

FRIENDS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

The Third Sunday in Lent
March 12, 2023
9:00am



An Open & Affirming
Congregation

Psalm for Meditation: Psalm 95:1-7, NRSV

*O come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!*

For the Lord is a great God and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also.

The sea is his, for he made it, and the dry land, which his hands have formed.

O come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

WORDS OF WELCOME

Dan De Leon

PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Tami Dudo

One: We've come to worship God, who makes streams flow from rock,

**All: Who turns the parched earth into springs of water,
who makes the wilderness blossom and flourish.**

One: As the deer thirsts for flowing streams,

All: So we thirst for you, O God.

One: Come, let us worship our life-giving God,

All: Who pours out living water on all who thirst.

*OPENING SONG: TAIZE #20 O Lord, Hear My Prayer

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of two systems, each with a vocal line and a bass line. The first system has lyrics: "O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call an swer me." The second system has lyrics: "O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer, come and lis - ten to me." Chord symbols are placed above the vocal lines: Em, C6, D, G, C, Am6, B in the first system; and Em, C6, D, G6, Am, B, Em in the second system.

CALL TO PRAYER

Dan De Leon

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Dan De Leon

One: Creator Spirit, wellspring of our lives,
as the refreshing rain falls on the just and unjust alike,

All: **Refresh us with your mercy,
who know our own injustice.**

One: As a stream flows steadily on,
defying all the odds of stone and water,

All: **Flow over every boundary and border
that separates us from each other.**

One: As the waters of our baptism washed us and welcomed us,

All: **Renew us now in newness of life and unity of love.**

One: As we were once held in the waters of our mother's womb,

All: **Hold us in the power and peace of your abiding presence. Amen.**

silent prayer and meditation

SONG OF RESPONSE NO. 409: Give Me Jesus (verse 4)

**In the morning when I rise, in the morning when I rise,
In the morning when I rise, give me Jesus.
Give me Jesus, give me Jesus,
You may have all this world, give me Jesus.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Dan De Leon

PASSING THE PEACE

Dan De Leon

One: The peace of Christ be with you all.
Many: **And also with you.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dan De Leon

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Trent Williams

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Brooke Dooley

Children are invited to come to the front as we 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.**

HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING: Exodus 17:1-7 (NRSV)

Tami Dudo

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" But the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband,' for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" They left the city and were on their way to him.

Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell

you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

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

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

THE MESSAGE

Trent Williams

SILENT REFLECTION

One chime calls us into silence, and two chimes call us out of silence.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LIGHTING CANDLES FOR INTERCESSIONS

Trent Williams

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 Christ the Word in flesh born low;

Praise Holy Spirit evermore:

One God, Triune, whom we adore. Amen.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Brooke Dooley

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Brooke Dooley

One: The Lord be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Many: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Eucharistic Prayer

Sharing Bread and Cup

The Lord's Prayer

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 our 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: NCH #597** Shall We Gather at the River

Tune: Hanson Place

POSTLUDE

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Instrumental Music:

Prelude: Allemande (from Suite in D Minor, G 108) - George Frideric Handel

Offertory: Go to Dark Gethsemane - Richard Redhead, arranged by Jeffrey Honoré
(Handbell Choir)

Communion: Near to the Heart of God - Cleland B. McAfee, arranged by Melody Bober

Postlude: Sonata in A, Hob. XVI: 5, First Movement (Allegro) - Franz Joseph Haydn

Scriptures for March 19, 2023:

GETTING CONNECTED AT FRIENDS

NEW MEMBER SUNDAY: April 30 is New Member Sunday, when we welcome our newest members into the life of Friends Congregational Church. If you are interested in joining Friends Church on New Member Sunday, please contact Senior Pastor Dan De Leon (pastor@friends-ucc.org), Executive Pastor Trent Williams (pastortrent@friends-ucc.org), or Associate Pastor Brooke Dooley (pastorbrooke@friends-ucc.org).

20/30 SOMETHING POTLUCK: Do you ever wonder how Jesus had so many close friends in his 30s? Are you in your 20s or 30s and think often about having a social life? You're not alone. All 20/30 somethings are invited for a potluck at Brooke Dooley's home. We'll be discussing how we might support each other and get involved with the community, but mostly we'll be joining at the table to remember that we're not alone. The potluck will be on Sunday, March 19 at 5pm, 16861 Calumet Trl in College Station. Bring your favorite dish or beverage, or just show up and grab a plate. All are welcome. Contact Pastor Brooke for more details at pastorbrooke@friends-ucc.org.

MORNING MEDITATION: Are you looking for quiet time during Lent? Please join us for morning meditation on Tuesdays during Lent at 7:30 am in the sanctuary. We will share readings and spend time in silence. Please join us for this special time.

SENIOR PASTOR OUT OF THE OFFICE: Pastor Dan will be away from the church and church office March 13-17. If you have a pastoral need during that time, please contact Pastor Trent or Pastor Brooke.

FEMININE HYGIENE PRODUCTS DRIVE: Extended one week!!! Bring your donations of feminine hygiene products for Brazos Church Pantry by this Sunday, March 12th!! Smaller packages for individual distribution are preferred (as bulk cannot be divided), with an emphasis on liners and tampons. Thank you!!

FABULOUS AT ANY AGE! (An informal group that includes everyone interested in getting together) is planning a trip to the Chappell Hill Lavender Farm on Thursday, March 23. We'll leave from the church at 10:00 a.m. and return by 3:00. ALL ARE WELCOME! Sign-up with Kristin Harper at 979-676-3808 or kristinsharper@outlook.com. It's a "Bring your own Lunch" event. Drivers are needed.

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