

Friends Church

An Open & Affirming Congregation



April 19, 2020

11:00am

Online

WELCOME

We are honored that you have chosen to spend your Sunday morning with us. Friends Congregational Church is an **Open & Affirming** congregation of the United Church of Christ. We welcome all people into the full life and ministry of our church—people of all ages, races, sexual orientations, gender identities, and abilities. No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

Second Sunday of Easter

Easter is not just one day--it's a whole season. Throughout these 50 days, we celebrate and ponder the mystery of the resurrection and the promise of new life.

Words in **BOLD** are yours to speak out loud

Quote for Meditation: "It is not easy to convey a sense of wonder, let alone resurrection wonder, to another. It's the very nature of wonder to catch us off guard, to circumvent expectations and assumptions. Wonder can't be packaged, and it can't be worked up. It requires some sense of being there and some sense of engagement." – Eugene Peterson

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

INTRODUCTION TO ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICE

Trent Williams

PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

CALL TO WORSHIP

Dinah Anderson

One: Alleluia, Christ is risen!

Many: So we do not lose heart.

One: The tomb is empty, death has been defeated;

Many: So we do not lose heart.

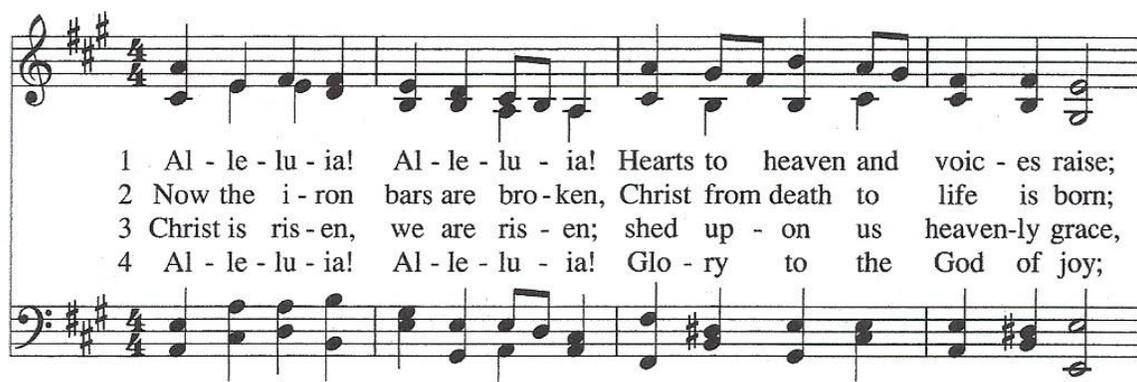
One: God's love is stronger than any fear or pain;

Many: So we do not lose heart.

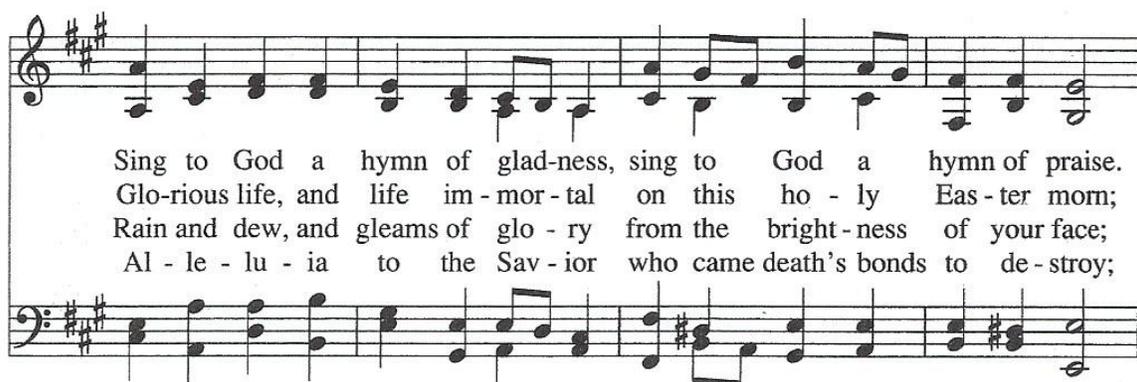
One: God's love has been poured into our hearts,

Many: And we shall not lose heart. Come, let us worship. Alleluia!

