



Friends Church

An Open & Affirming Congregation



*"Man Praying to the Holy Spirit,"
Guillaume Vrelant (1460-1469)*

January 29, 2023

9:00am

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.

NOTE OF GRATITUDE: Thank you to the volunteers helping with today's worship services:

Lay Leaders: Tami Dudo and Tim Scott
Greeters: Martha Newsome

Next Sunday, February 5:
Lay Leaders: Anne Wehrly & Jackie Womack
Greeters: Eli Vasquez & Doris Machiniski
Communion Stewards: Chris and Kate Abbott & Doris Machinski

We give God thanks for our volunteers sharing their gifts. To volunteer for a Sunday as a lay leader, communion steward, or greeter, email worship@friends-ucc.org.

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Epiphany is the Season of Light, when we remember the revelation of Jesus as the beloved Child of God, while recognizing the lengthening of the days and the growing of the light.

SCRIPTURE FOR MEDITATION: Psalm 15 (NRSV)

O Lord, who may abide in your tent? Who may dwell on your holy hill? Those who walk blamelessly, and do what is right, and speak the truth from their heart; who do not slander with their tongue, and do no evil to their friends, nor take up a reproach against their neighbors; in whose eyes the wicked are despised, but who honor those who fear the Lord; who stand by their oath even to their hurt; who do not lend money at interest, and do not take a bribe against the innocent. Those who do these things shall never be moved.

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

WORDS OF WELCOME

Brooke Dooley

PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Tami Dudo

One: God meets us in our fear.

All: They meet us in our messiness.

One: God does not ask us to be a self-improvement project;
They are not tapping Their impatient toes,

All: waiting for us get it all together...whatever that means.

One: God is abundantly patient.

All: God is abundantly understanding.

One: They know the way the world has broken our hearts.

All: It breaks Theirs too.

One: Come, let us meet with the Brokenhearted God.

All: For wide are the arms of Love.

***OPENING HYMN: "We Shall Not Be Moved"**

We shall not, we shall not be moved
We shall not, we shall not be moved
Just like a tree that's planted by the water,
We shall not be moved.

Loving one another, we shall not be moved
Loving one another, we shall not be moved
Just like a tree that's planted by the water
We shall not be moved
Speaking out for justice, we shall not be moved
Speaking out for justice, we shall not be moved
Just like a tree that's planted by the water
We shall not be moved
We'll all grow in Jesus, we shall not be moved
We'll all grow in Jesus, we shall not be moved
Just like a tree that's planted by the water,
We shall not be moved
We shall not, we shall not be moved
We shall not, we shall not be moved
Just like a tree that's planted by the water,
We shall not be moved.

***INVOCATION**

Tami Dudo

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Tami Dudo

Children in the sanctuary are invited to come to the front, and children watching online are invited to get closer to their screen. All are invited to sing a verse of "This Little Light of Mine" to begin the children's message.

**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)!**

CALL TO CONFESSION

Trent Williams

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (UNISON)

All: Eternal Maker of the endless heavens, Lowly Christ, befriender of the changing earth, Holy Spirit, wind over the flowing waters, in earth, sea, and sky, you are ever present.

O hidden mystery, sun behind all suns, soul within all souls, in everything we touch, in everyone we meet, you are there, and we give you thanks.

But where we have not touched, but trampled you in creation; where we have not honored, but avoided you in one another; where we have not received, but rejected your goodness, forgive us and transform us, through the love of Christ and in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

(Silent prayer and meditation)

SONG OF RESPONSE: “My Lord! What a Morning” (refrain)

My Lord! what a morn-ing; my Lord! what a morn-ing;

O my Lord! what a morn-ing, when the stars be-gin to

Fine

fall, when the stars be-gin to fall.

The musical score is written for voice and piano in 4/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of three systems of music. The first system contains the first line of the refrain. The second system contains the second line. The third system contains the third line, which ends with a double bar line and the word 'Fine' above it. The piano accompaniment is primarily chordal, supporting the vocal line.

One: The peace of Christ be with you all.

Many: **And also with you!**

HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING: Micah 6:6-8 (NRSV)

Tami Dudo

“With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?” He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Brooke Dooley

SUNG RESPONSE: Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

Lord, lis - ten to your chil - dren pray - ing. Lord, send your

The first line of musical notation is in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats (Bb and Eb). The melody is written on a treble clef staff, and the bass line is on a bass clef staff. The lyrics are placed below the treble staff.

Spir - it in this place. Lord, lis - ten to your chil - dren

The second line of musical notation continues the melody and bass line from the first line. The lyrics are placed below the treble staff.

pray - ing. Send us love; send us power; send us grace.

The third line of musical notation concludes the piece. The lyrics are placed below the treble staff.

“When you pray, don’t pour out a flood of empty words, as the Gentiles do. They think that by saying many words they’ll be heard. Don’t be like them, because your Father knows what you need before you ask. Pray like this: Our Father who is in heaven, uphold the holiness of your name. Bring in your kingdom so that your will is done on earth as it’s done in heaven. Give us the bread we need for today. Forgive us for the ways we have wronged you, just as we also forgive those who have wronged us. And don’t lead us into temptation, but rescue us from the evil one. “If you forgive others their sins, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you don’t forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your sins.

