



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

September 20, 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 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 ages 4 through grade 1. 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.

Sermon Notes for children are available at the Welcome Desk.

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.
- Adults (see insert)

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 prayer after the service, an Elder and Deacon is available to pray with you at the front.

Join us for coffee and tea after both services in Fellowship Foyer.

Church parking lot is reserved for visitors, individuals with mobility needs, and families with young children.

PREPARING OUR HEARTS

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Matt Schubert

Preparing Our Hearts

"But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells." - 2 Peter 3:13

* **Call to Worship:** Isaiah 61:10-11

Cece Gough (8:30), Vicki Best (11:00)

Leader: I delight greatly in the Lord; my soul rejoices in my God.

People: **For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness,**

Leader: as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow,

Unison: ***so the Sovereign Lord will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations. superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.***

COMING WITH PRAISE

* **Hymn:** To God of Abraham Praise

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

Pastor Matt Schuberth

* **Song of Response:** We Will Feast in the House of Zion

Children's Message

Lauren Sager

Please accompany children forward for the message, then take the elevator to the lower-level classroom to check into Little People's Church (ages 4 to grade 1).

DRAWING NEAR FOR PRAYER

Pastoral Prayer

Pastor Kevin Baird

Musical Offering: *Abiding City*

Greta Baird

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: Revelation 19:1-10

Cece Gough (8:30), Vicki Best (11:00)

Sermon: *"Rejoicing in God: The End in Sight"*

Pastor Oli van Ruth

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

* **Song of Worship:** On Jordan's Stormy Banks I Stand

* **Call to Prayer and Benediction**

Pastor Oli van Ruth

Postlude

Our Ministry Leaders will be available at the front for prayer after the service:

Cece Gough (8:30); Vicki Best (11:00), Elder

Kathie Sweeney (8:30) and Ted Cornell (11:00), Deacons

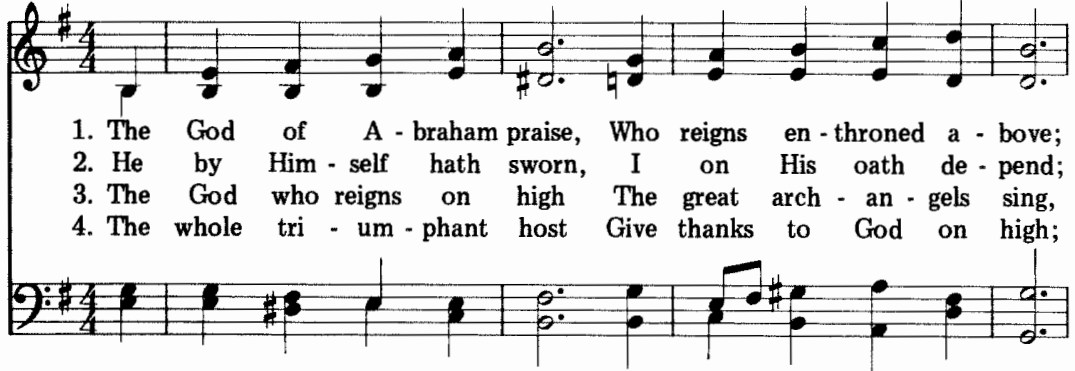
The God of Abraham Praise 36

And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM. Exo. 3:14

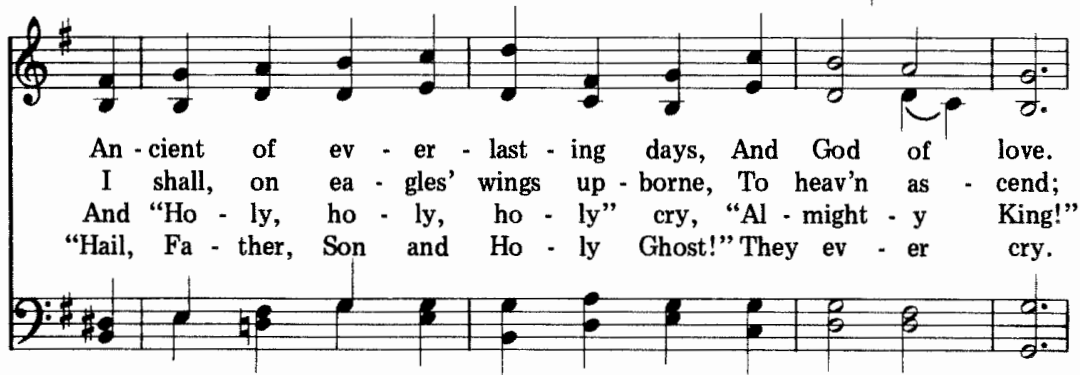
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Thomas Olivers, 1770
Based on Jewish *Doxology*

