

FRIENDS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost
November 5, 2023
9:00am



*An Open & Affirming
Congregation*

PSALM FOR MEDITATION: Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37, NRSV

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever. Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, those he redeemed from trouble and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south. Some wandered in desert wastes, finding no way to an inhabited town; hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted within them. Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress; he led them by a straight way, until they reached an inhabited town. He turns rivers into a desert, springs of water into thirsty ground, a fruitful land into a salty waste, because of the wickedness of its inhabitants. He turns a desert into pools of water, a parched land into springs of water. And there he lets the hungry live, and they establish a town to live in; they sow fields, and plant vineyards, and get a fruitful yield.

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

WORDS OF WELCOME

Kyle Riley

PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

***CALL TO WORSHIP, WRITTEN BY BETH MERRILL NEEL ON HER BLOG, "HOLD FAST TO WHAT IS GOOD"**

Anne Wehrly

One: In the beginning, God called the world into being, saying,

All: "Let there be light!"

One: In the fullness of time, Jesus came from God to us, saying,

All: "I am the Light of the world."

One: In our everyday life, we see the work of the saints,

All: The ones in whom God's light shines.

One: So let us give thanks for the saints this day,

All: And let us worship God.

One: We gather this morning to remember our call:

All: To do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with God.

One: We bring with us the events of the week in the world and in our lives,

All: Trying to know how to be just, loving and humble in the midst of it all.

One: We gather here, and remember those who have done justice,
who have been kind beyond measure,
who have set the example for humility.

**All: And we gather here and see those who do justice,
who are kind beyond measure, who set the example for humility.**

One: With gratitude for all the saints,

All: let us worship God.

***OPENING HYMN NO. 299 For All the Saints**

Tune: Sine Nomine

***INVOCATION**

Anne Wehrly

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Brooke Dooley

One: The peace of Christ be with you all.

Many: And also with you.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Brooke Dooley

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Kyle Riley

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 NCH #524 "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.**

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 23:1-12, NRSV

Dan De Leon

Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, "The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat; therefore, do whatever they teach you and follow it; but do not do as they do, for they do not practice what they teach. They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on the shoulders of others; but they themselves are unwilling to lift a finger to move them. They do all their deeds to be seen by others; for they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long. They love to have the place of honor at banquets and the best seats in the synagogues, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, and to have people call them rabbi. But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all students. And call no one your father on earth, for you have one Father—the one in heaven. Nor are you to be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Messiah. The greatest among you will be your servant. All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted.

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

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

THE MESSAGE

Dan De Leon

SILENT REFLECTION & MEDITATION

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

INVITATION TO SHARE

Anne Wehrly

OFFERTORY

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

Brooke Dooley

REMEMBERING OUR SAINTS

Megan Yeager Alvear, Carolyn Young

Lorelai Adams	Fergie Anderson	Dianna Ashley
Mark Aulabaugh	Jon Jay Baker	Ray Bacak
Brian Blake	Jesse Buffington	Nathan Dean Coffey
Mrs. Conrad	Melissa Dandeff	Martha Ann Dixon
Gordon Doty	Wanita Doty	Suzi Edgeworth
Kathy Edmondson	Dariel Esquivel	Philip Eastman Fitzpatrick
Mark Fossett	Carrie Garrett	Albert Gomez, Sr
Don Ray Halverson	Lacy Haynes	David Lee Herkelman
Jane Hibbetts	Gary Ives	Chief Johnson
Kyle Kiviat	Mirek Markevich	Ken Moore
David Morgan	Monnie Mylet	Angoon Nittayajarn
Mike Odegaard	Jackie Ortiz	Lili Percy
Silke Pfluger	Grant Poole	Catarino Quintanilla
Larry Ringer	Chap Knox Robinson	Aline Scasta
Steve Shabek	Chris Spang	Tonia Steens-Hart
Charlotte Swoboda	Aiden Blaine Trauber	Frances Hampton Stephenson
Louis Turner	Jack Wiederstein	Quentin Williams
Christopher Witt	William Young	

Our Saints who passed in previous years

Al & Pauline (Tootie)	Romeo Alford	Betty Anderson
Harold Anderson	Wynema Anderson	Louise Armstrong
Julian Paul Beer	Walter Bertsch	Cliff Bowden
Delores Brune	William Brune III	Delbert Bryant
Minnie Bryant	Don & Marie Casey	Edna Chapman

