



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
Church of Hamilton

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

OCTOBER 4, 2026

PREPARING OUR HEARTS

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Matt Schuberth

Preparing Our Hearts

"We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life." - Romans 6:4

* Call to Worship: Psalm 8:1-4, 9

Pastor Matt Schuberth

Leader: Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory in the heavens.

People: Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold against your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger.

Leader: When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,

People: what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?

Unison: Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

COMING WITH PRAISE

* Hymn #19: Ye Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim

1. Ye serv - ants of God, your Mas - ter pro - claim, And pub - lish a -
2. God rul - eth on high, al - might - y to save; And still He is
3. Sal - va - tion to God who sits on the throne, Let all cry a -
4. Then let us a - dore and give Him His right, All glo - ry and

broad His won - der - ful name; The name all vic - to - rious of
nigh - His pres - ence we have; The great con - gre - ga - tion His
loud, and hon - or the Son; The prais - es of Je - sus the
pow'r, all wis - dom and might; All hon - or and bless - ing, with

Je - sus ex - tol; His king - dom is glo - rious, He rules o - ver all.
tri - umph shall sing, As - crib - ing sal - va - tion to Je - sus our King.
an - gels pro - claim, Fall down on their fac - es and wor - ship the Lamb.
an - gels a - bove, And thanks nev - er ceas - ing, and in - fi - nite love. A - men.

* Invocation

Pastor Oli van Ruth

* Song of Response: I Love you Lord

I love you, Lord
And I lift my voice
To worship you, O my soul rejoice.
Take joy, my King
In what you hear;
May it be a sweet, sweet sound in your ear. (repeat)

Children's Message

Lisa Clay

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

Scripture Reading: 1Peter 1:3-9

Dr. Sean McDonough (8:30), Cece Gough (11:00)

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Prayer for Our Church Family

Dr. Sean McDonough (8:30), Cece Gough (11:00)

Offertory: *The Old Rugged Cross*

Worship Band

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,
The emblem of suffering and shame;
And I love that old cross where the dearest and best,
For a world of lost sinners was slain.

Chorus:

*So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
Till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
And exchange it some day for a crown.
And exchange it some day for a crown.*

O that old rugged cross, so despised by the world,
Has a wondrous attraction for me;
For the dear Lamb of God left His glory above,
To bear it to dark Calvary. *Chorus*

In that old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine,
A wonderful beauty I see,
For 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died,
To pardon and sanctify me. *Chorus*

To the old rugged cross I will ever be true;
Its shame and reproach gladly bear;
Then He'll call me some day to my home far away,
Where His glory forever I'll share. *Chorus*

* **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

Sermon: "Growing in the Gospel: In All Things"

Pastor Kevin Baird

1 Peter 4:7-11

* **Hymn #366:** My Faith Looks Up to Thee

1. My faith looks up to Thee, Thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,
2. May Thy rich grace im - part Strength to my faint - ing heart,
3. While life's dark maze I tread, And griefs a - round me spread,
4. When ends life's tran - sient dream, When death's cold, sul - len stream

Sav - ior di - vine! Now hear me while I pray, Take all my
My zeal in - spire; As Thou hast died for me, O may my
Be Thou my guide; Bid dark - ness turn to day, Wipe sor - row's
Shall o'er me roll; Blest Sav - ior, then, in love, Fear and dis -

guilt a - way, O let me from this day Be whol - ly Thine!
love to Thee Pure, warm, and change-less be, A liv - ing fire!
tears a - way, Nor let me ev - er stray From Thee a - side.
trust re - move; O bear me safe a - bove, A ran-somed soul! A-men.

CELEBRATING THE LORD'S SUPPER

* Apostles' Creed

Pastor Matt Schuberth

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth and in
Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord:
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary;
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried:
he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead:
he ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty:
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost: the holy catholic⁺ Church;
the communion of saints: the forgiveness of sins:
the resurrection of the body: and the life everlasting. Amen

+ Here the word means universal, such as the universal bond of genuine believers across the world.

Prayer of Renewal

Celebrating the Lord's Supper

Pastor Kevin Baird

* Song of Worship: O How Good It Is

Oh, how good it is when the family of God
Dwells together in spirit, in faith and unity.
Where the bonds of peace, of acceptance and love
Are the fruits of His presence here among us.

Chorus:

*So with one voice we'll sing to the Lord;
And with one heart we'll live out His Word.
Till the whole earth sees the Redeemer has come
For He dwells in the presence of His people.*

Oh, how good it is on this journey we share,
To rejoice with the happy and weep with those who mourn.
For the weak find strength, the afflicted find grace,
When we offer the blessing of belonging.

