



FRIENDS
CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH

An Open & Affirming Congregation



Sermon on the Mount, Laura James, 2010 (New York)

September 25, 2022

9:00am & 11:00am

WELCOME

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.

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time:

The season after Pentecost is also considered Ordinary Time. It indicates the parts of the liturgical year that are not included in the major seasons of the church calendar. Ordinary Time can be understood in terms of the living out of Christian faith and the meaning of Christ's resurrection in ordinary life. It may be referred to as the "green season," as green is the liturgical color for this period of time in the church year.

Words in **BOLD** are yours to speak out loud

****You are invited to stand**

SCRIPTURE FOR MEDITATION: Psalm 32:1-7 (CEB)

The one whose wrongdoing is forgiven, whose sin is covered over, is truly happy! The one the Lord doesn't consider guilty—in whose spirit there is no dishonesty—that one is truly happy! When I kept quiet, my bones wore out; I was groaning all day long—every day, every night! Because your hand was heavy upon me. My energy was sapped as if in a summer drought. So I admitted my sin to you; I didn't conceal my guilt. "I'll confess my sins to the Lord," is what I said. Then you removed the guilt of my sin. That's why all the faithful should pray to you during troubled times, so that a great flood of water won't reach them. You are my secret hideout! You protect me from trouble. You surround me with songs of rescue!

QUOTES FOR MEDITATION

"At the heart of the Sermon on the Mount, in fact, the only way that this sermon could be preached, is the premise of Jesus as Emmanuel. When we remember that God is with *us*, not just that God is with *me*, we begin to realize we are not simply members of community but shapers of community and are shaped by community, all of which tells a critical theological truth—our God is a God of community."

-Karoline Lewis

"Native historian Jack Forbes argues that while living persons are not responsible for what their ancestors did, they are responsible for the society they live in, which is a product of that past."

-Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz, *An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States*

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

WORDS OF WELCOME

Brooke Dooley

PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

****CALL TO WORSHIP**

Anne Wehrly (9:00am)

Tami Dudo (11:00am)

One: May God's peace rest on our busy lives
so that we are quieted into prayer.

**All: May God's love flow through our worship words
so that we are awake to opportunities for service.**

One: May God's grace embrace every need
and may the restless Gospel set our hearts on fire.

All: Amen and amen.

****OPENING HYMN – NCH #3 – Many and Great, O God, Are Your Works – Tune: Lacquiparle**

****INVOCATION**

Anne Wehrly (9:00am)

Tami Dudo (11:00am)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Sue Ambrus

Children in the sanctuary are invited to come to the front, and children watching online are invited to get closer to their screen for the children's message. 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)!

MISSION MOMENT

"Sunday School Co-Teachers"

Tami Dudo

****PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Trent Williams

One: The peace of Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you!

****HYMN OF RESPONSE: Sing! #185 – The Jesus in Me**

♩=74

Dm⁷ Gm⁷ Gm⁷/C F C⁷sus

The Je - sus_ in me loves the

F A^b Gm/B^b Fm/C F

Je - sus_ in you, the Je - sus_ in me loves the

F/E^b Dm⁷ F[#]dim Gm

Je - sus_ in you, so eas - y,_____

A^ddim D⁷(b⁹) Dm⁷ Gm Am⁷ Cm/E^b Dm F[#]dim

so eas - y,_____ so eas -

Gm Gm⁷/C F

- y_____ so eas-y to love.

EPISTLE READING: 2 Peter 3:1-4, 8-9 (NRSV)

Anne Wehrly (9:00am)
Tami Dudo (11:00am)

This is now, beloved, the second letter I am writing to you; in them I am trying to arouse your sincere intention by reminding you that you should remember the words spoken in the past by the holy prophets, and the commandment of the Lord and Savior spoken through your apostles.

First of all you must understand this, that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and indulging their own lusts and saying, “Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since our ancestors died, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation!”

But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day.

The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance.

CHORAL ANTHEM: Look at the World – John Rutter

Look at the world, everything all around us: Look at the world, and marvel every day. Look at the world: so many joys and wonders, So many miracles along our way. Praise to thee, O Lord, for all creation, Give us thankful hearts, that we may see: All the gifts we share, and every blessing, All things come of thee.

Look at the earth bringing forth fruit and flower; Look at the sky, the sunshine and the rain;
Look at the hills, look at the trees and mountains, Valley and flowing river, field and plain:
Praise to thee, O Lord, for all creation, Give us thankful hearts, that we may see: All the gifts
we share, and every blessing, All things come of thee.

Think of the spring, think of the warmth of summer Bringing the harvest before the winter's
cold. Everything grows, everything has a season, 'Til it is gathered to the Father's fold: Praise to
thee, O Lord, for all creation, Give us thankful hearts, that we may see: All the gifts we share,
and every blessing, All things come of thee.

Every good gift, all that we need and cherish Comes from the Lord in token of his love; We are
his hands, stewards of all his bounty; His is the earth, and his the heavens above: Praise to
thee, O Lord, for all creation, Give us thankful hearts, that we may see: All the gifts we share,
and every blessing, All things come of thee, all things come of thee.

