FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
Church of Hamilton

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

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NOVEMBER 22, 2026

PREPARING OUR HEARTS

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements Cece Gough

Preparing Our Hearts

"He made him ride on the heights of the land and fed him with the fruit of the fields. He nourished him with honey from the rock, and with oil from the flinty crag," - Deuteronomy 32:13

* **Call to Worship:** Psalm 18:30-33 Susan Gross (8:30), Margot Rox (11:00)

Leader: As for God, his way is perfect: The Lord's word is flawless; he shields all who take refuge in him.

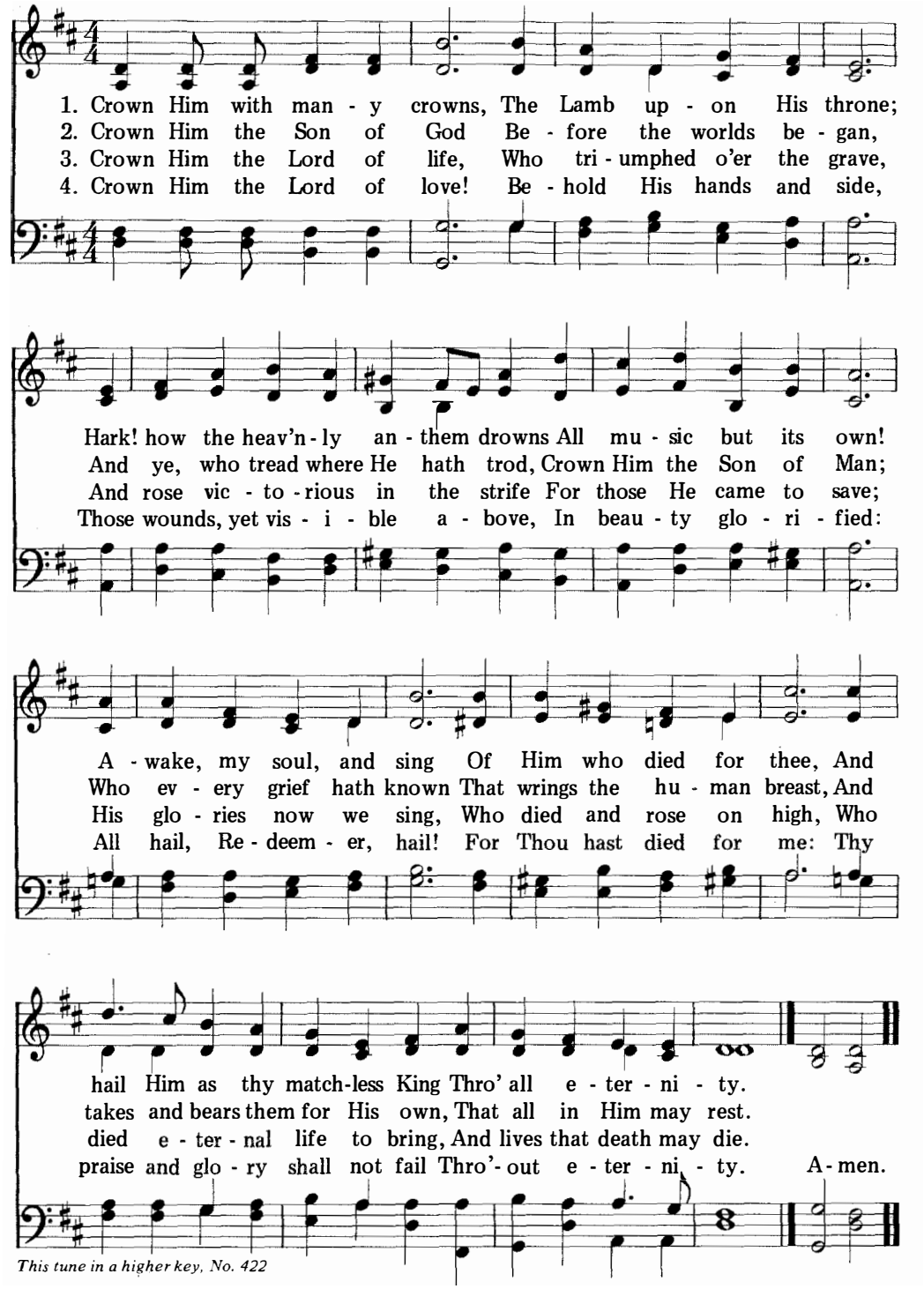
People: For who is God besides the Lord? And who is the Rock except our God?

Leader: It is God who arms me with strength and keeps my way secure.

Unison: He makes my feet like the feet of a deer; he causes me to stand on the heights.

COMING WITH PRAISE

* **Hymn:** Crown Him with Many Crowns



Invocation, Confession of Sin, and Assurance of Pardon Lisa Clay

Scripture Reading: Philippians 4:10-13 — Susan Gross (8:30 am), Margot Rox (11:00 am)

I rejoiced greatly in the Lord that at last you renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you were concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

Children's Message — Cec Horn

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).