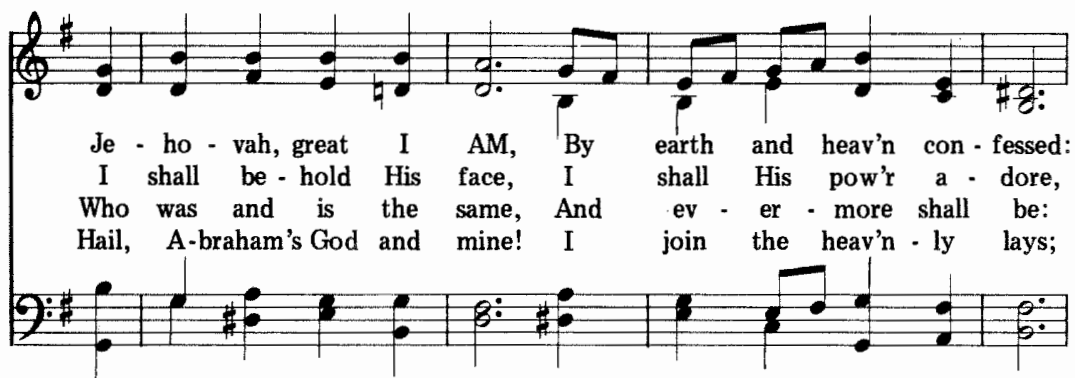
Synagogue melody
Arr. by Meyer Lyon, 1770



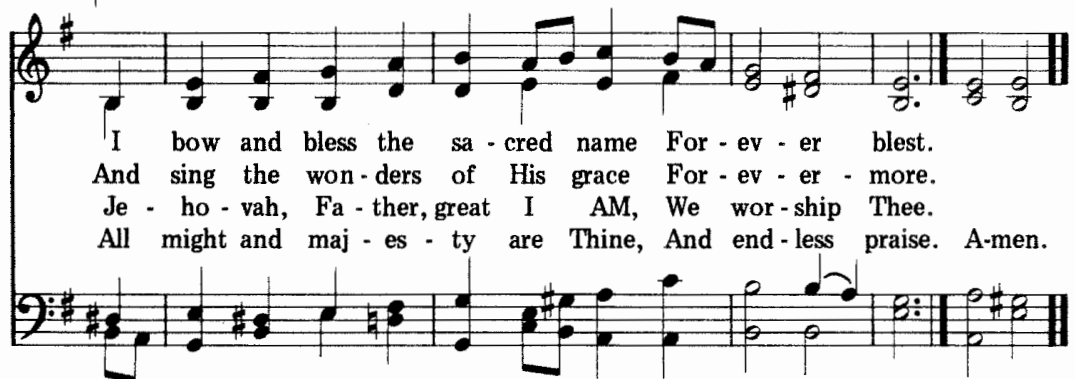
1. The God of A - braham praise, Who reigns en - throned a - bove;
2. He by Him - self hath sworn, I on His oath de - pend;
3. The God who reigns on high The great arch - an - gels sing,
4. The whole tri - um - phant host Give thanks to God on high;



An - cient of ev - er - last - ing days, And God of love.
I shall, on ea - gles' wings up - borne, To heav'n as - cend;
And "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly" cry, "Al - might - y King!"
"Hail, Fa - ther, Son and Ho - ly Ghost!" They ev - er cry.



Je - ho - vah, great I AM, By earth and heav'n con - fessed:
I shall be - hold His face, I shall His pow'r a - dore,
Who was and is the same, And ev - er - more shall be:
Hail, A - braham's God and mine! I join the heav'n - ly lays;



I bow and bless the sa - cred name For - ev - er blest.
And sing the won - ders of His grace For - ev - er - more.
Je - ho - vah, Fa - ther, great I AM, We wor - ship Thee.
All might and maj - es - ty are Thine, And end - less praise. A - men.

