Brunch** | 9:30 to 11:00 am, Ministry Center Café
- 23 **Night of Prayer and Worship** | 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm, Meetinghouse Sanctuary
- 30 **Youth Worship Night** | 5:00 to 7:00 pm, First Congregational Church of Boxford

Kevin Baird, *Lead Pastor of Care & Outreach*
Oliver van Ruth, *Lead Pastor of Preaching & Teaching*
Matthew Schuberth, *Pastor of Youth & Young Adults*
Chrysa Bliati, *Children's Ministry Director*
Lisa Clay, *Women's Ministry Director*
Cece Gough, *Executive Director*

Hana Lee, *Music Director*
Jay Foss, *Audio-Visual Manager*
Jill VanderWoude, *Administrative Assistant*
Phil Best, *Facilities Manager*
The People of God, *Ministers to the World*

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