



# Friends Church

*An Open & Affirming Congregation*



*Beacon of Hope, Thanksgiving Square  
Andy Scott, 2007 (Northern Ireland)*

November 20, 2022  
5:30pm Friendsgiving worship  
Stephen C. Beachy Central Park

## CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

## WORDS OF WELCOME & LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Dan De Leon, Ruthie De Leon, Kylen Harvey

## PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

**\*\*CALL TO WORSHIP:** Based on Psalm 126

One: When the Lord changed our circumstances for the better,  
it was like we had been dreaming.

**All: Our mouths were suddenly filled with laughter;  
our tongues were filled with joyful shouts.**

One: It was even said, at that time, among the nations,  
“The Lord has done great things for them!”

**All: Yes, the Lord has done great things for us,  
and we are overjoyed.**

One: Lord, change our circumstances for the better,  
like dry streams in the desert waste!

Let those who plant with tears reap the harvest with joyful shouts.

**All: Let those who go out, crying and carrying their seed,  
come home with joyful shouts, carrying bales of grain!**

**\*\*OPENING HYMN — No. 425, For the Fruit of All Creation**

**For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.**

**For God’s gifts to every nation, thanks be to God.**

**For the plowing, sowing, reaping,  
silent growth while we are sleeping,**

**Future needs in earth’s safe-keeping, thanks be to God.**

**In the just reward of labor, God’s will is done.**

**In the help we give our neighbor, God’s will is done.**

**In our worldwide task of caring for the hungry and despairing,**

**In the harvests we are sharing, God’s will is done.**

**For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.**

**For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.**

**For the wonders that astound us, for the truths that still confound us,**

**Most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.**

**HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING:** Joel 2:21-27 (CEB)

Don't fear, fertile land; rejoice and be glad, for the Lord is about to do great things! Don't be afraid, animals of the field, for the meadows of the wilderness will turn green; the tree will bear its fruit; the fig tree and grapevine will give their full yield. Children of Zion, rejoice and be glad in the Lord your God, because he will give you the early rain as a sign of righteousness; he will pour down abundant rain for you, the early and the late rain, as before. The threshing floors will be full of grain; the vats will overflow with new wine and fresh oil. I will repay you for the years that the cutting locust, the swarming locust, the hopping locust, and the devouring locust have eaten—my great army, which I sent against you. You will eat abundantly and be satisfied, and you will praise the name of the Lord your God, who has done wonders for you; and my people will never again be put to shame. You will know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I am the Lord your God—no other exists; never again will my people be put to shame.

**GOSPEL READING:** Matthew 6:25-33 (The Message)

“If you decide for God, living a life of God-worship, it follows that you don't fuss about what's on the table at mealtimes or whether the clothes in your closet are in fashion. There is far more to your life than the food you put in your stomach, more to your outer appearance than the clothes you hang on your body. Look at the birds, free and unfettered, not tied down to a job description, careless in the care of God. And you count far more to him than birds.

“Has anyone by fussing in front of the mirror ever gotten taller by so much as an inch? All this time and money wasted on fashion—do you think it makes that much difference? Instead of looking at the fashions, walk out into the fields and look at the wildflowers. They never primp or shop, but have you ever seen color and design quite like it? The ten best-dressed men and women in the country look shabby alongside them.

“If God gives such attention to the appearance of wildflowers—most of which are never even seen—don't you think he'll attend to you, take pride in you, do his best for you? What I'm trying to do here is to get you to relax, to not be so preoccupied with getting, so you can respond to God's giving. People who don't know God and the way he works fuss

over these things, but you know both God and how he works. Steep your life in God-reality, God-initiative, God-provisions. Don't worry about missing out. You'll find all your everyday human concerns will be met.

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

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

## SHARING OUR THANKSGIVING

Dan De Leon

**\*\*THE LORD'S PRAYER** (unison)

**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.**

## BENEDICTION AND BLESSING OF THE MEAL

The love offering for tonight's Thanksgiving feast benefits the Brazos Interfaith Immigration Network, "promoting the human dignity and wellbeing of all immigrants in our community."