



Order of Service December 21, 2025

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Preparation

*"But may all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; may those who long for
your saving help always say, 'The Lord is great!'"*
Psalm 70:4

* Call to Worship: Psalm 59:16-17

Leader: But I will sing of your strength, in the morning I will sing of your love;

People: for you are my fortress, my refuge in times of trouble.

Leader: You are my strength, I sing praise to you;

Unison: you, God, are my fortress, my God on whom I can rely.

* Hymn: Joy To The World! The Lord Is Come

* Invocation, Confession of Sin, and Assurance of Pardon

Lighting of the Advent Candle (Insert): Love

(8:30) The Roberts Family

Children's Message Lauren Sager

Scripture Reading Isaiah 52:13-53:5

See, my servant will act wisely; he will be raised and lifted up and highly exalted. Just as there were many who were appalled at him—his appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any human being and his form marred beyond human likeness—so he will sprinkle many nations, and kings will shut their mouths because of him. For what they were not told, they will see, and what they have not heard, they will understand.

Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.

Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.

* **Hymn:** What Child Is This, Who, Laid to Rest

Pastoral Prayer

Offertory: *We Three Kings* Choir

* **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: *“Welcome to Your World: The Wonderful Absurdity of Christmas”* Oli van Ruth
Luke 2:1-7

• **Hymn:** Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

• **Call to Prayer and Benediction**

Postlude

120 Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth . . . Psa. 98:4

Isaac Watts, 1719
Based on Psalm 98

ANTIOCH C.M.
George Frederick Handel, 1742
Arr. by Lowell Mason, 1839

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come; Let earth re -
2. Joy to the earth! the Sav - ior reigns; Let men their
3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow, Nor thorns in -
4. He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the

ceive her King; Let ev - ery heart pre - pare Him room,
songs em - ploy; While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
fest the ground; He comes to make His bless - ings flow
na - tions prove The glo - ries of His right - eous - ness,

And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture
Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing
Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is
And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His

1. And heav'n and na - ture sing,

1. And
sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, Far as, far as the curse is found.
love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

ADVENT 2025

Love

Leader: What is love? Whose love has impacted your life? What is it about love that makes it so powerful?

"Your steadfast love, O LORD, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds. Your righteousness is like the mountains of God; your judgments are like the great deep; man and beast you save, O LORD. How precious is your steadfast love, O God!" - Psalm 36:5-7a

God is love and God's love has no limits. We read, it "extends to the heavens." God's love reaches to the depths of who we are and lifts us to the heights of who we are becoming. And because God wants nothing but our best, He is eager to save.

God's far-reaching love is most clearly seen in the gift of His Son. Jesus came as the embodiment of God's love. Love that began with His vulnerability as a baby, culminated with His humiliation on the cross. Jesus established his sacrificial love as the remedy for our broken world.

God's love for us in Jesus is the ground of our faith, and our love for one another is the fruit of our faith. Love is the premier virtue and the greatest commandment. This Advent Season, we say "yes" to receiving God's love for us in Jesus, and we say "yes" to sharing His love with others.

Lighting of the Candle

Unison Prayer: Our Father, your far-reaching love has welcomed us in Jesus. As your children, your love gives us the protection, assurance, and comfort we need. Your limitless love is precious to us. Help us, by your Spirit, to share this love in service to others. Amen

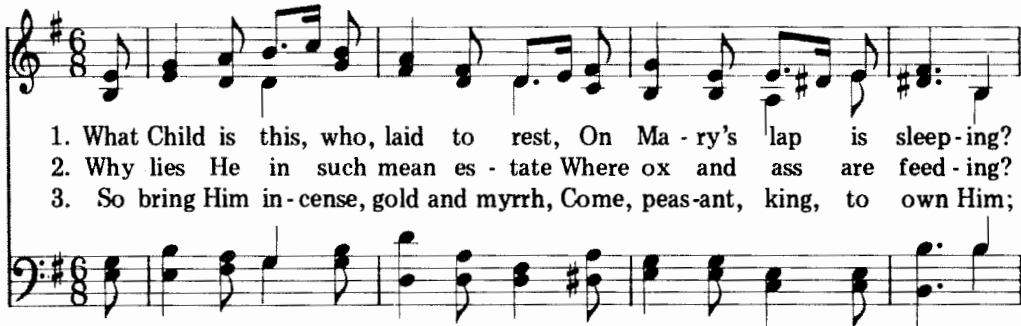
What Child Is This, Who, Laid to Rest 105

Where is He that is born King of the Jews? Matt. 2:2

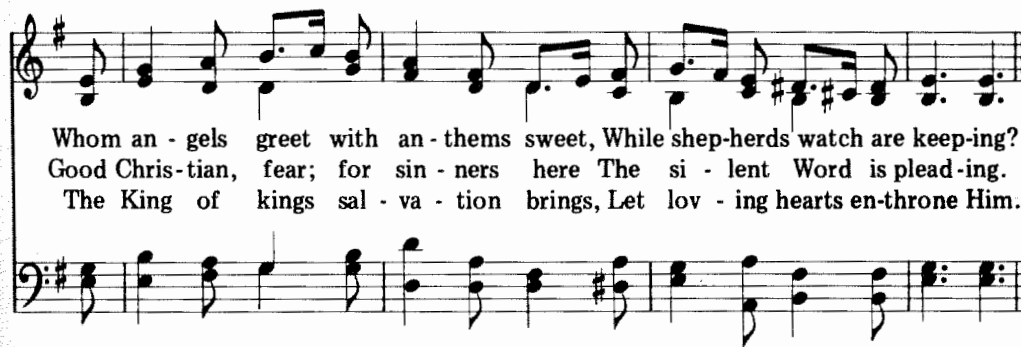
GREENSLEEVES 8 7 8 7 Ref.

