



Order of Service January 4, 2026

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Preparation

"I will raise up for myself a faithful priest, who will do according to what is in my heart and mind. I will firmly establish his priestly house, and they will minister before my anointed one always."

- 1 Samuel 2:35

* Call to Worship: Isaiah 43:19-21

Leader: See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?

People: I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.

Leader: The wild animals honor me, the jackals and the owls,

People: because I provide water in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland, to give drink to my people, my chosen,

Unison: the people I formed for myself that they may proclaim my praise.

* Hymn: Holy Father, Great Creator

* Invocation

* Song of Response: Lord, I Need You

Lord I come, I confess
Bowing here, I find my rest
Without You, I fall apart
You're the one that guides my heart

*Lord, I need You, oh, I need You
Every hour, I need You
My one defense, my righteousness
Oh God, how I need You*

Where sin runs deep, Your grace is more
Where grace is found is where You are
And where You are, Lord, I am free
Holiness is Christ in me

*Lord, I need You, oh, I need You
Every hour, I need You
My one defense, my righteousness
Oh God, how I need You*

Children's Message Craig Story

Scripture Reading Luke 2:39-52 (ESV)

And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress." And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart.

And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

Prayer For Our Church Family

Offertory: *Sheep May Safely Graze* Hana Lee

A musical meditation on Psalm 23, reflecting trust and peace in God's care.

* **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: Looking for Jesus*"..... Oli van Ruth
Luke 2:39-52

• **Song of Worship** All Glory Be to Christ

• **Apostle's Creed** (Insert)

Prayer of Renewal

Celebrating the Lord's Supper

• **Hymn:** Great Is Thy Faithfulness (*verses 1 and 3*)

• **Call to Prayer and Benediction**

Postlude

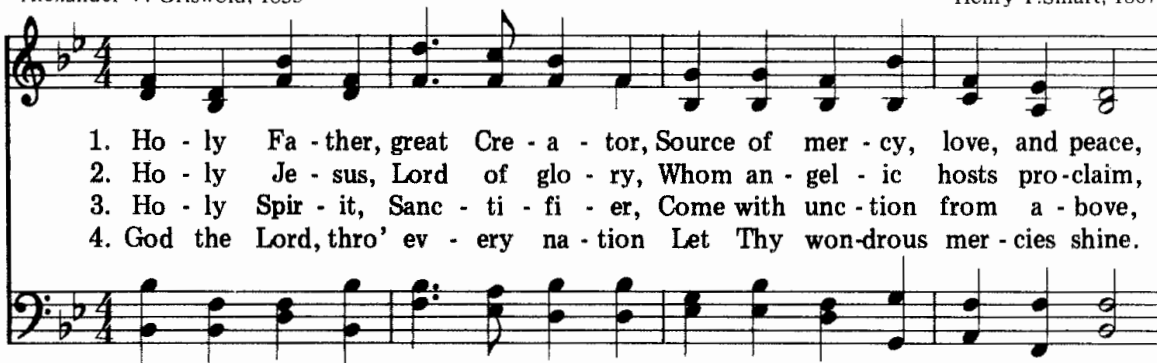
Holy Father, Great Creator 6

Blessed be God . . . the Father of mercies and the God of all comfort. II Cor. 1:3

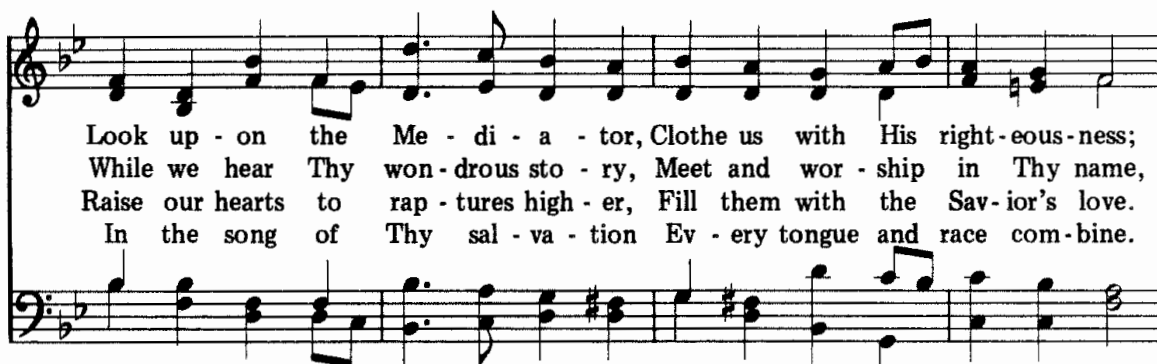
REGENT SQUARE 8 7 8 7 8 7

Alexander V. Griswold, 1835


Henry T. Smart, 1867



1. Ho - ly Fa - ther, great Cre - a - tor, Source of mer - cy, love, and peace,
2. Ho - ly Je - sus, Lord of glo - ry, Whom an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim,
3. Ho - ly Spir - it, Sanc - ti - fi - er, Come with unc - tion from a - bove,
4. God the Lord, thro' ev - ery na - tion Let Thy won - drous mer - cies shine.



