



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL  
Church of Hamilton

## Order of Service April 14, 2024

**Prelude**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Preparation**

*“The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.”  
– Psalm 23:1*

\* **Call to Worship:** Psalm 25:1-5

Leader: In you, Lord my God, I put my trust.

**People: I trust in you; do not let me be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

Leader: No one who hopes in you will ever be put to shame, but shame will come on those who are treacherous without cause.

**People: Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths.**

**Unison: Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long.**

\* **Song of Worship** ..... “How Great is Our God”

\* **Invocation**

\* **Song of Response:** He Knows My Name

I have a Maker  
He formed my heart  
Before even time began  
My life was in His hands

I have a Father  
He calls me His own  
He'll never leave me  
No matter where I go

*Chorus*  
*He knows my name*  
*He knows my every thought*  
*He sees each tear that falls*  
*And hears me when I call*

*Chorus*

**Children’s Message**..... Lisa Clay

**Scripture Reading**..... Luke 15:1-7

**Song of Response** ..... “He Will Hold Me Fast”

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Musical Offering:** “Psalm 23” ..... *Adelaide & 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

**Sermon:** “*The Good Shepherd*” ..... *Dr. Jeffrey Arthurs*  
Luke 15:1-7

\* **Hymn #202** (verses 1,2,4,5) ..... “Amazing Grace”

\* **Call to Prayer and Benediction**

**Postlude**

## How Great is Our God

by Chris Tomlin

The splendor of a King, clothed in majesty

Let all the Earth rejoice

All the Earth rejoice

He wraps himself in light

And darkness tries to hide

And trembles at His voice

Trembles at His voice

*Chorus*

*How great is our God, sing with me*

*How great is our God, and all will see*

*How great, how great is our God*

Age to age He stands

And time is in His hands

Beginning and the end

Beginning and the end

The Godhead Three in One

Father Spirit Son

The Lion and the Lamb

The Lion and the Lamb

*Chorus*

Bridge

Name above all names

Worthy of our praise

My heart will sing

How great is our God

You're the name above all names

You are worthy of our praise

And my heart will sing

How great is our God

Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee

How great Thou art, how great Thou art

Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee

How great Thou art, how great Thou art

# He Will Hold Me Fast

by Keith & Kristyn Getty and Selah



When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast;  
Those He saves are His de-light, Christ will hold me fast;  
For my life He bled and died, Christ will hold me fast;



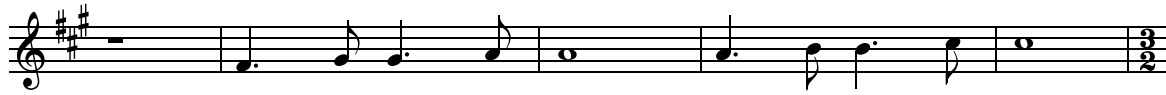
When the tempt-er would pre-vail, He will hold me fast.  
Pre-cious in his ho-ly sight, He will hold me fast.  
Just-ice has been sat-is-fied; He will hold me fast.



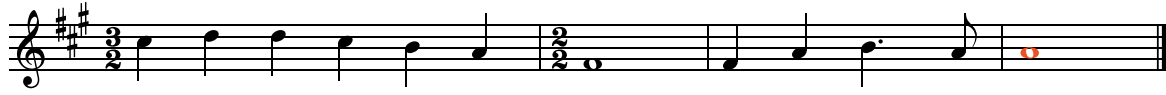
I could nev-er keep my hold Through life's fear-ful path;  
He'll not let my soul be lost; His Prom-is-es shall last;  
Raised with Him to end-less life, He will hold me fast



For my love is oft-ten cold; He must hold me fast.  
Bought by Him at such a cost, He will hold me fast.  
'Till our faith is turned to sight, When He comes at last!



He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;

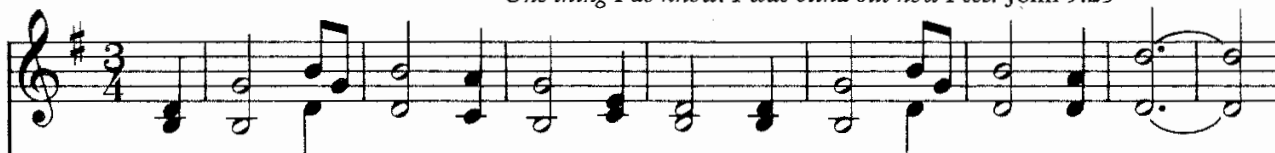


For my Sa-vior loves me so, He will hold me fast.

Sing verses 1, 2, 4 & 5

# Amazing Grace 202

*One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!* John 9:25



- 1. A - maz - ing grace! how sweet the sound—That saved a wretch like me!
- 2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, And grace my fears re - lieved;
- 3. The Lord has prom - ised good to me, His word my hope se - cures;
- 4. Thru man - y dan - gers, toils and snares, I have al - read - y come;
- 5. When we've been there ten thou - sand years, Bright shin - ing as the sun,



I once was lost but now am found, Was blind but now I see.  
How pre - cious did that grace ap - pear The hour I first be - lieved.  
He will my shield and por - tion be As long as life en - dures.  
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, And grace will lead me home.  
We've no less days to sing God's praise Than when we'd first be - gun.