William C. Dix, c. 1865

Traditional English melody, 16th century

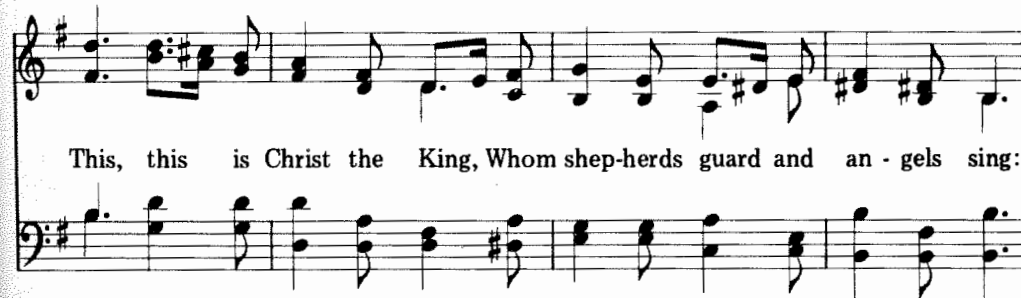


1. What Child is this, who, laid to rest, On Ma - ry's lap is sleep - ing?
2. Why lies He in such mean es - tate Where ox and ass are feed - ing?
3. So bring Him in - cense, gold and myrrh, Come, peas - ant, king, to own Him;



Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet, While shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here The si - lent Word is plead - ing.
The King of kings sal - va - tion brings, Let lov - ing hearts en - throne Him.

Refrain



This, this is Christ the King, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing:



This, this is Christ the King, The babe, the Son of Ma - ry.

106 Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

And suddenly there was . . . a multitude of the heavenly host praising God . . . Luke 2:13

MENDELSSOHN 7777 D. Ref.

Charles Wesley, 1739

Felix Mendelssohn, 1840
Arr. by William H. Cummings, 1856

1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King:
2. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord!
3. Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Right-eous-ness!

Peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
Late in time be - hold Him come, Off-spring of the Vir - gin's womb:
Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in His wings.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; Hail th'in - car - nate De - i - ty,
Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,

With th'an - gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King." A-men.

SERMON TEXT & NOTES

Luke 2:1-7

1 In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. **2** (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) **3** And everyone went to their own town to register.

4 So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. 5 He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. 6 While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, 7 and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

This image shows a full page of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, providing a template for handwriting practice or general note-taking. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the page.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

December 21, 2025

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

Signup for events



DATES TO REMEMBER

- Today - Jingle Mingle, 9:45 am
- December 24 - Christmas Eve Candlelight Services, 4:00 pm & 6:00 pm
- December 25 - *Merry Christmas!* Office closed
- December 27 - Women on Their Own Christmas Party, 4:00 pm
- December 28 - Sunday Worship Service, 10:00 am
- December 29 - GriefShare Zoom, 7:30 pm
- January 1 - *Happy New Year!* Office closed
- January 4 - Sunday Worship Services, 8:30 am and 11:00 am
- January 4 - Sunday School resumes, 9:45 am

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.

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.

Hearing-Assist Devices and Large-Print Bibles: We have hearing-assist devices that help reduce ambient noise when listening to the sermon in the sanctuary; we also have large-print bibles. Please see an usher for assistance.

Download our app



JINGLE MINGLE

All are welcome to attend our Jingle Mingle in Fellowship Foyer at 9:45 am today! Coffee and Christmas treats will be served. Sunday School classes will resume on January 4. Please note, the nursery is closed during this time. Your babies are invited to mingle with us!

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Join us on Wednesday, December 24, for one of our Annual Candlelight Christmas Eve services at 4:00 pm or 6:00 pm. Both services are identical, so pick the one that works best for you! The offering collected on Christmas Eve will go to our missionaries.

- **Parking Request:** We've invited friends and neighbors to attend our Christmas Eve services. If you attend regularly, please consider parking on the street to make room for our guests.
- The Sunday after Christmas, December 28, we'll have one worship service at 10:00 am.

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 the Barn to see the movie "The Star." Bring your favorite Christmas cookies to share!
- **Winter Break:** There will be no Sunday School classes, nursery care, or LPC during the 10:00 am worship service on December 28. The nursery will be open for families to use the room during the service.