Look up - on the Me - di - a - tor, Clothe us with His right - eous - ness;
While we hear Thy won - drous sto - ry, Meet and wor - ship in Thy name,
Raise our hearts to rap - tures high - er, Fill them with the Sav - ior's love.
In the song of Thy sal - va - tion Ev - ery tongue and race com - bine.



Heav'n - ly Fa - ther, heav'n - ly Fa - ther, Thro' the Sav - ior hear and bless!
Dear Re - deem - er, dear Re - deem - er, In our hearts Thy peace pro - claim.
Source of com - fort, Source of com - fort, Cheer us with the Sav - ior's love.
Great Je - ho - vah, great Je - ho - vah, Form our hearts and make them Thine. A - men.

This tune in a lower key, No. 185

THE TRINITY

All Glory Be to Christ

by Dustin Kensrue

Should nothing of our efforts stand
No legacy survive
Unless the Lord does raise the house
In vain its builders strive
To you who boast tomorrow's gain
Tell me what is your life
A mist that vanishes at dawn
All glory be to Christ

Refrain

*All glory be to Christ our King
All glory be to Christ
His rule and reign will ever sing
All glory be to Christ*

His will be done
His kingdom come
On earth as is above
Who is Himself our daily bread
Praise Him the Lord of love
Let living water satisfy
The thirsty without price
We'll take a cup of kindness yet
All glory be to Christ

Refrain

When on the day the great I Am
The faithful and the true
The Lamb who was for sinners slain
Is making all things new
Behold our God shall live with us
And be our steadfast light
And we shall ere his people be
All glory be to Christ

Refrain

APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth and in
Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord:
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary;
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried:
he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead:
he ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of
God the Father Almighty:
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost: the holy catholic* Church;
the communion of saints: the forgiveness of sins:
the resurrection of the body: and the life everlasting. Amen

*Here the word means universal, such as the universal bond of genuine believers across the world.

* Verses 1 and 3

37 Great Is Thy Faithfulness

His compassions fail not. They are new every morning. Lam. 3:22,23

FAITHFULNESS 11 10 11 10 Ref.

Thomas O. Chisholm, 1923

William M. Runyan, 1923



- * 1. Great is Thy faith-ful-ness, O God my Fa-ther, There is no shad-ow of
2. Sum-mer and win-ter, and springtime and har-vest, Sun, moon and stars in their
* 3. Par-don for sin and a peace that en-dur-eth, Thy own dear pres-ence to



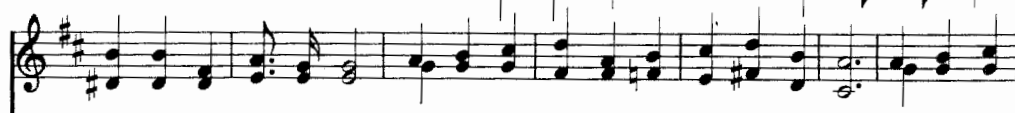
turn-ing with Thee; Thou chang-est not, Thy com-pas-sions they fail not;
cours-es a-bove Join with all na-ture in man-i-fold wit-ness
cheer and to guide; Strength for to-day and bright hope for to-mor-row,



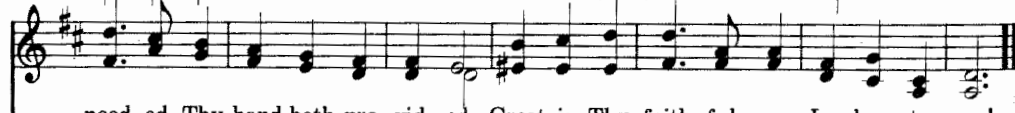
Refrain



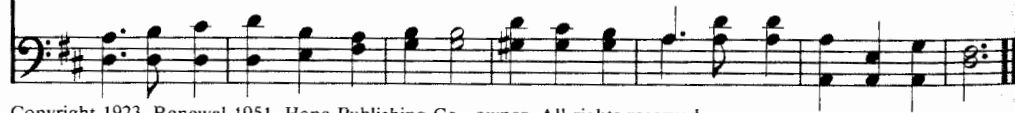
As Thou hast been Thou for-ev-er wilt be.
To Thy great faith-ful-ness, mer-cy and love. Great is Thy faith-ful-ness!
Bless-ings all mine, with ten thou-sand be-side!



