

FRIENDS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost/All Saints Day
November 3, 2024
9:00am



*An Open & Affirming
Congregation*

SCRIPTURE FOR MEDITATION Psalm 146, NRSV

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul! I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God all my life long. Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help. When their breath departs, they return to the earth; on that very day their plans perish. Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God, who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever; who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind. The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous. The Lord watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin. The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the Lord!

QUOTE FOR MEDITATION

“You have to trust that every friendship has no end, that a communion of saints exists among all those, living and dead, who have truly loved God and one another. You know from experience how real this is. Those you have loved deeply and who have died live on in you, not just as memories but as real presences.”

—Henri Nouwen

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

WORDS OF WELCOME

Trent Williams

PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

***CALL TO WORSHIP (RESPONSIVE)**

Cathy Hansen

One: Come, a great cloud of witnesses surrounds us as we gather.

All: **May the lingering echo of saints resound in our songs.**

One: May their stories open a space for the Spirit to enter us anew.

All: **In remembering them, may we find ourselves re-membered.**

One: May the God of every generation form us anew for this generation.

All: **And may a new joy rise in our lives and in the life of the world.**

***OPENING HYMN - No. 299 For All the Saints**

Sine Nomine

***INVOCATION**

Cathy Hansen

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Kathy Miller

Children in the sanctuary are invited to come to the front. 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.**

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Trent Williams

One: The peace of Christ be with you all.

Many: **And also with you.**

In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to live in the country of Moab, he and his wife and two sons. The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion; they were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. When they had lived there about ten years, both Mahlon and Chilion also died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.

Then she started to return with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the Lord had considered his people and given them food. So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, “Go back each of you to your mother’s house. May the Lord deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. The Lord grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband.” Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. They said to her, “No, we will return with you to your people.” But Naomi said, “Turn back, my daughters, why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons, would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the Lord has turned against me.” Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her. So she said, “See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law.” But Ruth said, “Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; Where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Where you die, I will die— there will I be buried. May the Lord do thus and so to me, and more as well, if even death parts me from you!” When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her.

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 PRAYER & MEDITATION

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

INVITATION TO SHARE

Cathy Hansen

OFFERTORY

Secure online giving via Realm Giving at bit.ly/givetofriendsucc
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

Trent Williams

**O Giver of Life, continue to form in us a transparent spirit that by our giving and our living others may discover You.
Reshape our priorities and grant us a willing vision to see and respond to those hidden saints who reveal something of you in the least likely ways and in the most surprising places.
Thank you for calling us into a life such as this, and bless these gifts that they may bless others. Amen.**

REMEMBERING OUR SAINTS

Dinah Anderson, Bryan Pope

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Trent Williams

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Trent Williams

**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** - No. 99 Abide with Me

Eventide

***BENEDICTION**

Dan De Leon

POSTLUDE

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Instrumental Music:

Prelude: Prelude on "Sine Nomine" - Ralph Vaughan Williams
Offertory: What a Friend We Have in Jesus - Charles C. Converse, arranged by Jack Schrader
Communion: Hymns of Comfort - Arranged by Phillip Keveren
Postlude: Shall We Gather at the River - Arranged by Vicki Collinsworth

Scriptures for the Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost, November 10, 2024: Hebrews 9:24-28; Mark 12:38-44; Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17

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.

EVENTS THIS WEEK

SUNDAY MORNING CLASS: THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JAMES BALDWIN, NOV 3: At 10am on Sundays, Nov. 3, 10, and 17, in the double classroom, Pastor Dan is teaching a class on James Baldwin, the civil rights activist and writer whose novels, plays, and essays, according to the Poetry Foundation, "explored the psychological implications of racism for both the oppressed and the oppressor." The class is inspired by a recent book by Greg Garrett, *The Gospel According to James Baldwin: What America's Great Prophet Can Teach Us about Life, Love, and Identity*, and will draw from it and other sources by and about Baldwin to guide the presentations and our discussions. No prep or RSVP needed to attend. All are welcome.

SUPPORT THE FRIENDS YOUTH CROP HUNGER WALK TEAM, NOV 3: Today at 3pm, the Friends Church Youth Group will be walking in the annual CROP Hunger Walk, a global initiative to raise awareness and funds for our food insecure neighbors globally, and here in our community. A portion of the funds raised will be donated to the Brazos Church Pantry. There are a few ways you can support our team, you can join us for the walk at Veterans Park, or donate towards our team's goal. Contact Pastor Brooke for more details (pastorbrooke@friends-ucc.org), or check out the QR codes posted around the church!

INQUIRE + CONNECT, NOV 3: After the 11am service, 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 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, contact Becky Burks at spirit_devlop@friends-ucc.org.

LUNCH GATHERING FOR ELECTION DAY, NOV 5: On Election Day, Nov. 5th, you are invited to the church at noon for a special time of prayer, readings, and fellowship to center us in God's peace and goodness. Bring your lunch and anyone you know who might need this opportunity to engage with hospitable community on a particularly anxious day. All are welcome.

