



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
Church of Hamilton

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

OCTOBER 18, 2026

PREPARING OUR HEARTS

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Kevin Baird

Preparing Our Hearts

"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" - Romans 10:13-15

* **Call to Worship:** Psalm 96:1-4, 6

Priscilla Masterson (8:30), John Rendall (11:00)

Leader: Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.

People: Sing to the Lord, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day.

Leader: Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples.

People: For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; he is to be feared above all gods.

Unison: Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and glory are in his sanctuary.

COMING WITH PRAISE

* **Hymn #59:** All Creatures of Our God and King verses 1,2, and 5

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

Pastor Oli van Ruth

* **Song of Response:** There Is a Fountain Filled With Blood

There is a fountain filled with blood
Drawn from Immanuel's veins
And sinners plunged beneath that flood
Lose all their guilty stains (x3)
And sinners plunged beneath that flood
Lose all their guilty stains

The dying thief rejoiced to see
That fountain in his day
And there may I though vile as he
Wash all my sins away (x3)
And there may I though vile as he
Wash all my sins away

Dear dying Lamb Thy precious blood
Shall never lose its pow'r
Till all the ransomed Church of God
Be saved to sin no more (x3)
Till all the ransomed Church of God
Be saved to sin no more

Children's Message

Cec Horn

Scripture Reading: Acts 1:1-11

Priscilla Masterson (8:30), John Rendall (11:00)

1 In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach **2** until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. **3** After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. **4** On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. **5** For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

6 Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" **7** He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. **8** But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." **9** After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. **10** They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. **11** "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

DRAWING NEAR FOR PRAYER

* Song of Worship: Christus Victor

O Most High, King of the ages
Great I AM, God of wonders
By the blood You have redeemed us
Led us through mighty waters
Our strength, our song, our sure salvation

*Now to the Lamb upon the throne
Be blessing, honor, glory, power
For the battle You have won
Hallelujah, Amen*

O Most High, dwelling among us
Son of Man sent for sinners
By Your blood You have redeemed us
Spotless Lamb, mighty Savior
Who lived, who died, who rose victorious

*Now to the Lamb upon the throne
Be blessing, honor, glory, power
For the battle You have won
Hallelujah*

O Most High, King of the nations
Robed in praise, crowned with splendor

On that day who will not tremble?
When You stand, Christ the Victor
Who was, and is, and is forever

*Now to the Lamb upon the throne
Be blessing, honor, glory, power
For the battle You have won
Hallelujah*

*With every tribe and every tongue
We join the anthem of the angels
In the triumph of the Son
Hallelujah, Amen*

Amen, Amen, Amen (x3)

*Now to the Lamb upon the throne
Be blessing, honor, glory, power
For the battle You have won
Hallelujah*

*With every tribe and every tongue
We join the anthem of the angels
In the triumph of the Son
Hallelujah, Amen*

Pastoral Prayer

Pastor Kevin Baird

Offertory: *Let the Nations be Glad*

Pastor Matt Schubert

Let the glory of the Lord forever be our joy
May redemption be the theme of our song
For by grace we have been saved
And by grace we shall proclaim
To the corners of the earth that Christ has come

*Chorus
Let the nations be glad
Let the peoples rejoice
For salvation belongs to our God
Let the whole earth be filled
With the praises of the Lord
For salvation belongs to our God
Let the nations be glad*

Through the ages gone before
Through the trial and the sword
Many saints and martyrs conquered though
they died
Still we're holding out the cross
Crossing oceans, suffering loss
Shall endure all things to win the crown of life

Chorus

As Your holy church goes forth
In the Holy Spirit's power
With the glories of the gospel to explain
Now we pray Your kingdom come
And we pray Your will be done
For the honor and the glory of Your name

* 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: "Witnesses"

