



Friends Church

An Open & Affirming Congregation



"The Lord's Supper"
Jesus MAFA, Cameroon, 1973

October 30, 2022

II:00am

WELCOME TO FRIENDS CHURCH!

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.

FIRST TIME AT FRIENDS? If you are a guest with us today, please let us know. Welcome cards are located in the chair backs to fill out and leave in the offering plate during today's offertory. If you are joining us online for today's service, you will find an Online Visitor Card at <https://www.friends-ucc.org/your-first-visit>. We are so glad you are here, so please let us know if there is anything we can do for you.

CHILDCARE: We invite children to participate fully in our community and worship life. Children of all ages are welcome in worship or you may choose childcare, offered for ages 1-5 in the nursery down the hall through the piano side double doors. We currently have Covid Protocols in place, which you can find posted outside the nursery door.

WiFi: To access church WiFi, please use this login information,
WiFi – The Promised LAN
Password: stillspeaking

RESTROOMS are located through the double doors on the piano side of the sanctuary. Gender assigned restrooms are straight down at the end of the hall, and a gender neutral restroom is to the immediate right.



The Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

The season after Pentecost is also considered Ordinary Time. It indicates the parts of the liturgical year that are not included in the major seasons of the church calendar. Ordinary Time can be understood in terms of the living out of Christian faith and the meaning of Christ's resurrection in ordinary life. It may be referred to as the "green season," as green is the liturgical color for this period of time in the church year.

Quote for Meditation:

Remember the sky that you were born under, know each of the star's stories. Remember the moon, know who she is. Remember the sun's birth at dawn, that is the strongest point of time. Remember sundown and the giving away to night. Remember your birth, how your mother struggled to give you form and breath. You are evidence of her life, and her mother's, and hers. Remember your father. He is your life, also. Remember the earth whose skin you are: red earth, black earth, yellow earth, white earth, brown earth, we are earth. Remember the plants, trees, animal life who all have their tribes, their families, their histories, too. Talk to them, listen to them. They are alive poems. Remember the wind. Remember her voice. She knows the origin of this universe. Remember you are all people and all people are you. Remember you are this universe and this universe is you. Remember all is in motion, is growing, is you. Remember language comes from this. Remember the dance language is, that life is.

-Joy Harjo, from "She Had Some Horses"

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

WORDS OF WELCOME

Brooke Dooley

PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

**CALL TO WORSHIP

David Manuel

One: God has given us this beautiful earth
and all that grows and runs upon it.

All: Thanks be to God.

One: God has given us breath to live and spirit to sing.

All: Thanks be to God.

One: God has gathered us into a community of care and worship.

All: Let us worship God with love, thanksgiving, and praise.

****OPENING HYMN: "As the Deer" (Glory to God No. 626)**

As the Deer

D A Bm Dsus D
As the deer pants for the wa - ter, so my
G A7sus A7 D G A7 D A
soul longs af - ter you. You a - lone are my
Bm Dsus D G Asus A7 D
heart's de - sire, and I long to wor - ship you.
Bm Bm/A G D/F# G Bm
You a - lone are my strength, my shield; to you a - lone
Em F#sus F# D A
may my spir - it yield. You a - lone are my
Bm Dsus D G A7sus A7 D
heart's de - sire, and I long to wor - ship you.

****INVOCATION**

David Manuel

MISSION MOMENT: CROP Walk

SERVICE OF DEDICATION FOR CONNOR JACK BENTLEY

INTRODUCTION & WELCOME

Pastor: They were bringing children to Jesus that Jesus might touch them; and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it, Jesus was indignant, and said to them...

All: “Let the children come to me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the realm of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the realm of God like a child shall not enter it.”

Pastor: And Jesus took them in his arms and blessed them.

QUESTIONS OF THE PARENTS

**CONGREGATIONAL ASSENT

Pastor: Jesus Christ offers us a simple invitation, one that all are invited to share: “Follow me.” Do you, who witness and celebrate this dedication today, promise your love, support, and care to the one about to be dedicated, as he lives and grows in Christ, learning by your example how he might come to follow Jesus?

All: We promise our love, support and care.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DEDICATED CHILD

**SONG OF PRAISE NO. 759

Glory to the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit, Three in One;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen. Amen.

**PRAYER FOR THE DEDICATED CHILD

**PASSING OF THE PEACE

Dan De Leon

One: The peace of Christ be with you all.

Many: And also with you!

INTRODUCTION OF GUEST SPEAKER

Trent Williams

PSALM READING: PSALM 42:1-8 (CEB)

Trent Williams

Just like a deer that craves streams of water, my whole being craves you, God. My whole being thirsts for God, for the living God. When will I come and see God's face? My tears have been my food both day and night, as people constantly questioned me, "Where's your God now?" But I remember these things as I bare my soul: how I made my way to the mighty one's abode, to God's own house, with joyous shouts and thanksgiving songs—a huge crowd celebrating the festival! Why, I ask myself, are you so depressed? Why are you so upset inside? Hope in God! Because I will again give him thanks, my saving presence and my God. My whole being is depressed. That's why I remember you from the land of Jordan and Hermon, from Mount Mizar. Deep called to deep at the noise of your waterfalls; all your massive waves surged over me. By day the Lord commands [God's] faithful love; by night [God's] song is with me—a prayer to the God of my life.