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 5:21-26 (CEB)

Dan De Leon

“You have heard that it was said to those who lived long ago, *Don't commit murder*, and all
who commit murder will be in danger of judgment. But I say to you that everyone who is angry
with their brother or sister will be in danger of judgment. If they say to their brother or sister,
'You idiot,' they will be in danger of being condemned by the governing council. And if they
say, 'You fool,' they will be in danger of fiery hell. Therefore, if you bring your gift to the altar
and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift at
the altar and go. First make things right with your brother or sister and then come back and
offer your gift. Be sure to make friends quickly with your opponents while you are with them
on the way to court. Otherwise, they will haul you before the judge, the judge will turn you
over to the officer of the court, and you will be thrown into prison. I say to you in all
seriousness that you won't get out of there until you've paid the very last penny.”

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

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

THE MESSAGE

“Forward Together”

Dan De Leon

MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

WHERE I SAW GOD THIS WEEK & INVITATION TO SHARE

Andy Bentley (9:00am)
Charity Stokes (11:00am)

OFFERTORY

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

Text to give: Text **Friends** to 979-500-2523

Venmo to 979-446-5746 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)**

Trent Williams

Beloved God, bless your beloveds with safe and secure housing. Bless your beloveds with rest and kind relationships. Shield your beloveds from destruction and disaster. Bless our offerings to these dreams of thriving. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER (UNISON)

Brooke Dooley

***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

Trent Williams

****CLOSING HYMN: NCH #393 – Blessed Be the Tie That Binds – Tune: Dennis**

****BENEDICTION**

Dan De Leon

POSTLUDE

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Instrumental Music:

Prelude: In Green Pastures – Franklin Ritter

Offertory: Andante Cantabile – Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Postlude: Jubilate – Terry Osman

Scriptures for Oct 2: 1 Thessalonians 2:9-12; Mark 10:13-16

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 bring to the baptismal font 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

NEW NAME TAGS ARE HERE!: The first batch of our new name tags are available in the narthex to be picked up; you can still fill out this form: bit.ly/friendsnametags to share with us how you'd like your name to appear, and we'll get those made as we receive them. You are also welcome to take your old one if you'd like to hang on to it.

SOCIAL JUSTICE CLASS - Sundays 10am: The Social Justice class currently meets in one side of the double classroom between the two services. This room is located across from the office. Currently we are listening to/discussing a podcast about how the Bible defines justice. You can check it out here. <https://bibleproject.com/podcast/series/justice-series/> We hope you consider joining us!

MUSIC MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES: If you have ever wanted to be a part of the Friends Church Chancel Choir and Handbell Choir, there is no time like the present! The Handbell Choir rehearses on Monday nights at 7:30, and rings for both services every second Sunday of the month, as well as for various special services during the year. Basic music reading skills (particularly with rhythms) are all that are required. We have a beautiful four-octave handbell set, and a new four-octave handchime set. We are currently only using three octaves, so we can easily add 4-5 new ringers in order to use all of our bells and chimes. The Chancel Choir rehearses on Wednesday nights at 7:30 and sings for almost every Sunday of the year, as well as for special services throughout the year (including the Christmas and Good Friday Cantatas). The ability to read music is preferred, but not required; however, being able to listen and match pitch are essential, as a lot of music is learned in a very short period of time. Any musician from high school grades on up are invited to be a part of these groups. For more information, please see Chris Hoffman, Director of Music Ministries, or email him at choir@friends-ucc.org.

FRIENDS CHURCH FOOD DISTRIBUTION: Our youth got us pondering in their youth led worship service in August "Who is my neighbor?" You have the opportunity to meet and serve your neighbor every Friday afternoon as a team of Friends-folk hand out produce from the

Brazos Valley Food Bank. If you would like 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 6:00 pm to assist in the distribution. Become part of our very enthusiastic “food team” and make some new friends. Send questions on how to get involved to Anne at awehrly@suddenlink.net.

SPECIAL VIEWING OF THE DOCUMENTARY *TRACES OF THE TRADE*: Please join us for the *Traces of the Trade: A Story from the Deep North* free film screening, discussion and dinner Tuesday, September 27, 6-9:00PM, at The Brazos Center in Bryan. **Online registration is required. Seating is limited and filling up fast! Please try to register by the end of day Sunday (9/25) to guarantee your free seat. To register, visit <https://www.episcopalhealth.org/event/traces-of-the-trade-tour-2022-bryan/>.** For more information, contact Senior Pastor Dan, pastor@friends-ucc.org or Justice & Missions Committee Chair Martha Newsome, justice-mission@friends-ucc.org. For more information about *Traces of the Trade*, visit <http://www.tracesofthetrade.org>.

MORTGAGE RETIREMENT CAMPAIGN: We have surpassed \$38,000 in gifts, pledges, and payments toward our mortgage retirement! We expect our balance to be under \$25,000 after the September payment is made. We will be continuing this campaign through the end of this month, although you are still welcome to give towards this initiative beyond that date. One way to do that is to pledge a monthly gift through the end of year. If you haven't yet had the opportunity to give towards this initiative, we would welcome your gifts as we look towards an exciting future of ministry together. Once this remaining debt is retired, we will have budgeted funds free for new ministries, including funding an Associate Pastor for Youth. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out to Pastor Trent. Thank you!