TEXT: John Newton; John P. Rees, stanza 5  
MUSIC: Traditional American melody from Carrell and Clayton's  
*Virginia Harmony*, 1831; arranged by Edwin O. Excell

AMAZING GRACE  
C.M.



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

April 14, 2024

**Our mission** is to rejoice in God, grow in the gospel, and point people to Jesus.  
**Our vision** is to be a house of refuge, a community of joy, and a spiritual catalyst for personal and cultural renewal.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

- Today! Elder Q&A for Proposed Pastoral Model, 9:45 am
- Today! Meet & Greet for missionaries from the Rafiki Foundation, following the 11:00 am service
- April 18 - Men's Night at the Post, 8:00 pm
- April 21 - NJ Turkish Trip Information sessions, 9:45 am and 12:15 pm
- April 22 - Zoom Q&A with Elders for Proposed Pastoral Model, 7:00 pm
- April 24 - Pilgrim's Pint, 7:00 pm
- April 27 - Front Porch Stories, 7:00 pm
- April 28 - Welcome Milestone for parents with babies, 9:45 am
- April 29 - Congregational Meeting, 7:00 pm

## NEW TO OUR CHURCH?

**Welcome!** We are glad you chose to join us this morning! If you have questions please ask an usher, or visit our Welcome Desk downstairs in the Fellowship Foyer.

**For families we provide children's ministry.** During our 8:30 am service, our supervised Nursery is for ages 0- 3, and our Little People's Church (LPC) program is for age 4 through 1st grade. LPC meets after the Children's Message during the 8:30 am service. During the 11:00 am service, the Nursery is staffed as a combined space for infants and toddlers.

### Sunday School for all ages at 9:45 am

- Infants - Preschool age children gather in the Meeting House
- Elementary age children meet on the lower level of the Ministry Center
- Middle Schoolers meet in the Ministry Center (Café)
- High Schoolers meet in the Barn
- Adults classes:
  - **Study of 1 Corinthians** with Dr. Eckhard Schnabel, MC Room 21
  - **Study of 1 and 2 Thessalonians** with Kornilios Lazaridis, MC Room 22
  - **How to Get More Comfortable with the Holy Spirit** with Dr. Jack Davis, Meeting House Chapel

**Additional Resources:** As a house of refuge, we want to care for you well. We have the deacon's fund, prayer chain, helping hands ministry, meals ministry, counseling, and other resources to help. Please reach out to us at [info@fcchamilton.org](mailto:info@fcchamilton.org).

We're so glad you're here and would love to serve you!

## PASTORAL MODEL & BY-LAW CHANGES UPCOMING DATES

- Sunday, April 14 - Q&A during the Sunday School hour in the Ministry Center, Room 23/24
- Monday, April 22 - Zoom Q&A session at 7:00 pm
- Monday, April 29 - Congregational Meeting at 7:00 pm in Heritage Hall

## MISSIONS

- **Meet & Greet today!** The Missions Committee is hosting a Meet and Greet for our missionaries with the Rafiki Foundation. Amy Ketcham and Tekle Kumera are here in the US on furlough and Sarah McMahon is here to raise more support for the next term of service. Let's welcome them warmly after the 11:00 am worship service in the Chapel. There will be light refreshments and a time to ask all of them about their future plans.
- **NJ Turkish Missions Trip information Session** Are you interested in being part of supporting, praying or going on the NJ Turkish Trip with Global Gates at the end of June? If so, please come to our information sessions on April 21. We meet during the Sunday school hour and also following the 11:00 am service in the first floor classroom of the Meetinghouse.
- **FCCH supports Doug & Carolyn Gregan** with New Brothers Fellowship (NBF). This ministry is a spiritual support for men and women affected by incarceration. Doug is a pastor serving as the Chaplain at Middlesex (BillERICA) & Essex County (Middleton) Correctional facilities. If you are interested in becoming involved in this prison ministry reach out to NBF at [nbf@newbrothers.org](mailto:nbf@newbrothers.org).

## LIFE AFTER FIFTY (LAF) SPRING GETAWAY

LAF is headed to the White Mountain Hotel & Resort on May 17, 18 and 19 for a relaxing springtime weekend. Our own David Rox is the guest speaker. If you fit the description of "Over Fifty" and love your life, you're a part of the group! Reservations need to be made by April 16, so don't miss out. For further information, please contact John Clark at 978-375-6329, or [johnclarkhydroseeding@outlook.com](mailto:johnclarkhydroseeding@outlook.com).