Jackie Shidey Champion	Paloma Cavazos	Robert Cetina
Hungdal Chiu	Milton Clark	Linda Coats
Mildred Cofer	Ellen Collins	Anne Coltharp
George Corolla	Leeatra Davis	Prudencio De Leon
Joe Dudley	Duffy	Frances Engler
Roy Engler	Faith Falcon	Bonnie Roblyer Flanders
Marc Fossett	Doris Gardner	Wayne Gibson
Ruth Bader Ginsburg	Dorothy Guild	George Guild
Butch Hamilton	Glen Hamman	Kimberly Hartsfield
Cecil Haynes Jr.	Corky Hibbetts	Emily Hope Hoffer
Nelson Holz	Patricia Holz	Harry N. Howell Jr
Opal McMullen Johnson	James Jim Johnston	Verna Krauss
Young-Wha Kim	Brent Lamsfork	Selinda Larson
Lionel Ledesma	Norman Leftwich	Rick Lopez
Ludy and Gladys Manthei	Garrett & Danny Manthai	Bryan Marston
Thomas Francis Mackin	Romona McCain	James Henry McMullen
Annabelle Kent McMullen	Mr & Mrs C. T. Mehrtens	Guadalupe Mendez
Guadalupe Mendez Jr	Mark Mikeela	Jorge Mulato
Adison Nittayajarn	Margaret Norris	David Nurse
Julie Odegaard	Robin Pace	Anthony John Palmer
Marti Parr	Paul Parrish	Miriam Pool
Walter, Sally, Cyndi Patscheider	Corlvin Prejean Sr.	Elise Prejean
Sawalee Puskoon	Timothy Rafferly	Dora Ramirez
Robert Ramirez	H. E. & Lorene Richter	Burnia Riley
Francisco & Angelica Ramirez	Baja (Basha) Robinson	Robert Robinson
Don & Donna Roblyer	Randy Roblyer	Renee Rowe
Dee Salinas	Kiva Sandberg	Steven Schloss
Ann Schoeneman	Mrs. Shaleousri	Jim Shanhanls
Nell Shirley	Clark Shoemaker	Frances Shoemaker
Walter Simpson	Sandi Smith	Lela Mae Stokes
Mr. & Mrs. Walter Simpson, Sr.	Sondra Stokes	Rev. Carol Tag
Dave Tag	Judy Temple	Rob Temple
Ronnie Temple	Unternaber	Raymond Plankey Videla
David Plankey Videla	J. R. Vasquez	Jacinto Vasquez
Rosa Vasquez	Rev. Lloyd VauVaetor	Russell Wade
Helda Wade	Keiko Hayashi Westover	Sandy Whitaker
Jim Wild	Quinterrian "Tunka" White	Joseph Wilson III
Cledia Witt	Leonard Witt	Edna & Red Womack
Mary Young		

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Brooke Dooley, Kyle Riley

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Kyle Riley

**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 #298** O Savior, for the Saints

Tune: Festal Song

***BENEDICTION**

Dan De Leon

POSTLUDE

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Instrumental Music:

Prelude: Deep River - Traditional Spiritual, arranged by Larry Shackley
Offertory: Shall We Gather at the River? - Robert Lowry, arranged by Joel Raney
Communion: Pie Jesu (from *Requiem*, Op. 48) - Gabriel Fauré (NOTE the italics on "*Requiem*")
Postlude: Look, Ye Saints! The Sight Is Glorious - William Owen, arranged by Cindy Berry

Scripture for Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost, November 12, 2023: Matthew 25:1-13

GETTING CONNECTED AT FRIENDS

GET CONNECTED! On Fridays we email out a newsletter called "This Week at Friends" that shares important information and all of the activities and events going on at Friends. Subscribe by contacting office@friends-ucc.org.

COFFEE & KITCHEN HELP NEEDED: Volunteers are needed to prepare coffee before and to clean up the kitchen after Sunday services. A sign-up sheet is on the counter in the kitchen along with a description of duties. For more information contact fellowship@friends-ucc.org.

TRANSPORTATION HELP: We are putting together a Transportation Team to help church members who need assistance getting to church on Sunday. With enough help, this will be a once/quarter commitment. To join the team, send an email to Nurture@friends-ucc.org.