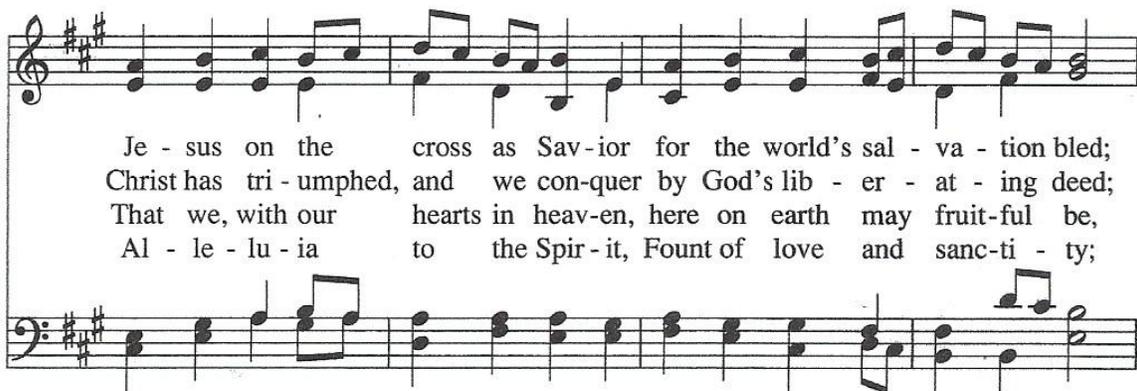
OPENING HYMN — "Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven"



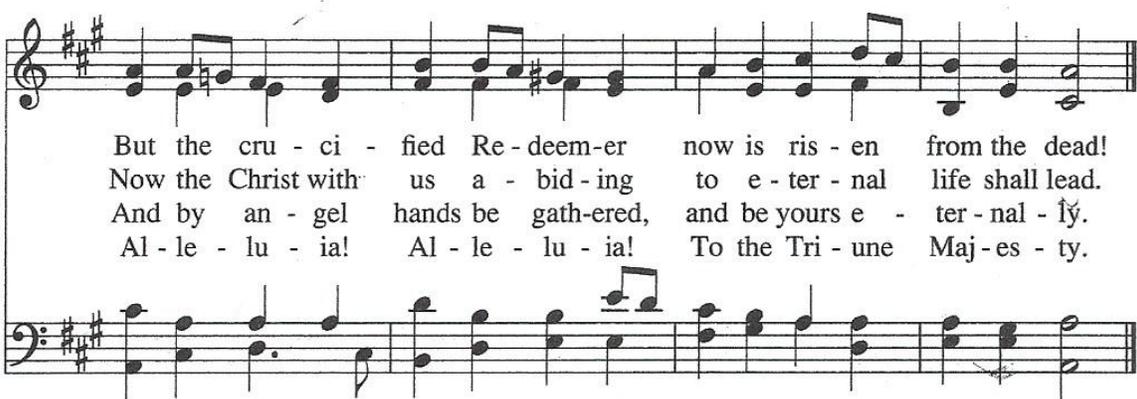
1 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Hearts to heaven and voic - es raise;
2 Now the i - ron bars are bro - ken, Christ from death to life is born;
3 Christ is ris - en, we are ris - en; shed up - on us heav - en - ly grace,
4 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Glo - ry to the God of joy;



Sing to God a hymn of glad - ness, sing to God a hymn of praise.
Glo - rious life, and life im - mor - tal on this ho - ly Eas - ter morn;
Rain and dew, and gleams of glo - ry from the bright - ness of your face;
Al - le - lu - ia to the Sav - ior who came death's bonds to de - stroy;