HIS ATTRIBUTES

We Will Feast in the House of Zion

by Sandra McCracken, Joshua Moore

Chorus

We will feast in the house of Zion

We will sing with our hearts restored

He has done great things, we will say together

We will feast and weep no more

We will not be burned by the fire

He is the Lord, our God

We are not consumed by the flood

Upheld, protected, gathered up

Chorus

Offertory

Abiding City

by Sandra McCracken

Oh, sweet home of love and peace

Where there pilgrims tired and troubled rest

Into the hope of Zion lean

Where in Jesus' arms, we will fall at last

Addiction's empty promises

This broken world just can't satisfy

A sweeter song, redemption's bliss

Is sealed for us in paradise

Chorus

And oh, lift up your heads

For the day is near

And we have no abiding city here

Spirit, heal our neighborhood

Until Your kingdom work is done

Oh, teach us what is just and good

As we look for the city that is yet to come

Chorus

A city filled with gold and light

God, the builder and the architect

And when our faith has turned to sight

Oh, I cannot imagine it

Chorus

On Jordan's Stormy Banks

by Christopher Miner, Samuel Stennett

On Jordan's stormy banks I stand,
and cast a wishful eye
to Canaan's fair and happy land,
where my possessions lie.

O'er all those wide extended plains
shines one eternal day;
there God the Son forever reigns,
and scatters night away.

Chorus:

*I am bound, (I am bound) I am bound (I am bound),
I am bound for the promised land;
I am bound, (I am bound) I am bound (I am bound),
I am bound for the promised land.*

No chilling winds or poisonous breath
can reach that healthful shore;
sickness, sorrow, pain and death,
are felt and feared no more.

Chorus

When shall I reach that happy place,
I'll be forever blest?
When shall I see my Father's face,
and in his bosom rest?

Chorus

Revelation 19:1-10

3 And again they shouted: "Hallelujah! The smoke from her goes up for ever and ever." **4** The twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God, who was seated on the throne. And they cried: "Amen, Hallelujah!"

6 Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: "Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. 7 Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. 8 Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear." (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of God's holy people.)

10 At this I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "Don't do that! I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers and sisters who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For it is the Spirit of prophecy who bears testimony to Jesus."

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

Signup for events



- **Men's Breakfast:** Join us on Saturday, September 26, from 8:00 to 10:00 am in Heritage Hall for breakfast and a talk from Pastor Oli van Ruth. Together, we will explore Mark 10:32-45 and consider the question, "What do you want from Jesus?" Sign up by Sept. 21 using the QR code.
- **Family Apple Picking:** Families are invited to meet us at Russell Orchards in Ipswich on Saturday, September 26, from 10:00 am to noon for apple picking. Sign up using the QR code.
- **College Age Group:** Join us Friday nights, from 5:30 to 8:30 pm for a home-cooked meal, connection, community, and conversations about faith and following Jesus! We'll meet at various homes. Scan the QR code to learn more.
- **High School Youth Group:** This fall, high school students will do a deep dive into the practical and spiritual wisdom in the book of James. Join us Tuesday nights at 7:00 pm for games, worship, a lesson, and Bible study! Our first meeting is Tuesday, September 22.
- **Middle School Youth Group:** Students in grades 6 - 8 are welcome to join us Wednesday nights at 7:00 pm for games, worship, a lesson, and Bible study! This year, we'll read the Gospel of Matthew. Our first meeting is Wednesday, September 23.
- **Women's Ministry Fall, Flannel, Fires, & Fellowship:** Ladies of all ages are invited to an evening of fellowship on Friday, October 2, 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Enjoy a quintessential New England fall evening of s'mores, cider, and being together. Sign up using the QR code.

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

- 22 **High School Youth Group Begins** | 7:00 pm, Ministry Center & Barn
- 23 **Middle School Youth Group Begins** | 7:00 pm, Ministry Center & Barn
- 26 **Men's Breakfast** | 8:00 to 10:00 am, Ministry Center, Heritage Hall
- 26 **Family Apple Picking Event** | 10:00 am to noon, Russell Orchards, Ipswich

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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fcchamilton.org



Scan to let us
know you
visited!

Fall Sunday School - 9:45 am

Children's Sunday School

Nursery (Infant - 18 months)

Church Building, Infant Room

Toddler (19 months - Age 3):

Through brief lessons and multi-sensory learning, our babies and toddlers experience Jesus' love and all that He provides for us.

