



Friends Church
An Open & Affirming Congregation



*"Agnus Dei, The Lamb of God," Eric Gill
Winchester Cathedral, London, 1920*

January 22, 2023
9:00am & 11:00am

Service of the Word

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: Diane Simpson and Katy Stewart
Greeters: Joelle Hodson

Next Sunday, January 29:
Lay Leaders: Tami Dudo and Tim Scott
Greeters: Martha Newsome

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.

The Third 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.

QUOTE FOR MEDITATION:

“The truth of the matter is that the whole world has already been turned upside down by the work of Jesus Christ”

–Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *The Cost of Discipleship*

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

WORDS OF WELCOME

Dan De Leon

PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Diane Simpson (9am)
Katy Stewart (11am)

One: We gather in your presence, God,

Many: in our need, and bringing with us the needs of the world.

One: We come to you, for you come to us in Jesus,

Many: and you know by experience what human life is like.

One: We come with our faith and with our doubts;

Many: we come with our hopes and with our fears.

One: We come as we are, because you have invited us;

Many: and you have promised never to turn us away.

***OPENING HYMN NO. 18: Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer**

Cwm Rhondda

***INVOCATION**

Diane Simpson (9am)
Katy Stewart (11am)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Dan De Leon

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: God our Creator, your kindness has brought us the gift of a new morning. Help us to leave yesterday, and not to covet tomorrow, but to accept the uniqueness of today. By your love, take from us what we need to carry no longer, so that we may be free again to choose to serve you.

(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

fall, when the stars be-gin to fall.

Fine

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The first system contains the first two lines of lyrics. The second system contains the third line of lyrics. The third system contains the fourth line of lyrics and ends with a double bar line and the word 'Fine' above the staff.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Trent Williams

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Trent Williams

One: The peace of Christ be with you all.

Many: And also with you!

HYMN OF RESPONSE: "You Are My All in All"

Jernigan

You are my strength when I am weak; you are the trea-sure that I

(Dm7) (C) (G7) (C) (G7) (C) (G)
 Gm7 F C7 F C7 F C

seek; you are my all in all. When I fall down, you pick me

(Am7) (Em) (C) (Dm7) (C) (G7) (F) (C)
 Dm7 Am F Gm7 F C7 B^b F

up; when I am dry, you fill my cup; you are my all in all.

(C) (G) (Am7) (Em) (Dm7) (C) (G) (C) (G7)
 F C Dm7 Am Gm7 F C F C7

Je - sus, Lamb of God, wor - thy is your name!

(C) (G) (Am7) (Em) (Dm7) (C) (G7) (F) (C)
 F C Dm7 Am Gm7 F C7 B^b F

Je - sus, Lamb of God, wor - thy is your name!

EPISTLE READING: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 (NRSV)

Diane Simpson (9am)

Katy Stewart (11am)

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, to the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

CHORAL ANTHEM: Come Follow Me Forever - Johann Michael Haydn (Based on *Zum Sanctus* from *Deutsche Messe*), arranged by Patrick M. Liebergen

GOSPEL READING: John 1:29-42 (NRSV)

Trent Williams

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’ I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.” And John testified, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.” The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!”

The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?” He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter).

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

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

THE MESSAGE

Trent Williams

MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

INVITATION TO SHARE

Diane Simpson (9am)
Katy Stewart (11am)

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 (UNISON)

Dan De Leon

May the gifts we offer, Loving God, feed those who are hungry, as you have fed us with your Word. May these gifts give those who thirst for hope a cup which is overflowing. May our gifts be used to welcome all your children, that all may find a home and know they are loved. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Dan De Leon

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: "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"

Assam



C C7

1 I have de - cid - ed to fol - low Je - sus; I have de -
 2 Though none go with me, still I will fol - low; though none go
 3 The world be - hind me, the cross be - fore me; the world be -

F C

cid - ed to fol - low Je - sus; I have de - cid - ed to fol - low
 with me, still I will fol - low; though none go with me, still I will
 hind me, the cross be - fore me, the world be - hind me, the cross be -

C G7 C

Je - sus;
 fol - low; no turn - ing back, no turn - ing back.
 fore me;

*BENEDICTION

Trent Williams

POSTLUDE

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Instrumental Music:

Prelude: Let All Things Now Living - Traditional Welsh melody, arranged by Lloyd Larson
Offertory: In Christ Alone - Keith Getty and Stuart Townend, arranged by Phillip Keveren
Postlude: My Tribute - Andraé Crouch, arranged by Marilyn Thompson

Scriptures for January 29, 2023:

GETTING CONNECTED AT FRIENDS

NEW MEMBER SUNDAY: January 29 is New Member Sunday, when we welcome new members into the life of our community of faith. If you are interested in joining Friends Church on New Member Sunday, please contact Pastor Dan, Pastor Trent, or Pastor Brooke.

CHURCH DATABASE & DIRECTORY UPDATE: As we shared in our recent congregational meetings, 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, and if you have any questions in the meantime, reach out to Pastor Trent at pastortrent@friends-ucc.org.

ANNOUNCING CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: There will be a Congregational Meeting on January 29, 2023 immediately following the 11:00 am service. 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 our Executive Pastor, Trent Williams about Stewardship and Realm Transition. *Supporting documents are available in the narthex, the office hallway, and on the FCC website.

Zoom Link: <https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/87438224852>

Meeting ID: 874 3822 4852

FRIENDS CHURCH FOOD DISTRIBUTION: Pondering a resolution for 2023? Try getting involved with our weekly food distribution. Meet and serve your neighbors on Friday afternoons as a team of Friends folk hand out produce from the Brazos Valley Food Bank. To be a part of this outreach effort, join us for an hour or two in the parking lot at Peace Lutheran Church this Friday (and every Friday) between 2:30 and 6pm to assist in the distribution. For more info, contact Anne Wehrly at awehrly@suddenlink.net.

FRIENDS CHURCH BOOK CLUB: The Linda Coats Book Club meets on the last Thursday of every month. In 2023, the theme will be “spiritual memoirs,” with our first book being *Take This Bread* by Sara Miles. February’s book will be *Brother to a Dragonfly* by Will D. Campbell. All are welcome. For questions or information, contact the Spiritual Life Committee at spirit_develop@friends-ucc.org.

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 need, 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.

TINY HOPE VILLAGE: We have an opportunity to tour their site in Hearne and/or help with various aspects of construction on Saturday, January 28. We will gather in the church parking lot at 8:45 AM if you want to carpool there. For those who want to go directly to the site, the address is 10946 W. Henry Prairie Rd, Hearne, TX. THV is having a volunteer workday beginning at 9:30 AM and will be sheathing and decking houses 3 and 4 and touching up houses 1 and 2 which are almost ready. Everyone should wear close-toe shoes since it is an active construction site and those planning to work should bring construction tools and/or paint brushes. If you are interested in going, please sign up at (insert Sign-up Genius website) and let us know whether you plan to work or just tour and also if you plan to meet at Friends or go directly to Hearne. If you have questions, contact Cady Engler at cenglertx@gmail.com or at 979-324-1994.

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*)
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Executive Pastor

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