NEIGHBORS IN NEED RECAP: Thank you to all who contributed last month to the Neighbors in Need mission offering. We raised over \$625 which will go to supporting the Council for American Indian Ministry (caimucc.com) and projects focusing on environmental justice. Be on the lookout in December for The Christmas Fund, another opportunity to support the global ministry of the United Church of Christ.

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS WITH WOMEN will gather on November 8 from 5:00 to 7:00 PM at Hotel McCoy (3702 State Highway 6 S, College Station, Texas, 77845). All are welcome at this informal, come-and-go activity where we enjoy getting to know one another in a relaxed, social environment.

GREETERS & COMMUNION STEWARDS NEEDED: Several of our regular volunteers for greeting and for setting up and serving communion in the 9am worship services are not available this scheduling cycle. If you can help with a 9am Sunday service or two in their absence, please contact Worship Committee Chair Ryan Womack: worship@friends-ucc.org.

CHILDCARE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Volunteers are needed in the childcare room when one of our paid workers is unavailable. Having two adults in the room is required for liability and safety reasons. Volunteers must have a background check, provided by and done through the church office. Volunteers will not be called upon frequently, nor will they be in charge; one of our highly skilled, paid workers will be the point person. Contact Jackie Womack at moderator@friends-ucc.org for more info.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED: Are you feeling called to teach our children or youth? We need one substitute teacher for Grades 3-5, two teachers for Grades 6-8, and one teacher for Grades 9-12. Right now, we have classes with at least one teacher for Grades K-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12 at 10am at Friends Church. We hope to start a class for our Pre K children, but we need volunteers to make this happen. One of our current Sunday School teachers would like to start the PreK class, but needs someone(s) to replace them in their current role. Contact Pastor Dan for more information: pastor@friends-ucc.org.

2023 CROP HUNGER WALK: The Friends Church Youth Group is organizing a team for this year's CROP Hunger Walk, an annual nationwide movement to raise funds for our food insecure neighbors, and to walk three miles in solidarity with those who do so daily to access clean water. The youth group continues their tradition of walking together on Nov. 5, 3pm, at Veterans Park. Funds from the walk benefit Church World Services and the Brazos Church Pantry. To join our team or contribute towards our \$1500 goal, check out our team page: <https://tinyurl.com/2023FCCYouthCROPWalkTeam>

YOUTH GROUP LOOKING FOR EXTRA HELP: The Youth Group will be gathering at Friends Church at 6pm on Friday, November 10, after which we are LOCKING the doors. It's lock-in time! Games, snacks, movies and some good old fashion bonding time await our Youth. We'll wrap-up by 8am the next morning. We are needing volunteers to take shifts throughout the night to help out with the youth and make sure everyone stays safe. If you would like to join in on the fun, you can select one of the available slots on the following link. Reach out to Pastor Brooke for questions: pastorbrooke@friends-ucc.org. Sign-up: <https://tinyurl.com/fccyouthvolunteer>. Thank you for supporting our Youth!

INQUIRE + CONNECT: Are you wanting to learn more about Friends Church? Inquire + Connect is for you! Join us after the worship service on November 5th for the Inquire Class with lunch provided. At the Inquire Class you will learn about Friends—our history, our community, our opportunities for engagement—from church members and one of our pastors. The Inquire Class concludes with an invitation to participate in an optional follow-up Connect Class on November 12th, offered in the home of a church member. In the Connect Class you will learn more about the vision and mission of Friends Church, and how you can “connect” with our various opportunities for nurturing your spirituality, seeking social justice, and getting more involved in the life of our community of faith. For more information and to sign up for Inquire + Connect, email Spiritual Life Chair Becky Burks at spirit_develop@friends-ucc.org.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT - DEC. 10: It's official! With 24 families participating in our poll for the most inclusive date, it has been determined that this year's children- & youth-led Christmas pageant will be on Dec. 10, the Second Sunday of Advent, in the 11am worship service. Parents, stay tuned for information on casting, scripts, and rehearsals.

Friends Church Staff

Senior Pastor

The Rev. Dr. Dan De Leon (*he, him*)
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Director of Music Ministries

Chris Hoffman (*he, him*)
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The Rev. Trent Williams (*he, him*)
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The Rev. Brooke Dooley (*she, her, they, them*)
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