Je - sus on the cross as Sav - ior for the world's sal - va - tion bled;
Christ has tri - umphed, and we con - quer by God's lib - er - at - ing deed;
That we, with our hearts in heav - en, here on earth may fruit - ful be,
Al - le - lu - ia to the Spir - it, Fount of love and sanc - ti - ty;



But the cru - ci - fied Re - deem - er now is ris - en from the dead!
Now the Christ with us a - bid - ing to e - ter - nal life shall lead.
And by an - gel hands be gath - ered, and be yours e - ter - nal - ly.
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! To the Tri - une Maj - es - ty.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Dinah Anderson

WORDS OF WELCOME

Dinah Anderson

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Kenny Wiley

"This Little Light of Mine"

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine!
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine!
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, (oh let it shine!)

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Dan De Leon

One: The peace of Christ be with you all.

***Many:* And also with you!**

SONG OF PRAISE — "Halle, Halle, Halle"

Two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff has a key signature of one sharp and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is written on a treble clef. The lyrics are: Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. The second staff continues the melody with the lyrics: Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le - lu - ja, hal - le - lu - ja. The notation includes various chords and rests.

EPISTLE READING — Epistle Reading: II Corinthians 4:7-18 (NRSV)

Brian Blake

But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies. For while we live, we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be made visible in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you.

But just as we have the same spirit of faith that is in accordance with scripture—"I believed, and so I spoke"—we also believe, and so we speak, because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into his presence. Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.

SPECIAL MUSIC — There Is a Balm in Gilead - Traditional Spiritual, arr. by Mark Hayes
Cathy Hansen, soprano; Chris Hoffman, piano

GOSPEL READING — Mark 1:1-15 (CEB) Trent Williams

The beginning of the good news about Jesus Christ, God’s Son, happened just as it was written about in the prophecy of Isaiah:

Look, I am sending my messenger before you.

He will prepare your way,

a voice shouting in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way for the Lord;

make his paths straight.”

John the Baptist was in the wilderness calling for people to be baptized to show that they were changing their hearts and lives and wanted God to forgive their sins. Everyone in Judea and all the people of Jerusalem went out to the Jordan River and were being baptized by John as they confessed their sins. John wore clothes made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey. He announced, “One stronger than I am is coming after me. I’m not even worthy to bend over and loosen the strap of his sandals. I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

About that time, Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and John baptized him in the Jordan River. While he was coming up out of the water, Jesus saw heaven splitting open and the Spirit, like a dove, coming down on him. And there was a voice from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I dearly love; in you I find happiness.”

At once the Spirit forced Jesus out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan. He was among the wild animals, and the angels took care of him.

After John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee announcing God’s good news, saying, “Now is the time! Here comes God’s kingdom! Change your hearts and lives, and trust this good news!”

One: The word of God for the people of God.

***Many:* God is still speaking. Thanks be to God.**

THE MESSAGE Trent Williams

MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

INVITATION TO SHARE Brian Blake

OFFERTORY

Secure online giving via GivePlusOnline at bit.ly/friendschurchoonlinegiving

GivePlus Text to 833-421-0009

Venmo to 979-446-5746 or @friendsucc

DOXOLOGY

Hymn Tune No. 27

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God all creatures here below: alleluia, alleluia!
Praise God the source of all our gifts,
Praise Jesus Christ whose power uplifts,
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Dan De Leon

THE CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

Dan De Leon & Trent Williams

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Dan De Leon

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN — "Lord Jesus, Who Through Forty Days"

1 Lord Je - sus, who through for - ty days for us did fast and pray,
2 As you with Sa - tan did con-tend, and did the vic-tory win,
3 And through these days of pen - i - tence, and through this Pas-sion - tide,
4 A - bide with us, till when this life of suf - fering shall be past,

Teach us with you to mourn our sins, and close by you to stay.
O give us strength to per - se - vere, in you to con-quer sin.
Yes, ev - er - more, in life and death, O Christ, with us a - bide.
An Eas - ter of un - end - ing joy we may at - tain at last.