WOTO CHRISTMAS PARTY

Women on Their Own (WOTO) will have our annual Christmas party and Yankee Swap on Saturday, December 27, at 4:00 pm at the home of Linda Coonrod, 47 Lincoln Ave, Hamilton. You're invited to bring a gift to swap (under \$20) and food to share—sweet or savory snacks. Women who are on their own for any reason are welcome to join us. Please contact Linda for more details at lcoonrod47@gmail.com or 508-954-7200.

MEN'S WEDNESDAY MORNING ONLINE BIBLE STUDY

Our online Men's Bible Study that meets on Wednesday mornings from 6:30 to 7:30 am will not meet on December 24 and December 31. Consider joining us online when we resume on Wednesday, January 7. Contact Rich Schonewald to learn more, rich.schonewald@gmail.com.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDIES

We're excited to focus our Bible study this winter into spring on the book of Genesis. SonLight will begin Tuesday, January 13, from 9:45 am to noon, and NightLight will begin Thursday, January 15, from 7:00 to 8:30 pm. We'll use the LifeChange study guide, *Genesis*. Books will be available for purchase with registration for \$12. Sign up using the QR code on the page above.

COPING WITH ANXIETY: EMBRACING FAITH AND HOPE

Lisa Clay and Yuka Langlais possess a wealth of personal and professional experience in the mental health field. Together, they invite you to participate in an informative and engaging evening focused on anxiety, a topic that affects so many. Join us on Wednesday, January 28, from 7:00 to 8:30 pm in the Chapel. Register by January 21 using the QR code on the front page.

GRIEF SHARE

If you've lost a loved one, consider the GriefShare program. Our new 13-week Zoom sessions, held on Monday nights at 7:30 pm, began December 8, but you can still register. This program features biblical, Christ-centered teaching focused on grief topics associated with the death of a loved one. 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.

LEARN, GROW, AND SERVE BY BECOMING A STEPHEN MINISTER

Do you have gifts for caring, encouragement, and listening? If so, please prayerfully consider becoming a Stephen Minister. FCCH will train another class of Stephen Ministers in 2026. Stephen Ministers provide emotional and spiritual support and care to people going through a difficult time, such as divorce, grief, hospitalization, unemployment, terminal illness, relocation, chronic illness, or loneliness. The 20 training sessions will be held every other Tuesday at 7:00 pm, beginning January 20. To find out more about becoming a Stephen Minister or how you or someone you know can be matched with a Stephen Minister, speak with one of our Stephen Ministry Leaders: Andrea Brown, Darlene Farris, Cece Gough, Kathy Lindsay, or Pam Mulvihill.

WINTER ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

Our 6 week winter Sunday School classes begin January 4 at 9:45 am.

- **Getting Along God's Way** - Dr. Katherine Horvath, "on loan" from *North Shore Community Baptist Church*, Meetinghouse Chapel

We all encounter conflict, but is it possible that we can end up the better for it? This six-week class will cover a four-step process of addressing interpersonal conflict introduced by *Peacemaker Ministries*. Rich in discussion and seasoned with humor, we will learn to "hug the cactus" as we "speak the truth in love and grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ."

- **Christians and Immigration: *The Bible, Ethics, and Ministry to Immigrants*** - Dr. Glenn Butner, Ministry Center Room 23/24

In many ways, the Bible is a book about migrants, and political debate centers heavily on immigration, but how do we connect these two issues? Recognizing the many ways immigration relates to church ministry, this class will offer a nonpartisan theological framework for thinking about immigration, with a special emphasis on issues related to the church.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

- **Greeters:** The FCCH Welcome Team is looking for a few good greeters to join the 8:30 am greeting team. Whether you're new to this church or you've been here 20 years, your greeting is an impactful way to serve the church and welcome everyone into the peace of Christ as they prepare to worship Him. Email Josiah Coffey if interested, josiah.coffey001@gmail.com.
- **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.
- **Livestream Team:** Want to help our church with technology? We're looking for volunteers to help with our Sunday service livestream at 8:30 am. No experience needed—training provided! If interested, contact Jay Foss, Director of Sound and Technology, at av@fcchamilton.org.
- **Snow Squad:** Help remove snow to keep our church sidewalks safe by joining the Snow Squad! If you're interested in joining Phil Best and his team of snow shovelers to clear walkways before Sunday morning services, email facilities@fcchamilton.org.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Youth group is on winter break until January 13 and 14, 2026

- **Whiteout! Winter Retreat:** The deadline to register for our Camp Spofford Winter Retreat has passed. The high school trip is from January 30 to February 1. The middle school trip is from February 13 to 15. If your child wants to attend, contact Pastor Matt directly at mschuberth@fcchamilton.org.

COLLEGE AGE MINISTRY

Our College Age Group will resume meeting on Sunday, January 18, at 6:00 pm in the Barn.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Young Adults will resume meeting on Monday, January 5.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

In case of an emergency, please note the following:

- Please do not move your car out of the parking lot until directed by emergency personnel.
- See an usher or campus monitor if you need assistance.

If you would like to receive our weekly email, sign up at fcchamilton.org, or email the church office, info@fcchamilton.org.

If you signed up and are not receiving it, 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 Wednesday at noon. Thank you!