

FRIENDS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost
October 22, 2023
9:00am



*An Open & Affirming
Congregation*

PSALM FOR MEDITATION: Psalm 99, NRSV

The Lord is king; let the peoples tremble! He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake! The Lord is great in Zion; he is exalted over all the peoples. Let them praise your great and awesome name. Holy is he! Mighty King, lover of justice, you have established equity; you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob. Extol the Lord our God; worship at his footstool. Holy is he! Moses and Aaron were among his priests, Samuel also was among those who called on his name. They cried to the Lord, and he answered them. He spoke to them in the pillar of cloud; they kept his decrees, and the statutes that he gave them. O Lord our God, you answered them; you were a forgiving God to them, but an avenger of their wrongdoings. Extol the Lord our God, and worship at his holy mountain; for the Lord our God is holy.

QUOTE FOR MEDITATION:

Our whole existence is transformed as we begin to seek God in all that we do and in all that we are. Our lives are no longer compartmentalized into times for prayer and times for other things.

-Daniel Wolpert, *Creating a Life with God*

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

WORDS OF WELCOME

Dan De Leon

PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

David Manuel

One: We gather in devotion to the One who is Justice, Mercy, and Compassion

All: We turn our hearts toward the One who delivers us from evil

One: Attuned to imbalances of power, God draws near to those in struggle

All: Empowering the people, God's love is manifest in action

One: Challenging our complicity, championing our capability

All: May the Spirit come and align our lives with God

***OPENING HYMN NO. 427** God Made from One Blood

Tune: St. Denio

***INVOCATION**

David Manuel

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Dan De Leon

One: The peace of Christ be with you all.

Many: And also with you.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Dan De Leon

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 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 22:15-22, The Message

Kyle Riley

That's when the Pharisees plotted a way to trap him into saying something damaging. They sent their disciples, with a few of Herod's followers mixed in, to ask, "Teacher, we know you have integrity, teach the way of God accurately, are indifferent to popular opinion, and don't pander to your students. So tell us honestly: Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not?"

Jesus knew they were up to no good. He said, "Why are you playing these games with me? Why are you trying to trap me? Do you have a coin? Let me see it." They handed him a silver piece.

"This engraving—who does it look like? And whose name is on it?"

They said, "Caesar."

"Then give Caesar what is his, and give God what is his."

The Pharisees were speechless. They went off shaking their heads.

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

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

THE MESSAGE

Kyle Riley

SILENT REFLECTION & MEDITATION

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LIGHTING CANDLES FOR INTERCESSIONS

Dan De Leon

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 & 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 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 NO. 180** Blessed Are the Poor in Spirit

Tune: Annika's Dance

***BENEDICTION**

Kyle Riley

POSTLUDE

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Instrumental Music:

Prelude: Allemande (from *French Suite No. 5*) - Johann Sebastian Bach

Offertory: His Eye Is on the Sparrow - Charles H. Gabriel, arranged by Melody Bober

Postlude: To God Be the Glory - William H. Doane, arranged by Larry Shackley

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 signup 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.

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.

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FROM THE NURTURE COMMITTEE: Parents of Teens and Tweens (POTT) meets tonight, Oct. 22, 5:30pm at the church for snacks and games. Younger siblings are included. Fabulous at Any Age (FAA) gathers for a potluck and fun next Sunday, Oct. 29, after 11am worship.

ALL SAINTS DAY: Let us honor the Saints who have gone on before us. Friends Church celebrates All Saints Day by recognizing our deceased loved one. Please fill out the purple 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. 5). You can also fill out this form at <https://tinyurl.com/nkj7znya>. 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.

CARPET & CHAIR CLEANING: On October 22nd, immediately following church, we will be cleaning the chairs and the carpets throughout the church. We have rented a large extractor and two upholstery cleaners. There will also be stations for pre-treating chairs and removing Christmas candle wax. If you are able to help with this task, please use the sign up genius link here: <https://bit.ly/ChairCleanUp>.

TREATS NEEDED FOR CHILDREN AT CROCKETT ELEMENTARY: Crockett Elementary, our adopted school, is having a Trunk or Treat event for their children on October 30. In their front parking lot and need our help in providing treats. They suggest individual size bags of snacks, trinkets and of course candy! A container for donations will be in the hallway across from the double classroom. Please have donations at the church by noon on Sunday, October 29. Any help you can give will be very much appreciated.

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>

VOLUNTEER WITH THE YOUTH GROUP: The Youth Group, grades 6-12, will be getting together throughout the fall for lessons and discussion, service projects, and social gatherings. We're looking for folks who might be interested in co-facilitating lessons and chaperoning when they are off-site. We're also looking for meal providers for one of the Youth's gatherings. Reach out to Pastor Brooke with questions: pastorbrooke@friends-ucc.org. Sign up to volunteer at <https://tinyurl.com/fccyouthvolunteer> and to provide meals at <https://tinyurl.com/fccyouthmeals>.

TRUNK OR TREAT: Join us on Sunday evening, October 29, 5-7pm, for our third 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 community is invited to come to Friends to Trunk or Treat from car to car. The last two years' events were a great time with lots of children and youth from the wider community at the event. Wear a costume, decorate your car or space, the sky's the limit! Also, there will be tables for pumpkin carving under the trees at the peace pole. Bring your pumpkins, paints and brushes, and carving tools. All are welcome. We hope to see you there.

PAGEANT DATE POLL OF PARENTS: As we plan our annual children- and youth-led Christmas pageant, we need you, parents of our children and youth, to choose the date for this cherished event. Your input is important to us, and we want to make sure as many families as possible can participate. Scan the QR code or go to <http://tinyurl.com/friend-spageant> and complete a short survey to help us decide between two dates for the pageant: Dec. 10 or 17. The pageant will be offered in the 11am service.



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

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

Administrative Assistant

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

2200 Southwood Drive • College Station, Texas 77845
979-693-7021 • office@friends-ucc.org
www.friends-ucc.org • Office Hours: Monday–Friday, 9:00–3:00