Great is Thy faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by morn-ing new mer-cies I see; All I have



need-ed Thy hand hath pro-vid-ed—Great is Thy faith-ful-ness, Lord, un-to me!



Adult Sunday School Classes Begin January 4

Let's continue to deepen our walk in Christ together during our Sunday School hour this winter. Sunday school is a great place to connect with other people in our church, and we hope it fosters prayer, service, and hospitality toward one another as we grow together.

Getting Along God's Way – 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, as developed 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.”

Dr. Katherine Horvath

Meetinghouse Chapel

Christians and Immigration: The Bible, Ethics, and Ministry to Immigrants – 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.

Dr. Glenn Butner

Ministry Center Room 23/24

Children & Youth School Classes

Our children and youth Sunday School classes resume today, January 4, and continue the curriculum from the Fall.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

January 4, 2026

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

Signup for events



DATES TO REMEMBER

- Tonight - Sunday School resumes, 9:45 am
- January 5 - Young Adults meeting, 7:00 pm
- January 5 - GriefShare Zoom, 7:30 pm
- January 6 - Missions prayer, 7:45 am
- January 7 - Men's online Bible study, 6:30 am
- January 9 - Friday morning men's basketball, 6:00 am
- January 9 - New Moms group, 9:30 am
- January 9-10 - Youth Ministry student leader retreat
- January 10 - Men's Bible study, 8:00 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.

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 - see insert in Worship Folder

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



ROSE ON PULPIT

The rose on the pulpit this morning is to welcome Boaz Judson Marquard, born on December 23 to Rosie and Sam Marquard!

THANK YOU!

On behalf of our pastoral and ministry staff, please accept our deepest gratitude for your generous Christmas gift! We love you and consider it a privilege to serve you. May the Lord bless FCCH in 2026 as we look to His leading and give Him the glory!

'TIS THE SEASON FOR SNOW

Church cancelled? In case of inclement weather, you'll receive a notification about whether church is cancelled through the Church Center app. You can also check our website at www.fcchamilton.org.

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 them on Wednesday, January 28, from 7:00 to 8:30 pm in the Chapel. Register by January 21 using the QR code above.

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.

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.

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*. You can purchase a book (\$12) when you register, using the QR code on the front page.

MEN'S MINISTRY

- We have an online men's Bible study that meets on Wednesdays from 6:30 to 7:30 am. Consider joining us in the new year when we resume on Wednesday, January 7. Contact Rich Schonewald to learn more, rich.schonewald@gmail.com.
- **Men's Breakfast:** Join us on Saturday, January 31, for the Men's Breakfast in Heritage Hall from 8:00 to 10:30 am. Dr. Sean McDonough will speak on *Fidelity of the Heart: The Heart of the Modern Christian Man*. This is a free and catered event. Registration is due by January 26. Sign up using the QR code on the front page.

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.
- **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:** Payment and waivers are due for our high school and middle school students who are attending our winter retreats! If your child wants to attend but has not registered, 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

Our Young Adults group meets on Mondays at 7:00 pm. To receive more information, contact Pastor Matt at mschuberth@fcchamilton.org.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU & WELCOME!

- **We'd like to thank those who completed serving as leaders in 2025.**

Elders: Lou Brown, Sue Goodhue

Deacon Board: Darlene Farris, Stephen Jamison

Missions Committee: Chris Guay, Arlete Oliveira, Bob Payne

Stewardship Committee: Jeff Fraser, Carmela Martin, Ted Watson, Mike Whalen, Andy Wildes

Nominating Committee: Debbie Bateman

- **We welcome those who have accepted leadership positions for 2026.**

Elders: Margot Rox

Deacon Board: Mary Bigus, Kornilios Lazaridis, Kelly Lestage

Missions Committee: Ashley Hopkins, Kristina Martinez, Christine Williams, Wendy McFarland

Stewardship Committee: Steve Clark, Elizabeth Ford, Karen Rendall, Jeff Turpel, Blair Villa

Nominating Committee: Jack Billings

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!