Chorus

Oh, how good it is to embrace His command
To prefer one another, forgive as He forgives.
When we live as one, we all share in the love
Of the Son with the Father and the Spirit.

Chorus

* Call to Prayer and Benediction

Pastor Kevin Baird

Postlude

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

Susan Gross (8:30) and Margot Rox (11:00), Elder
Jean Ayles (8:30) and Kornilios Lazaridis (11:00), Deacons

SERMON TEXT & NOTES

1 Peter 4:7-11

7 The end of all things is near. Therefore be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray.

8 Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. **9** Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. **10** Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. **11** If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

[illegible]

Announcements

Signup for events



- **Pilgrim's Pint:** Join us on Monday, October 5, as Dr. Glenn Butner examines the causes that have made our modern world less religious and suggests a remedy for how we can think about God's presence. 7:00 pm at the Post (16 Bay Road, S. Hamilton). Sign up using the QR code above.
- **The Chosen Watch Party:** Come watch Season 3 of *The Chosen* on Tuesday evenings from 7:00 to 8:30 pm at the home of Jack and Robin Davis (57 Lois Street, Hamilton). Contact Robin with questions at (978) 578-5002.
- **Church Family Bake Sale:** The 3rd-5th Grade Sunday School class will hold a bake sale on Sunday, October 11, after both services, to support Noelle VanderWoude, a missionary working with YWAM. Stop by Heritage Hall before or during the Sunday School hour, or Fellowship Foyer at noon. Bring cash or a check.
- **Free Film Viewing - A Great Awakening:** Old South Presbyterian Church in Newburyport is hosting the film, which depicts the true story of an unlikely friendship between evangelist George Whitefield and Benjamin Franklin, on Thursday, October 15, at 7:00 pm. No registration necessary.
- **Missions Sunday:** Our annual Missions Sunday is October 18. Jonathan Lugo, pastor of Iglesia Cristiana Centrados en el Evangelio in Central Falls, RI, the church where our high school Summer Serve team volunteered, will deliver Sunday's message. During the 9:45 am Sunday school hour, adults are invited to a presentation by Joel Harlow, who will share his experience as a Bible translator with Wycliffe. The day concludes with a catered missions dinner at 5:00 pm. Childcare is available for children through 5th grade. Sign up to attend the dinner using the QR code.
- **Installation Service:** Kevin Baird and Oli van Ruth will be installed as co-lead pastors on Sunday, October 25, at 4:00 pm in the Meetinghouse Sanctuary. All are invited to worship, pray, and witness the vows and charges given to our co-pastors to serve the Lord faithfully. Following the service, refreshments will be served in Fellowship Foyer.
- **Opportunities to Serve:** We're seeking campus monitors, greeters, and volunteers to join our audio/visual team. Children's Ministry is looking for adult leaders to serve in Little People's Church at 9:45 am, and we could use more volunteers for our Rides and Meals Ministries. Scan the QR code to serve!
- **Fall New Members Class:** Held in three sessions: Sundays, November 1, 8, and 15, from 9:45 to 10:45 am in the Wigglesworth-Cutler House. Sign up using the QR code above or email info@fcchamilton.org.

October Events | *For details, scan the QR code above.*

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| 5 | Alpha Course on Mondays 6:30 to 8:30 pm, Ministry Center, Heritage Hall |
| 5 | Pilgrim's Pint 7:00 to 8:00 pm, Post restaurant, South Hamilton |
| 6 | 20 Missions Prayer 7:45 to 8:30 am, Ministry Center Room 22 (all are welcome to join) |
| 10 | Church Family Board Game Night 5:00 to 7:00 pm, Ministry Center Heritage Hall |

October Events *continued* | For details, scan the QR code

- 18 **Missions Dinner** | 5:00 to 7:00 pm, Ministry Center, Heritage Hall
- 25 **Newcomers Coffee** | 9:45 to 10:45 am, Wigglesworth-Cutler House Living Room
- 25 **Installation Service** | 4:00 pm, Meetinghouse Sanctuary
- 29 **Men's Ministry Dinner** | 6:00 to 8:30 pm, Ministry Center, Heritage Hall

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 serves infants through age 3, and our Little People's Church (LPC) program serves 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 ages 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
 - *Economics and the Bible* with Dr. Sean McDonough, Dr. Glenn Butner, Dr. Robert Gough, Jr., Chapel
 - *The Church, the Spirit, and Union with Christ* with Dr. Jack Davis, MC Room 22
 - *Forgiveness* with Dr. Eckhard Schnabel, MC Room 21
 - *Exploring Your Marriage* with Priscilla Masterson, NP; Pastor Kevin Baird, Dr. David Horn, MC Room 23/24

For large-print Bibles, please see an usher.

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

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



Scan to let us know you visited!

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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