CHORAL ANTHEM: Great Is the Lord! - Rosephanye Powell (Mac De Leon, percussion)

Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised!
Great is the Lord! Great is the Lord, in the city of our Lord,
God, on the holy mountain.

God is in the citadels. God will be our fortress.

Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised!
Beautiful in its loftiness, the joy of the whole earth,
Mount Zion, the city of God, our fortress, forever.

Hallelujah! Great is the Lord, our God! Great is the Lord!
Great is the Lord, in the city of our Lord, God, on the holy mountain.

Great is the Lord! Hallelujah! Great is our God! Hallelujah!

Singing "Great is the Lord! Hallelujah! Great is our God! Hallelujah!"

Shouting "Great is the Lord! Hallelujah! Great is our God! Hallelujah!" Dancing!

EPISTLE READING: 1 Corinthians 11:17-26 (NRSV)

Rev. Nikki Stahl

Now in the following instructions I do not commend you, because when you come together it is not for the better but for the worse. For, to begin with, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you, and to some extent I believe it. Indeed, there have to be factions among you, for only so will it become clear who among you are genuine. When you come together, it is not really to eat the Lord's supper. For when the time comes to eat, each of you proceeds to eat your own supper, and one goes hungry and another becomes drunk.

What! Do you not have households to eat and drink in? Or do you show contempt for the church of God and humiliate those who have nothing? What should I say to you? Should I commend you? In this matter I do not commend you! For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

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

All: **God is still speaking. Thanks be to God!**

THE MESSAGE

"Remember Me"

Rev. Nikki Stahl

MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

INVITATION TO SHARE

David Manuel

OFFERTORY

Secure online giving via Church Office Giving at bit.ly/givetofriends

Text to give: Text **Friends** to 979-500-2523

Venmo to 979-446-5746 or @friendsucc

****DOXOLOGY**

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 & THE LORD’S PRAYER**

Trent Williams

**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.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Brooke Dooley

SERVICE FOR THE RECEIVING OF NEW MEMBERS

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Kyle Riley; Jenn & Kevin Patrick; Joelle, Xander, Xane, Xackary, and Xavier Hodson;
Grace Gardner; Sydney Zentell; Jennifer, Jonathan, Ella, and Jonathan “JJ” Muraview

QUESTIONS OF THE CANDIDATES

FRIENDS CHURCH COVENANT (UNISON)

We recognize that we were strangers, that we came from diverse backgrounds, that we share a longing for acceptance and a need for mutual support — we need to celebrate our love of God with joy, enthusiasm, and faith. In faith we gather as Friends Congregational Church to experience community, to celebrate old traditions, and to affirm our new creations. Looking outward, we recognize the need to embrace the world and to invite others to share mutual gifts. Our spiritual journey is sustained by the God of Biblical history as expressed by Abraham, Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah, and most clearly by Jesus of Nazareth. We celebrate the continuity of our faith and live in its mystery.

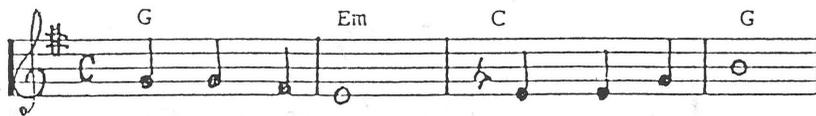
****WELCOME & RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS (UNISON)**

We welcome you with joy into the common life of this church. we promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus the Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God’s knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen savior.

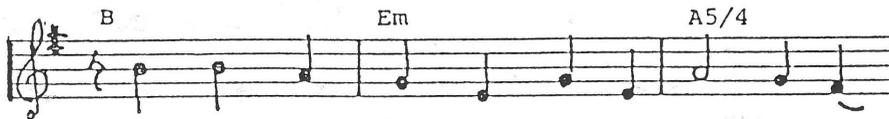
****SIGNING OF THE MEMBERSHIP BOOK**

****CLOSING HYMNS: "No Longer Strangers"**

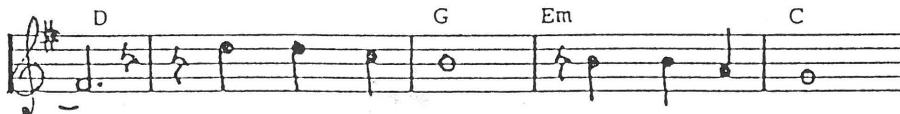
RICHARD AVERY
DONALD MARSH



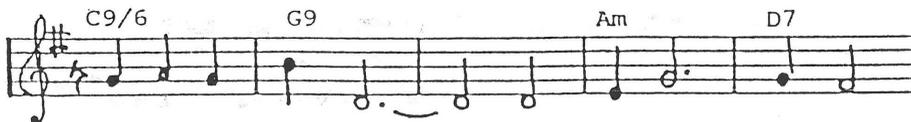
1. He turned to say: "Come fol-low me."
2. I walked a-lone. I heard your cry.
3. My world was small, my neigh-bors few,
4. No for-eign kind, no 'al--ien race,



