



Order of Service November 23, 2025

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Preparation

*“And these are but the outer fringe of his works; how faint the whisper we hear of him! Who then can understand the thunder of his power?”
Job 26:14*

* **Call to Worship:** Psalm 103:15-19

Leader: The life of mortals is like grass, they flourish like a flower of the field; the wind blows over it and it is gone, and its place remembers it no more.

People: **But from everlasting to everlasting the Lord’s love is with those who fear him, and his righteousness with their children’s children—**

Leader: with those who keep his covenant and remember to obey his precepts.

Unison: *The Lord has established his throne in heaven, and his kingdom rules over all.*

* **Song of Praise** Holy Forever

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

Children’s Message Craig Story

* **Song of Response:** His Mercy Is More

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases

His mercies never have come to an end

They are new every morning

New every morning

Great is Thy faithfulness, O Lord

Great is Thy faithfulness (2X)

They are new every morning

New every morning

Great is Thy faithfulness, O Lord

Great is Thy faithfulness

Scripture Reading Ephesians 6:10-13 (ESV)

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.

Song of Worship: Power in the Blood (We Give Thanks for the Blood)

Pastoral Prayer

Offertory: *All Good Gifts* Grace Bigus

* **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: *"An Uninvited Guest"* Dr. Jeffrey Arthurs
Luke 8:22-29 (ESV)

- **Hymn:** All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name
- **Call to Prayer and Benediction**

Postlude

Holy Forever

by Chris Tomlin

A thousand generations falling down in worship
To sing the song of ages to the Lamb
And all who've gone before us and all who will believe
Will sing the song of ages to the Lamb

Your name is the highest
Your name is the greatest
Your name stands above them all
All thrones and dominions
All powers and positions
Your name stands above them all

*And the angels cry holy
All creation cries holy
You are lifted high, holy
Holy forever*

If you've been forgiven and if you've been redeemed
Sing the song forever to the Lamb
If you walk in freedom and if you bear His name
Sing the song forever to the Lamb
We'll sing the song forever and amen

*And the angels cry holy
All creation cries holy
You are lifted high, holy
Holy forever*

Hear Your people sing holy
To the King of kings, holy
You will always be holy
Holy forever

You will always be holy
Holy forever

Power in the Blood
(We Give Thanks for the Blood)

by Tommy Walker

Would you be free from the burden of sin
There's power in the blood, power in the blood
Would you o'er evil a victory win
There's wonderful power in the blood

Refrain

*There is power, power, wonder-working power
In the blood of the Lamb
There is power, power, wonder-working power
In the precious blood of the Lamb*

Would you be free from your passion and pride
There's power in the blood, power in the blood
Come for a cleansing to Calvary's tide
There's wonderful power in the blood

Refrain

We give thanks for the blood
And its wonder working power
All our praise goes to the Lamb
And His wonder working power

Would you be whiter, much whiter than snow
There's power in the blood, power in the blood
Sin-stains are lost in its life-giving flow
There's wonderful power in the blood

Refrain

We give thanks for the blood
And its wonder working power
All our praise goes to the Lamb
And His wonder working power

Refrain

Offertory Lyrics

All Good Gifts

Hymn text by Matthias Claudias

Music by Stephen Schwartz

We plough the fields and scatter
The good seed on the land
But it is fed and watered
By God's almighty hand

He sends the snow in winter
The warmth to swell the grain
The breezes and the sunshine
And soft refreshing rain

All good gifts around us
Are sent from Heaven above
Then thank the Lord, oh, thank the Lord
For all His love

He only is the maker
Of all things near and far
He paints the wayside flower
He lights the evening star

The wind and waves obey him
By him the birds are fed
Much more to us his children
He gives our daily bread

We thank you, then, oh Father
For all things bright and good
The seed-time and the harvest
Our life, our health, our food

Accept the gifts we offer
For all your love imparts
And what thou most desirest
Our humble, thankful hearts

63 All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

He hath . . . a name written, King of Kings, and Lord of Lords. Rev. 19:16

Edward Perronet, 1779

Adapt. by John Rippon, 1787

CORONATION C.M. Repeats

Oliver Holden, 1792

1. All hail the power of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels pros - trate fall;
 2. Ye cho - sen seed of Is - rael's race, Ye ran - somed from the fall,
 3. Let ev - ery kin - dred, ev - ery tribe, On this ter - res - trial ball,
 4. O that with yon - der sa - cred throng We at His feet may fall!

Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem, And crown Him Lord of all;
 Hail Him who saves you by His grace, And crown Him Lord of all;
 To Him all maj - es - ty as - cribe, And crown Him Lord of all;
 We'll join the ev - er - last - ing song, And crown Him Lord of all;

Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem, And crown Him Lord of all!
 Hail Him who saves you by His grace, And crown Him Lord of all!
 To Him all maj - es - ty as - cribe, And crown Him Lord of all!
 We'll join the ev - er - last - ing song, And crown Him Lord of all!

———— SERMON TEXT & NOTES ————

Luke 8:22-39 (ESV)

22 One day he got into a boat with his disciples, and he said to them, “Let us go across to the other side of the lake.” So they set out, 23 and as they sailed he fell asleep. And a windstorm came down on the lake, and they were filling with water and were in danger. 24 And they went and woke him, saying, “Master, Master, we are perishing!” And he awoke and rebuked the wind and the raging waves, and they ceased, and there was a calm. 25 He said to them, “Where is your faith?” And they were afraid, and they marveled, saying to one another, “Who then is this, that he commands even winds and water, and they obey him?”

26 Then they sailed to the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. 27 When Jesus had stepped out on land, there met him a man from the city who had demons. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he had not lived in a house but among the tombs. 28 When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him and said with a loud voice, “What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me.” 29 For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many a time it had seized him. He was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the desert.) 30 Jesus then asked him, “What is your name?” And he said, “Legion,” for many demons had entered him. 31 And they begged him not to command them to depart into the abyss. 32 Now a large herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside, and they begged him to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. 33 Then the demons came out of the man and entered the pigs, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and drowned. 34 When the herdsmen saw what had happened, they fled and told it in the city and in the country. 35 Then people went out to see what had happened, and they came to Jesus and found the man from whom the demons had gone, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind, and they were afraid. 36 And those who had seen it told them how the demon-possessed man had been healed. 37 Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked him to depart from them, for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. 38 The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, 39 “Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you.” And he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city how much Jesus had done for him.

1. The Story

2. The Teaching of the Story

3. The Application of the Teaching of the Story



ANNOUNCEMENTS

November 23, 2025

Our mission is to rejoice in God, grow in the gospel, and point people to Jesus.

Signup for events



DATES TO REMEMBER

- Today - The Story Unfolds Readers Rehearsal, 2:00 pm
- Today - College Age Topical Study, 6:00 pm
- November 26 - Thanksgiving Eve Service, 7:00 pm
- November 28 - Final Fall Cleanup Day, 9:00 am
- December 2 - Missions Prayer, 7:45 am
- December 2 - High School Youth Group, 7:00 pm
- December 3 - Middle School Youth Group, 7:00 pm
- December 6 - Women's Winter Greens Workshop, 9:00 am
- December 7 - College Age Christmas Party, 6:00 pm

NEW TO OUR CHURCH?

Welcome! We are glad you chose to join us this morning! If you have questions please ask an usher.

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 age 4 through 1st grade. 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.

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
- Adult classes:
 - *Living the Journey* with Dr. David Horn, Chapel
 - *Study of 1 Corinthians* with Dr. Eckhard Schnabel, MC 21
 - *Disability Ministry: It's more than just a ramp* with Heather LaBudde, MC 22
 - *The People of God in a Digital World* with Oli van Ruth, MC 23/24

Download our app



Additional resources: We have the Deacons fund, prayer chain, helping hands ministry, meals ministry, pastoral counseling, and other resources to help. Contact us at info@fcchamilton.org.

THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE

Join us Wednesday, November 26, at 7:00 pm for our annual Thanksgiving Eve service, featuring scripture lessons, songs of thanksgiving, and stories of God's faithfulness. We hope you'll join us for a wonderful evening of worship and thanksgiving!

GRIEF SHARE

If you've lost a loved one, consider the GriefShare program. Our new 13-week session on Zoom will meet on Monday nights at 7:30 pm, beginning December 8. This program features biblical, Christ-centered teaching focused on grief topics associated with the death of a loved one. Participants will prepare for each session by watching an online video and working through a simple study in the accompanying workbook. Confidentiality is a part of this program. Contact John Clark at 978-375-6329 or johnclarkhydroseeding@outlook.com with questions. Register at GriefShare.org and look for First Congregational Church of Hamilton.

CLEANUP DAY AT CHURCH AND DECORATING!

Friday, November 28, is Black Friday and the deals will be phenomenal! But Phil Best has a better money-saving, calorie-burning idea (remember that overloaded Thanksgiving plate of food). We have two volunteer opportunities for the day:

- Join us for a final raking and bagging of leaves throughout the campus from 9:00 am to noon.
- Decorate the Sanctuary and Fellowship Foyer for Advent and Christmas from 10:00 am to noon. For more info, contact Phil Best at facilities@fcchamilton.org.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY WINTER WORKSHOP

Join us for our Winter Workshop on Saturday, December 6, from 9:00 am to noon. We are offering three fun greens projects and cookie decorating. Sign up using the QR code above or in-person in Fellowship Foyer before and after both services today and next week. Payment is required when you register because the number of materials for each project is limited.