## MEN'S NIGHT AT THE POST RESTAURANT

Our next fellowship night at the Post restaurant in Hamilton will be Thursday, April 18 at 8:00 pm. The Men's Ministry will provide pizza and you may purchase your own beverages. This event is ideal to invite your non-church friends! Please register on the church app/sign ups so we know how many to expect. Contact Dave Rox with questions at [david.rox@gordon.edu](mailto:david.rox@gordon.edu), or 978-257-4219

## WOMEN'S MINISTRY

- **Thanks for successful Women's Tea!** The Women's Ministry Team would like to send a huge THANK YOU! to all who helped with the Women's Tea. We are so grateful for all who baked, volunteered in the kitchen, hosted tables, and invited friends. It was a lovely day of fun and fellowship. We look forward to doing it again next year!
- **Women's Night at the Post** on Monday, May 6 at 7:30 pm. Join us for a fun night with friends old and new! All are welcome. Light apps provided. Drinks on your own. Register on the church app.

## PILGRIM'S PINT

Our next Pilgrim's Pint (a casual and engaging lecture series exploring the 'ins' and 'outs' of Christian beliefs in a modern context) is **Wednesday**, April 24 at 7:00 pm at the Post in Hamilton. Dr. Craig Story of Gordon College will speak on *Darwin In Retrospect: How Christianity and evolution get along after 160 years*. Invite a friend and join us for a lively talk and discussion as we reason together over a beverage of your choice. Register on the app/sign ups. Pilgrim's Pint is led by Josiah Coffey and sponsored by FCCH.

## FRONT PORCH STORIES

Join us for a night of live and true stories from people like you on April 27 at 7:00 pm in the Barn. Enjoy coffee, dessert and connecting with friends. Register online at [fchamilton.org/events](http://fchamilton.org/events) or use our app/signups. \$5 suggested donation at the door. For adults and children +13.

## NEW MEMBERS CLASS

Learn what it means to join the family, mission and vision of FCCH at our new members class on Wednesday, May 8 from 6:00-9:00 pm in the Wigglesworth-Cutler House. Register online at [fchamilton.org/classes](http://fchamilton.org/classes) or on our app/sign ups.

## SERVE WITH THE LIFEBRIDGE TEAM

The first Thursday and Friday of every month, FCCH prepares and serves a meal at Lifebridge in Salem. Lifebridge works to meet the most urgent needs of the homeless and under-housed in Salem. Volunteers are needed for both meal prep and meal service. If interested, please sign up on the church app or on the website under the "serve our neighbors" tab. For more info, contact Elizabeth Ford and Kim Roberts.

## **CHILDREN'S MINISTRY**

- **Welcome Milestone Class** - Parents with babies are invited to this class on Sunday, April 28 during the Sunday School hour, to learn about our Milestones program. The Welcome Milestone gives resources and support to new parents and information about baptism/dedication. Register online at [fcchamilton.org/children](http://fcchamilton.org/children) or on our app/sign ups.
- **VBS Registration is open - for kids and volunteers!** Our Vacation Bible School, *The Courage of Daniel*, is for children 3 years through grade 5. Register your child online at [fcchamilton.org/events](http://fcchamilton.org/events) or our app/signups. Registration is also open to be a volunteer.

## **YOUTH MINISTRY EXPLORE**

- **MFA Sunday School Field Trip** for all 7th and 8th graders on Sunday, April 28. We will tour the MFA's Ancient Near East exhibit to learn more about the Old Testament world, putting our Old Testament Survey in context. We depart at 9:45 am from our Sunday school classroom. Please sign up by Tuesday, April 23 on our app/sign ups.
- **Explore 2024 for Middle School** - Students entering grade 6, 7 and 8 are invited to join us as we *explore* the North Shore and our faith. Register now on our website at [fcchamilton.org/events](http://fcchamilton.org/events) or use our app/sign ups.

## **YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY**

The Young Adults Ministry at FCCH consists of two groups that meet weekly for a Bible study, fellowship and fun. Find out where you belong! Contact Pastor Matt, [mschuberth@fcchamilton.org](mailto:mschuberth@fcchamilton.org) with questions.

- College Age: Sundays at 6:30 pm at Gordon College.
- Post College Age: Wednesdays at 7:00 pm at the Pineda-Cooper home in Beverly.

## **GRIEFSHARE**

GriefShare is offering a 13-week Zoom session on Monday's at 7:30 pm. This program features biblical, Christ-centered teaching focused on grief topics associated with the death of a loved one. Register online at [griefshare.org](http://griefshare.org). For further information contact John Clark at (978) 375-6329 or [johnclarkhydroseeding@outlook.com](mailto:johnclarkhydroseeding@outlook.com).

*If you would like to receive our weekly email, sign up at [fcchamilton.org](http://fcchamilton.org), or the church office, [info@fcchamilton.org](mailto:info@fcchamilton.org). If you signed up and are not receiving them, check your spam folder and add [info@fcchamilton.org](mailto:info@fcchamilton.org) to your address book.*

***All submissions for the announcements must be received in the church office by Wednesdays at noon. Thank you!***