The musical score consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The first system covers the first four lines of lyrics. The second system covers the next four lines. The third system covers the final four lines. The piano accompaniment is primarily block chords and simple rhythmic patterns.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dan De Leon

BENEDICTION

Trent Williams

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE — “They’ll Know We Are Christians By Our Love”



Refrain



POSTLUDE

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Instrumental Music:

Prelude: All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name - Oliver Holden, arr. by Janet Vogt

Offertory: Sarabande (from *French Suite in G Major*) - Johann Sebastian Bach

Communion: Bread of the World - John S. B. Hodges, arr. by Stanley E. Saxton

Postlude: God of the Ages - George William Warren, arranged by Roger Summers

Scriptures for Sunday, April 26: 1 Peter 1:17-23; Mark 1:16-28

Stay Connected with What's Happening at Friends!

Subscribe to This Week at Friends published every Friday to your email address, and the E-Connection Newsletter published monthly to your email address. You can sign up on our website: www.friends-ucc.org, or email the church office: office@friends-ucc.org. Please add e-connection@friends-ucc.org and office@friends-ucc.org to you email address book to ensure delivery.

Online Gathering Information:

We will be offering Noonday Check-In & Prayer Times on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and on Wednesday evening, we will offer a Prayer & Communion Service at 6:30pm. And, as always, the Sunday morning service can be accessed on Facebook live (Friends Congregational Church – UCC) or through the website's streaming service: <http://fc1wp-preview.cloversites.com/watch>. Mark your calendar, and we'll see you online.

Update Contact Information

If you are not currently receiving Church email correspondence, and would like to, please send a message to the Church office with your name and email address: office@friends-ucc.org, and add e-connection@friends-ucc.org and office@friends-ucc.org to you email address book to ensure delivery.

Tutorial for Using Zoom

For the last couple of weeks we've been gathering online for Noonday Check-In & Prayer Times and for Midweek Evening Services via Zoom. Zoom is new for many of us, and we might be having a difficult time getting started using it. Here is a helpful YouTube tutorial to walk you through using zoom: <https://youtu.be/9isp3qPeQ0E>. Please share this tutorial with anyone having difficulty joining us for our online gatherings.

Small Business Support

Some members of our congregation own a small business. During these times, we want to "Be the church," and find out how we can provide support to these business owners. If you are a Small Business Owner, please email the office and provide a brief description of your business and let us know how we can support your business (buy gift cards, spread the word to our neighborhoods, etc.). The email address is: office@friends-ucc.org.

EPT (Emergency Preparedness Team) Updates

A survey has been sent out by email to everyone on our email list asking for answers to 4 short questions. Your EPT is seeking to identify who might need help (health issues, live alone, etc.) and who might be able to offer help to others (obtain groceries, drive to medical appointments, do phone check in's etc.). We also hope to establish telephone trees by geographic area so we can stay in touch if needed. The survey can be accessed here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JMC75YG>.

Church Operations

At this time, we anticipate that the Church office will reopen May 1, 2020, the Church building will reopen for general use May 11, 2020, and in-person worship will resume May 17, 2020. If you should have questions or concerns, please leave a message with the Church office by calling 979-693-7021, or emailing office@friends-ucc.org.

FRIENDS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Our Vision:

Rooted in the way of Christ, we strive to be a community of God's radical inclusion and extravagant welcome.

Our Mission:

United by the example of Jesus, we live faithfully, love limitlessly, and serve boldly.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Online at 11:00am

FRIENDS CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Dr. Dan De Leon, *Senior Pastor*
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The Rev. Trent Williams, *Associate Pastor*
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