Teachers: Karen Guay, Bonnie Mower

Church Building, Toddler Room

Preschool/Kindergarten:

Early childhood lessons will journey chronologically through the Bible, discovering friendship with Jesus throughout God's story. The class will be using the *Simply Loved* curriculum by Group.

Teacher: Elizabeth Bellucci

Church Building Lower Level, LPC

Grades 1 - 5:

All of our elementary classes will use *The Biggest Story* curriculum by Crossway. Through this curriculum, our children will be led on an exciting journey through the Bible, discovering how the whole story points to Jesus. This year, we will continue our journey through the Old Testament, focusing on the books of History, Poetry, and the Prophets.

Grades 1 & 2 Teachers: Beth Burrridge, Keith Welch

Ministry Center Room L4

Grades 3, 4, & 5 Teachers: Debbie Bateman, Krisie Brown, Alice Fraser

Youth Sunday School

Middle School Sunday School (Grades 6 - 8) This year, Middle School Sunday School will conduct a biblical survey of the Old Testament using the framework of *CASKET*, developed by Dr. Carol Kaminski, to see how the Old Testament is crucial to knowing who God is and His plan of salvation.

Teachers: Cece Gough, Mike Whalen, James Wong

Ministry Center Room 11

Middle School Youth Group (Grades 6 - 8) This year, we will read the Gospel of Matthew, as we explore the life of Jesus and His teachings. Matthew is especially useful for understanding how the life of Christ was the fulfillment of the Old Testament, a concept that students will study in Middle School Sunday School. Through studying this Gospel, students will encounter Jesus as promised Messiah and Savior. Join us on Wednesday nights for a time of games, worship, lesson, and Bible study!

Begins Wednesday, September 23, 7:00 to 8:30 pm

Heritage Hall/The Barn

High School Sunday School (Grades 9 - 12) This year, High School Sunday School will explore the topic of "Community." When God saves someone from their rebellion, they are saved into a community. God gives us instructions on how to thrive as a family of faith all across Scripture. The Bible also makes it clear that the way we live as a Christian community is vital to our gospel witness. Let's grow as a Christ-centered community together!

Teachers: Jean Chan, Rich Schonewald, Matt Schuberth

The Barn

Youth, continued

High School Youth Group (Grades 9 - 12) Have you ever wondered: "Is there a guide to help me live my Christian life?" This fall, the High School Youth Group will do a deep dive into the practical and spiritual wisdom in the book of James. Join us on Tuesday nights for a time of games, worship, lesson, and Bible study!

Begins Tuesday, September 22, 7:00 to 8:45 pm

Heritage Hall/The Barn

Adult Sunday School Classes begin today

Economics and the Bible – The Bible was written to address real-world issues, and that includes economics (the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services). In class, we will see how an understanding of economics is critical for a fully-formed Christian perspective on life.

Dr. Sean McDonough, Dr. Glenn Butner, Dr. Robert Gough, Jr. Chapel

The Church, The Spirit, and Union with Christ – In New Testament teachings on the church, Jesus and the Holy Spirit were personally and actively present, and consciously experienced. How can we continue to experience this supernatural presence, power, and love today? The historical context of FCCCH's congregational form of government and experiences of revival during the Great Awakening will be noted, as well as today's context of social media, phones, and AI.

Dr. Jack Davis

Ministry Center Room 22

Forgiveness – In the class, we will analyze the theme of forgiveness in Scripture, looking at the most important of the some five-hundred passages in Scripture from Genesis to Revelation that speak of God's forgiveness, the forgiveness granted by Jesus, and of interpersonal forgiveness.

Dr. Eckhard Schnabel

Ministry Center Room 21

Exploring Your Marriage – "*It was the best of times, it was the worst of times.*" Charles Dickens describes well the delights but also the difficulties we find in the amazing God-ordained relationship we call 'marriage.' This fall, eight couples in the church will facilitate a conversation on the ways we can best nurture godly marriages in our church. Topics will range from the various stages in marriage and ways to better communicate and resolve conflict to home finances. And where do hospitality and service fit in? Plan on a class filled with transparency and authenticity.

Priscilla Masterson, NP; Pastor Kevin Baird, Dr. David Horn and more! Ministry Center, Room 23/24