FOR THE DAY AFTER THE ELECTION, NOV 6: There is no telling what the election results will be, when we will know them, nor how things will transpire after Election Day. To provide centering and calmness in the midst of our anxiousness, on Wednesday, November 6th, the day after Election Day, the sanctuary will be open from 7am to 5pm for you to come and sit, pray and meditate, light a candle, and simply be still with the reminder that God is God, and all will be well. One of our pastors will be available throughout the day to visit, listen, and pray with you. All are welcome.

GUYZ BREAKFAST, NOV 9: Guyz Breakfast brings together fellowship, fun and great food. Join us at the church on the second Saturday of the month 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. Bring your favorite breakfast food or drink to share. Pancakes and coffee are provided.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SAFETY & SECURITY UPDATE: Many thanks to our Deputy Moderator for Trustees Fran Duane, and Property Chair Steve Robinson, for their ongoing hard work to implement the recommendations of our safety & security team report. We are in the process of putting together a small ad hoc team to finalize the implementation of the remaining recommendations. We also wanted to let you know that 3 panic buttons which alert 911 have been installed in the narthex, pulpit, and office side door, and our greeters and staff will be made aware of how to use them. If you have any questions or concerns, reach out to Pastor Trent.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE AND SHARE

FRIENDS WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Join our Friends Church worship team! We are in need of additional folks to help on Sunday mornings to serve as greeters, lay leaders and communion stewards to make our worship services flow smoothly. If you are interested in learning more, reach out to Worship Committee chair Charity Stokes at worship@friends-ucc.org.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED: We have all the Sunday school classes covered but are still looking for volunteers who could be called when teachers are out of town to be substitutes. Please let Pastor Dan or Abby Burley, Christian_ed@friends-ucc.org, know if we can add you to our list.

SUPPORT OUR PODCAST: Help us spread the good word! Share this week's sermon with those you love with our "Friends Congregational Church Sermons" podcast, available wherever you can find podcasts! Easily access and publicize our mission to follow the model of Jesus: to live faithfully, love limitlessly, and serve boldly. With over 100 episodes published (since Advent of last year) we've expanded (since Eastertide this year) our efforts to include the wider library of sermons offered before this podcast kicked off. We would love to have your support by either showing this podcast to friends and loved ones, and/or contributing your voice to introduce an episode. Volunteers can reach out to av@friends-ucc.org (Jeremy) if interested, or you might get approached after service. Recording takes less than 10 minutes and is almost entirely scripted.

Be a Greeter and Communion Steward: To help in the 9am and 11am services, please contact Worship Committee Chair Charity Stokes: worship@friends-ucc.org.

Youth Group Looking for Extra Help: We are still looking for volunteers to help with the Youth Group events for the new school year. Contact Pastor Brooke at pastorbrooke@friend-ucc.org.

Sunday School Teachers Needed: Are you feeling called to teach our children or youth? Contact Pastor Dan for more information: pastor@friends-ucc.org.

Coffee Crew/Kitchen Angel: "All I need is coffee; all we need are volunteers to make it!"

Sign up via sheet on kitchen counter, at bit.ly/coffeeatfriends or email Jan at Fellowship@friends-ucc.org

Be a Curbside Steward: Recycling occurs once every two weeks early on Fridays and trash pick-up is weekly, early on Mondays. Bins need to be placed at the curb the afternoon or evening before the scheduled pick up day and returned to the side of the church after pick-up. Contact Property@Friends-ucc.org

Serve the Community: Help out at the Brazos Church Food Pantry, the Friday food distribution at Peace Lutheran, or Brazos Interfaith Immigration Network (BIIN) as an English or citizenship class tutor. And more! Visit the Friends Church website (Friends-ucc.org) ▶ **Get Involved ▶ Volunteer** or email office@friends-ucc.org for more information or to volunteer.

SAVE THE DATE

NEW MEMBER SUNDAY, NOV 10: On November 10, we welcome our newest members into the life of Friends Congregational Church. If you are interested in joining Friends Church on New Member Sunday, please contact Senior Pastor Dan De Leon (pastor@friends-ucc.org), Executive Pastor Trent Williams (pastortrent@friends-ucc.org), or Associate Pastor Brooke Dooley (pastorbrooke@friends-ucc.org).

PREPARING WITH PURPOSE: AN ESTATE AND END OF LIFE PLANNING WORKSHOP, NOV 10: Join us on November 10th following the 11:00 worship service, where we will be joined by Carol Bertsh, a practicing elder law attorney, who will lead us through preparation of wills and other estate planning. Pastor Dan will also offer guidance in funeral planning and communicating final wishes. All are welcome, and lunch will be provided. Sign up here to let us know you're coming: bit.ly/preparingwithpurpose.

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*)
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www.friends-ucc.org • Office Hours: Monday–Friday, 9:00–3:00

Pastor Dan's weekday off is Friday. Pastor Trent's weekday off is Monday.