PILGRIM'S PINT

Vision Versus (merely) Visible: Can art be a vehicle for truth? The poet Emily Dickinson was onto something when she wrote "tell the truth but tell it slant." To tell it slant simply means to approach it indirectly, adding a unique perspective for the listener. This is actually one way that Jesus communicated in the Scriptures, not in dry, discursive language but in parables – poetic and provocative stories that awaken the imagination. Perhaps it is by "telling it slant"—through the use of art, drama, music, and poetry—that this invitation might be conveyed anew to a generation numbed by noise and despair. Join us at 7:00 pm on Monday, December 8 at Post Restaurant (16 Bay Road Hamilton) as renowned painter and writer Bruce Herman re-awakens our imaginations to a world beyond the canvas.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT - THE STORY UNFOLDS

This Christmas season, FCCH will present a concert of music and dramatic readings entitled, The Story Unfolds. This free event will be held on Saturday, December 13, at 7:00 pm in the Meetinghouse Sanctuary. Consider joining one of our music-making groups described below! For more information, contact Music Director, Hana Lee, hlee@fcchamilton.org.

- **Children's Choir:** All children grades K – 5 are welcome to join our FCCH Christmas Children's Choir. Rehearsals will be held on Friday, December 5, from 5:30 to 7:30 pm and Friday, December 12, at 6:30 pm in the sanctuary.
- **Youth Singers & Ringers:** We are looking for middle school and high school students to join our bell choir and youth choir for The Story Unfolds. Rehearsals will be held on Friday, December 5, from 7:15 to 8:45 pm and Friday, December 12, at 6:30 pm in the sanctuary.
- **Choir:** Adults, young adults, and teens are encouraged to join the service choir for The Story Unfolds concert. Rehearsals are on Thursdays from 7:00 to 8:30 pm in the sanctuary.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

- **Rides Ministry:** There are individuals in our church family who need rides to everyday things such as appointments, the grocery store, and even church! If you'd like to join our Rides Ministry, please email the office at info@fcchamilton.org to learn more.
- **Nursery Volunteers:** Our nursery is growing! We are looking for one adult and two high school students to serve in a monthly rotation in the nursery during both services. Contact Chrysa Bliati at cbliati@fcchamilton.org to help.
- **Jail Ministry Volunteers Needed for Alpha Programs:** There is something very powerful about seeing God's work come to life in correctional institutions. Alpha New England is looking for men and women volunteers for programs at the Suffolk County Jail in Boston and the Essex County Pre-release and Re-entry Center in Lawrence. If interested, contact Kristin Larson, kristincklarson@hotmail.com.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY CHRISTMAS MOVIE NIGHT

Celebrate Christmas with a fun night of pizza and a movie on Saturday, December 20, from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. Meet in Heritage Hall to see the movie "The Star." Bring your favorite Christmas cookies to share!

YOUTH MINISTRY

- **No youth group this week due to Thanksgiving.** Youth group will resume Tuesday, December 2, and Wednesday, December 3.
- **Whiteout! Winter Retreat:** All youth ministry students and their friends are invited to Camp Spofford for our winter retreat. High school students will go from January 30 to February 1, 2026, and middle school students will go from February 15 to 17, 2026. Please register, using the QR code on the front page, by December 1. Scholarships are available.

COLLEGE AGE MINISTRY

Our College Age Group meets weekly on Sunday for a topical study or special event. Join us tonight for a topical study in the Barn from 6:00 to 8:00 pm.

- Save the date for our Christmas party on Sunday, December 7, at 6:00 pm. Bring a gift for Yankee Swap - \$10 limit!

*If you would like to receive our weekly email, sign up at fcchamilton.org, or the church office, info@fcchamilton.org.
If you signed up and are not receiving them, check your spam folder and add 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!*

ORDER YOUR CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS TODAY!

Keeping with tradition, we're asking for your help to bring some beauty to our sanctuary with poinsettias for our Christmas Eve Candlelight Services at 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm. Please indicate the quantity and whether you'd like to give your flowers in honor or memory of someone. The cost is \$16 per plant. **The deadline to place your order is Sunday, December 14.** Poinsettias can be picked up immediately following the Christmas Eve service. Thank you!

Name: _____

Phone/Email: _____

Number of plants: _____

Given in honor / memory of (circle one): _____

Drop this form in the offering plate or use this QR code to order online.