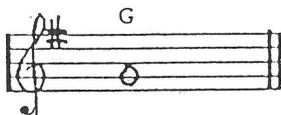
1. I joined his band to trav-el land and sea.
2. I came to you in--stead of pass--ing by.
3. But now God's love gives me a larg--er view:
4. In Christ we all have found a wel--come place.



1. And so we go to whom he sends,
2. We gave, we took; our sto-ry ends:
3. Be--fore the cross my world ex--tends...
4. The Spi--rit binds, our voic-es blend.



No long-er strang-ers, we're sis-ters, broth-ers,



friends.

**CHORAL BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

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Instrumental Music:

Prelude: *As the Deer* - Martin Nystrom, arranged by Douglas E. Wagner

Offertory: *Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken* - Franz Joseph Haydn, arranged by Randall Hartsell

Postlude: *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* - Martin Luther, arranged by John Purifoy

Scriptures for Nov 6: Psalm 17:1-9; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17; Luke 20:27-38

GETTING CONNECTED AT FRIENDS

FESTIFALL MINISTRY FAIR: Are you looking for a way to use your gifts or a way to serve? Do you need a way to plug in? Join us at the Friends FestiFall Ministry Fair Sunday, today after the 11:00 service! You will find tables for each ministry, lots of food, a scavenger hunt with prizes, and plenty of friends to help you find your place in the Friends community. The ministry leaders are looking forward to meeting you! See you there!

TRUNK OR TREAT: Join us tonight, 5:30-7:30pm, for our second annual Trunk or Treat. A section of the parking lot will be reserved for you to park your car, set up a blanket or chairs, whatever works for you. The idea is to invite the community to come to Friends to Trunk or Treat from car to car. Last year's event was a great time and we saw lots of new faces at the event. Wear a costume, decorate your car or space, the sky is the limit! We hope to see you there.

INQUIRY CLASS: New to Friends Congregational Church or the United Church of Christ, or just want to know more about our mission and ministry? You are invited to join us for an Inquiry Class on Sunday, November 6th following the 11:00 worship service. Lunch will be provided, and we will gather in the double classroom. If you have questions, contact Executive Pastor Trent Williams at pastortrent@friends-ucc.org. You can sign up online here: bit.ly/inquiryclass22.

ALL SAINTS DAY: Let us honor the Saints who have gone on before us. Friends Congregational Church celebrates All Saints Day by recognizing our deceased loved ones. Please fill out the blue form in your worship guide and leave it in the offering plate or email your submissions to office@friends-ucc.org to be sure that your Saint is included on All Saints Sunday (Nov. 6). You can also fill out this form at <http://bit.ly/friends-saints>. The names of those who have passed in the last year will be read aloud during the 9am and 11am service, and all names will be listed in the worship guides.

THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT IS COMING!: December is just around the corner and we've already started planning Friends' Christmas Pageant. Please let us know we can count on your child/youth for the pageant by completing this survey using the link: <https://forms.gle/A2CkPBfzFekXTRzp6>.

MEN'S BREAKFAST: Men, and those who identify as men, are invited to gather for BREAKFAST on SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. We'll gather for fellowship over eggs, bacon and pancakes. Please come!

PLANNED GIVING WORKSHOP: We will be offering a Planned Giving workshop after the 11:00 worship service on November 13. Lunch will be provided, and we will welcome a guest presenter from Fries Financial Services in Bryan to lead us in learning about ways to give and answer your questions. All are welcome--even if you're not at retirement age yet, this can be valuable learning as you think about creating wills and planning for the future. You can sign up to let us know you'll be coming here: <https://bit.ly/friendsplanned-giving>.

JOURNEY, CURSILLO, EMMAUS, TRES DIAS? Have you been on a Journey or another cursillo weekend? Join the Brazos Valley Journey Community for our next Community Gathering! Mark your calendar for Sunday, November 13, 4-6 pm. For more information, please contact Laura Wimberley at l.a.wimberley@gmail.com.

Friends Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

Vision:

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

Mission:

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

Friends Church Staff

Senior Pastor

The Rev. Dr. Dan De Leon (*he, him*)
pastor@friends-ucc.org

Director of Music Ministries

Chris Hoffman (*he, him*)
choir@friends-ucc.org

Executive Pastor

The Rev. Trent Williams (*he, him*)
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Pastoral Intern

Brooke Dooley (*she, her, they, them*)
pastoralintern@friends-ucc.org

Administrative Assistant

Michael Rangel (*he, him*)
office@friends-ucc.org