* **Song of Response:** Days of Elijah

These are the days of Elijah
Declaring the word of the Lord
And these are the days of your servant Moses
Righteousness being restored

And though these are days of great trial
Of famine and darkness and sword
Still we are the voice in the desert crying
Prepare ye the way of the Lord

(Chorus)
Behold He comes riding on the clouds
Shining like the sun at the trumpet call
Lift your voice, the year of jubilee
And out of Zion's hill salvation comes

And these are the days of Ezekiel
The dry bones becoming as flesh
And these are the days of your servant David
Rebuilding a temple of praise

And these are the days of the harvest
Oh the fields are as white in Your world
And we are the laborers in Your vineyard
Declaring the word of the Lord

(Chorus)

There is no God like Jehovah

(Chorus)

DRAWING NEAR FOR PRAYER

Story of Grace — Alpha Testimony

Pastoral Prayer — Pastor Kevin Baird

Offertory: *How Great Thou Art* — Choir and Members of the Congregation

Many Languages, One Heart of Thanksgiving

As we approach Thanksgiving, we lift our voices in gratitude for God's goodness, faithfulness, and saving grace.

Inspired by Revelation 7:9, our choir and members of our congregation join in singing "How Great Thou Art" in multiple languages. Though our languages and backgrounds may be different, we are united in Christ, giving thanks and praise to the one true God.

May this offering give us a foretaste of heavenly worship, where people from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, worship together before the throne and before the Lamb.

* **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: *"Joyful Contentment"* Pastor Oli van Ruth
Habakkuk 3:16-19

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Habakkuk 3:17-19 Jared and Noni Mason

Though the fig tree does not bud
And there are no grapes on the vines
Though the olive crop fails
I will be joyful

And the fields produce no food
Though there are no sheep in the pen
And no cattle in the stalls
I will be joyful

Yet I will rejoice
In the Lord
I will be joyful
In God my Savior

The sovereign Lord is my strength
He makes my feet like the feet of a deer
He enables me to tread on the heights

* **Call to Prayer and Benediction** Pastor Oli van Ruth

Postlude

Our Ministry Leaders will be available at the front for prayer after the service:
Margot Rox, Elder
Kelly Lestage (8:30) and Beth White (11:00), Deacons

SERMON TEXT & NOTES

Habakkuk 3:16-19

16 I heard and my heart pounded, my lips quivered at the sound; decay crept into my bones,
and my legs trembled. Yet I will wait patiently for the day of calamity to come on the nation
invading us. **17** Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines,
though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen
and no cattle in the stalls, **18** yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior.
19 The Sovereign Lord is my strength; he makes my feet like the feet of a deer, he enables me to
tread on the heights. For the director of music. On my stringed instruments.

Announcements

Signup for events

- **LifeShare Dresser Project**: Thanks be to God for His love and faithfulness. Thank you, congregation, for your heartfelt generosity in support of LifeShare's Dresser Project. Your love-gifts were delivered last Sunday and gratefully received. Praising God for the gift of this new life!
- **Thanksgiving Eve Service:** Join us Wednesday, November 25 at 7:00 pm for our annual Thanksgiving service featuring scripture lessons, songs of thanksgiving and stories of God's faithfulness. Our offering for this evening will be donated to Acord Food Pantry.
- **Hamilton-Wenham Tree Lighting:** Join us in the community for the Hamilton-Wenham tree lighting on December 3 at 6:30 pm at the Community House at 284 Bay Road. FCCH is participating by giving away wrist bells and candy canes.
- **Women's Winter Greens:** Save-the-date for our annual Winter Workshop on Saturday, December 5, from 9:00 am to noon in the Ministry Center. Register today in Fellowship Foyer before and after the services.
- **Christmas Drop & Shop:** Parents can enjoy some Christmas shopping time without the kids on Saturday, December 12, from 3:00 to 6:00 pm. Drop off your preschool–5th grade children for an afternoon of Christmas fun in Heritage Hall. Register using the QR code above by Friday, December 4.
- **Children's Choir!** FCCH is having a Christmas Carol Sing on Sunday, December 13, at 4:30 pm in the Meetinghouse sanctuary. Children from 1st to 5th grade are invited to be part of our special choir. Learn more by using the QR code above.
- **Christmas Carol Sing:** Join us for a joyful evening of Christmas carols, Scripture readings, and worship led by our choir and worship band as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. All ages are welcome! Sunday, December 13, at 4:30 pm in the Meetinghouse sanctuary.
- **Whiteout! Winter Retreat:** All youth ministry students and their friends are invited to Camp Spofford, NH, for our winter retreat. Middle school students will go from January 29 to 31, and high school students will go from February 5 to 7, 2027. Register using the QR code above, by December 7. Scholarships are available.
- **Jingle Mingle:** Fall Sunday School classes for adults, children and youth come to a close on December 13. All are welcome to attend our Jingle Mingle in Fellowship Foyer at 9:45 am on Sunday, December 20. Coffee and Christmas treats will be served. Sunday School classes will resume on January 3.
- **Christmas Eve Services:** Join us on Christmas Eve for our candlelight services. Invite your friends and neighbors to the 4:00 pm or 6:00 pm worship service. The following Sunday, December 27, we will have one worship service at 10:00 am.

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 (until their 4th birthday), 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.

Family Room in the first floor classroom (downstairs across from the bathrooms) for families with young children to enjoy the worship service together.

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 a 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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