“And when you fast, don’t put on a sad face like the hypocrites. They distort their faces so people will know they are fasting. I assure you that they have their reward. When you fast, brush your hair and wash your face. Then you won’t look like you are fasting to people, but only to your Father who is present in that secret place. Your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

“Stop collecting treasures for your own benefit on earth, where moth and rust eat them and where thieves break in and steal them. Instead, collect treasures for yourselves in heaven, where moth and rust don’t eat them and where thieves don’t break in and steal them. Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

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

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

THE MESSAGE

Dan De Leon

MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

Dan De Leon

INVITATION TO SHARE

Tami Dudo

OFFERTORY

Secure online giving via Church Office Giving at bit.ly/givetofriends
Text to give: Text **Friends** to 979-500-2523
Venmo to 979-307-8860 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 & INVITATION TO JOIN FRIENDS CHURCH

Brooke Dooley, Trent Williams

*CLOSING HYMN: BE THOU MY VISION

Capo 1: (D) (G) (D/F#) (A7) (D)
 Eb Ab Eb/G Bb7 Eb

1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true Word;
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise;
 4 High King of Heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

(A) (D) (G) (A)
 Bb Eb Ab Bb

naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!

(G) (D) (F#m7) (G) (A)
 Ab Eb Gm7 Ab Bb

thou my best thought, by day or by night,
 thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tower;
 thou and thou on - ly, first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

(Bm) (D/F#) (G) (D)
 Cm Eb/G Ab Eb

wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 raise thou me heaven - ward, O Power of my power.
 High King of Heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

*BENEDICTION

Dan De Leon

POSTLUDE

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Instrumental Music:

- Prelude: When Morning Gilds the Skies - Joseph Barnby, arranged by Carol Tornquist
Offertory: 'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus - William J. Kirkpatrick, arranged by Randall Hartsell
Postlude: Leaning on the Everlasting Arms - Anthony J. Showalter, arranged by Melody Bober

Scriptures for February 5, 2023: Isaiah 58:9b-12, Matthew 5:13-20

GETTING CONNECTED AT FRIENDS

CHURCH DATABASE & DIRECTORY UPDATE: We are migrating to a new church database and directory system called Realm. You should be receiving an email soon if you haven't already from Realm inviting you to login and claim your profile. This is a legitimate message, so feel free to follow the link. Once you've set up your password and login, you can edit your profile and access the church directory. There is also an app for your phone or mobile device that will use the same login as the desktop version. The app is called Realm Connect, developed by ACS Technologies Group. We will share more details about how to edit your profile soon. If you have any questions in the meantime, contact Pastor Trent at pastortrent@friends-ucc.org.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TODAY: There is a Congregational Meeting today, January 29, immediately following the 11am service. For those not attending in person, the Zoom access is <https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/87438224852>; Meeting ID: 874 3822 4852. During the meeting we will vote on becoming a Reproductive Freedom Church*. To learn more about what this decision might mean for our congregation, please see your Jan. 6 edition of This Week at Friends (TW@F) and visit Texas Freedom Network's "Just Texas Reproductive Freedom Initiative" website at <https://justtx.org/rfc/>. We will also hear from Executive Pastor Trent Williams about Stewardship and Realm Transition. *Supporting documents are available in the narthex, the office hallway, and on the FCC website.

HEY GUYZ, LET'S HAVE BREAKFAST!: Saturday, February 4, 8:30* to 10am at the church. Bring your favorite breakfast food to share; coffee and pancakes provided. Everyone is welcome. *Note the new meeting time. We are starting 30 minutes earlier to accommodate our Brazos Church Pantry volunteers.

FIRST FRIDAY WITH FRIENDS: Starting at 4:00 on Feb. 3, we'll be at Vino Boheme (wine bar next to The Village Café) to meet up, and come and go. Enjoy Downtown Bryan's First Friday activities with Friends folk!

FRIENDS CHURCH TO SPONSOR BOOK FAIR AT CROCKETT ELEMENTARY: The No-Cost Book Fair will happen on Thursday, February 2. Donations of books are still needed, especially Spanish language books for pre-K through 4th grade and both English and Spanish chapter books for the older children. A bin will be in the hallway outside the office and double classroom for collection of books through Sunday, January 29. Also, volunteers will be needed to sort and box the books at the church on Tuesday, January 31 and to staff the book fair at the school for shifts of one hour or more on February 2 between 8:30 and 2:30. All who volunteer to work at the school must bring a state approved ID with them for admittance to the school. Volunteers will also be needed to transport the books to the school on Wednesday afternoon, February 1 after 3:00 p.m. If you would be willing to help with transporting the books or have any questions, please contact Jodie Robinson (281-923-9727) or Pam Engler (979-324-1631) by text or phone.

SENIOR PASTOR OUT OF THE OFFICE: Pastor Dan will be away February 3-9 preaching the installation service for a friend at a UCC church in Grand Rapids, and taking advantage of a continuing education opportunity at Brite Divinity School's Ministers Week in Fort Worth. If you have a pastoral need during that time, please contact Pastor Trent or Pastor Brooke.

GREETERS NEEDED FOR 9AM SERVICE: At Friends Church, we have a vision of being a radically inclusive community of faith that extends God's extravagant welcome to all. That's why having volunteers to greet folks when they walk in the church door is so important. Greeters are responsible for handing out worship guides, making a count of worship attendees, and helping take up the offering. Where greeters are most needed right now is in the 9am worship service. If you haven't worshiped at the earlier service on a Sunday morning, this would be a great opportunity to give it a try. To volunteer and get more information, contact Worship Committee Chair Ryan Womack: worship@friends-ucc.org.

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*)
pastortrent@friends-ucc.org

Associate Pastor to Youth & Young Adults

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

Administrative Assistant

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