Acts 1:1-11

Pastor Jonathan Lugo and Isaac Lugo

RESPONDING GOD'S WORD

* **Song of Praise:** King of Kings

In the darkness we were waiting
Without hope, without light
'Til from Heaven You came running
There was mercy in Your eyes
To fulfill the law and prophets
To a virgin came the word
From a throne of endless glory
To a cradle in the dirt

*Praise the Father, praise the Son
Praise the Spirit, three in one
God of glory, Majesty
Praise forever to the King of Kings*

To reveal the kingdom coming
And to reconcile the lost
To redeem the whole creation
You did not despise the cross
For even in your suffering
You saw to the other side
Knowing this was our salvation
Jesus for our sake you died

*Praise the Father, praise the Son
Praise the Spirit, three in one
God of glory, Majesty
Praise forever to the King of Kings*

And the morning that You rose
All of Heaven held its breath
'Til that stone was moved for good
For the Lamb had conquered death
And the dead rose from their tombs
And the angels stood in awe
For the souls of all who'd come
To the Father are restored

And the church of Christ was born
Then the Spirit lit the flame
Now this gospel truth of old
Shall not kneel, shall not faint
By His blood and in His name
In His freedom I am free
For the love of Jesus Christ
Who has resurrected me

*Praise the Father, praise the Son
Praise the Spirit, three in one
God of glory, Majesty
Praise forever to the King of Kings*

* **Call to Prayer and Benediction**

Pastor Kevin Baird

Postlude

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

Priscilla Masterson (8:30) and John Rendall (11:00), Elders

Josiah Coffey (8:30) and Ted Cornell (11:00), Deacons

SERMON NOTES

Acts 1:1-11

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Announcements

Signup for events



- **Missions Dinner Tonight:** To close out our Missions Sunday, join us tonight at 5:00 pm for our catered missions dinner! Childcare is available for children through 5th grade. Sign up to attend 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.
- **Men's Ministry Dinner:** Join us on Thursday, October 29, for a special evening with Dr. Scott Sunquist, President of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, as he speaks on Conversations with God in Our Times of Suffering. Enjoy a catered dinner in Heritage Hall from 6:00 to 8:30 pm. The cost is \$10 per person.
- **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.
- **Pumpkin Donations:** Donate your leftover smelly pumpkins to our annual high school event, The Great Pumpkin Smash!, on Tuesday, November 3. Leave pumpkins on the Wigglesworth-Cutler House porch.
- **LifeShare Dresser Project:** This year's dresser project recipient is a mom who is a full-time student in need of many items for her baby boy, born in June. Please help fill the dresser, which is located in the hallway of the Meetinghouse, by choosing a tag of the item(s) you would like to purchase. Place your unwrapped gift in the dresser by November 15. Direct questions to LuBeth Kuemmerle, lubethkuemmerle@gmail.com.

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

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| 18 | Missions Dinner 5:00 to 7:00 pm, Ministry Center, Heritage Hall |
| 19 | Alpha Course on Mondays 6:30 to 8:30 pm, Ministry Center, Heritage Hall |
| 20 | Missions Prayer 7:45 to 8:30 am, Ministry Center Room 22 (all are welcome to join) |
| 25 | Newcomers Breakfast 9:45 to 10:45 am, Meetinghouse, First-Floor Classroom |
| 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 could join us this morning! If you have questions, please ask an usher or visit our Welcome Desk downstairs.

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 in the lower level of this building. 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 downstairs at the Welcome Desk.

Sunday School for all ages is at 9:45 am. Classes are found throughout our campus in this building (the Meetinghouse / MH), the Ministry Center (MC), and the Barn. The Barn and Ministry Center are located across the parking lot.

- Infants, preschool, and kindergarten-age children gather in the Meetinghouse downstairs.
- 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 (behind the sanctuary)
 - *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*
John Bigus, *Audio-Visual Manager*
Jill VanderWoude, *Administrative Assistant*
Phil Best, *Facilities Manager*
The People of God, *Ministers to the World*

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