FRIENDS CHURCH BOOK CLUB: The Linda Coats Book Club meets on the last Thursday of every month. This first year, we will be reading banned books. Our September gathering will be Thursday, September 29th, at 6:30 pm. We will read “Speak” by Laurie Halse Anderson. The book club will be a hybrid gathering. Look forward to seeing you there!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO PROVIDE MEALS: Food is both comfort and need. On a regular basis, members of the Nurture Committee provide nourishment by way of a meal to Friends in need of comfort and food. If you are called to help with this ministry, email nurture@friends-ucc.org. You will be notified when meals are needed and likely provide meals two or three times a year.

THE LOST ART OF SCRIPTURE: MORNING MANNA FOR FALL 2022: Join Pastor Trent this Sunday in the Morning Manna room at the end of the hall on the kitchen side of the sanctuary at 10:00am as we resume our bible study class. This semester, we're going to be looking at

"The Lost Art of Scripture," a book by religion scholar Karen Armstrong, as the basis for discovering what these ancient writings might have to say to us today. This is a journey through the scriptures not only of the Jewish and Christian traditions, but of Islam, China, and India as well. If you're curious about what other scriptures say, what our own offer us that is similar and different, and how to be a good citizen in a global world, this is the discussion for you. All are welcome.

CHILDCARE STAFF UPDATE: Friends Church is seeking an additional individual to work with our outstanding staff of childcare workers. For further information, please contact Wayne Hamman: personnel@friends-ucc.org or Trent Williams: pastortrent@friends-ucc.org.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CO-TEACHERS NEEDED FOR GRADES 3-5 & 6-8: We've got an awesome class at 10am on Sunday mornings for our 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders that is currently being taught by Amanda and Drew Bowen. While Amanda and Drew are loving teaching those little ones, they need at least one co-teacher for the class. Additionally, Darrell Nichols and Ana-Luisa Ortiz-Martinez also need an additional teacher to help guide our 6-8 graders through the exciting spiritual growth of the intermediate-middle school years. All of our other classes for children and youth have co-teachers so that no one person (or couple) has to lead their class every single Sunday without a break. To be good stewards of our time and volunteerism, the Christian Education Committee is seeking at least one co-teacher to come alongside the teachers for each of these awesome classes. Interested? Is God nudging you toward this opportunity to serve? Contact Christian Ed. Chair Robin Miller at christian_ed@friends-ucc.org.

FAMILY PROMISE : Our turn to help families living in the Family Promise Center begins Sunday, October 2, 2022! Two single moms each with a little boy are living in the Center. Currently Family Promise is asking that we provide a \$150 HEB gift card to each mom. We will not be responsible for buying or preparing food. They are asking for volunteers to spend the nights and the gift cards. If you would like to donate toward the cards, you may designate your offering in the envelope on the back of the seat in front of you or you may donate on the Friends website [@https://www.churchofficegiving.com/App/Giving/friendsucc](https://www.churchofficegiving.com/App/Giving/friendsucc) . Please sign up for an overnight at the Center at the Poster. Questions or Comments? Anne, awehrly@suddenlink.net or Mary, mhowell61@gmail.com

FRIENDS VOLUNTEER: FIRST SATURDAY AT THE BRAZOS CHURCH PANTRY: Friends Church volunteers staff the Brazos Church Pantry the first Saturday morning of each month. We sort and bag groceries, welcome and check in clients, and help get groceries to clients' cars. If you would like to volunteer the first Saturday in October (Oct. 1), or just find out more information, email Andrew McNeely at (andrew.c.mcneely@gmail.com). To learn more about the Brazos Church Pantry, click here (https://brazoschurchpantry.org/our_location.html).

ANNOUNCING OCTOBER 9TH CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: Please make plans to stay following the October 9th 11:00 am worship service for an important Congregational Meeting. We will have snacks to tide us over until lunch! The agenda includes voting on a proposal related to modifying our fiscal year, reviewing the spending plan for 2023, voting on a new pastoral position, and meeting representatives of our local financial services company. We will also introduce the new church office management system, Realm™, and hear from the newly formed Safety and Security Team. Please join us!

FRIENDS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Our Vision:

Rooted in the way of Christ, we strive to be a community of God's radical inclusion and extravagant welcome.

Our Mission:

United by the example of Jesus, we live faithfully, love limitlessly, and serve boldly.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

9:00am In-Person – 11:00am In-Person & Online

FRIENDS CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Dr. Dan De Leon *he/him/his*, *Senior Pastor*
pastor@friends-ucc.org

The Rev. Trent Williams *he/him/his*, *Executive Pastor*
pastortrent@friends-ucc.org

Chris Hoffman *he/him/his*, *Director of Music Ministries*
choir@friends-ucc.org

Brooke Dooley *she/her/they/them*, *Pastoral Intern*
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