



FRIENDS
CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH

An Open & Affirming Congregation



Lorrain, Claude. *Easter Morning*. 1681. Städel, Frankfurt, Germany.

Easter Sunday

April 4, 2021

11:00am

Outdoors

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.

Easter Sunday

Easter Sunday celebrates the resurrection of Christ and marks the beginning of the 50 days of the season of Easter, also called Eastertide.

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

** You are invited to stand

Reading from the Acts of the Apostles for Meditation: Acts 13:26-31 (CEB)

Brothers, children of Abraham’s family, and you Gentile God-worshippers, the message about this salvation has been sent to us. The people in Jerusalem and their leaders didn’t recognize Jesus. By condemning him they fulfilled the words of the prophets that are read every Sabbath. Even though they didn’t find a single legal basis for the death penalty, they asked Pilate to have him executed. When they finished doing everything that had been written about him, they took him down from the cross and laid him in a tomb. But God raised him from the dead! He appeared over many days to those who had traveled with him from Galilee to Jerusalem. They are now his witnesses to the people.

Quotes for Meditation:

“There is something at the center of our faith which reminds us...that Good Friday may occupy the throne for a day, but ultimately it must give way to the triumphant beat of the drums of Easter! Yes, there is something in our faith that reminds us that even though evil at times will so shape events, that Caesar will occupy the palace and Christ the cross, one day that same Christ will rise up and split history into A.D. and B.C. so that even the life of Caesar must be dated by *His* name!”

–Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., speech delivered to Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, April 16, 1961

“Biblical texts are a collection of scripts that God has given us to rehearse until we find something new.”

–Rev. Dr. Anna Carter Florence

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

WORDS OF WELCOME & INSTRUCTIONS FOR OUTDOOR WORSHIP

Dan De Leon

PRELUDE & REDRESSING OF THE ALTAR

**CALL TO WORSHIP

Brian Blake

One: We have a message to preach to all.

All: Christ is risen.

One: Christ lived and preached love and liberation among us.

All: We are witnesses to his mighty acts.

One: Christ rose from the dead and appears to us still.

All: We rejoice in the living Savior.

One: Come; let us worship the God of love and life.

OPENING HYMN — Christ the Lord Is Risen Today - Tune: Easter Hymn

Friends Church Virtual Choir

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Brooke Dooley

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Dan De Leon, Trent Williams

*Children are invited to come to the front and sit on the carpet squares facing the porch steps.
Each carpet square is placed three feet apart for safety measures. Parents are welcome to join their children
and sit on a carpet square with them.*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Trent Williams

*During the Prayers of the People, you are invited to share your prayers of joy and concern in the comments for
the Facebook live stream of the worship service. Those shared prayers will be included in the church's email
prayer chain this week.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*unison*)

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.**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Trent Williams

*One: The peace of Christ be with you all.
Many: And also with you!*

GOSPEL READING — Mark 16:1-8 (NRSV)

Brooke Dooley

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

CHORAL ANTHEM — *Hallelujah* from *Messiah* - George Frideric Händel

GOSPEL READING— Mark 16:9-20 (NRSV)

Dan De Leon

Now after he rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, from whom he had cast out seven demons. She went out and told those who had been with him, while they were mourning and weeping. But when they heard that he was alive and had been seen by her, they would not believe it.

After this he appeared in another form to two of them, as they were walking into the country. And they went back and told the rest, but they did not believe them.

Later he appeared to the eleven themselves as they were sitting at the table; and he upbraided them for their lack of faith and stubbornness, because they had not believed those who saw him after he had risen. And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation. The one who believes and is baptized will be saved; but the one who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: by using my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes in their hands, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover."

So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. And they went out and proclaimed the good news everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by the signs that accompanied it.

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

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

THE MESSAGE

"The Unfinished Gospel"

Dan De Leon

MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

INVITATION TO SHARE

Brian Blake

OFFERTORY

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

GivePlus Text to 833-421-0009

Venmo to 979-446-5746 or @friendsucc

THE DOXOLOGY

Hymn Tune No. 27

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Brooke Dooley

CLOSING HYMN — The Strife Is O'er - Tune: Victory

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dan De Leon, Trent Williams

BENEDICTION

Dan De Leon

POSTLUDE

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Instrumental Music:

Prelude: Prelude to the *Te Deum* in D Major - Marc Charpentier

Offertory: Prince of Denmark's March - Jeremiah Clarke

Postlude: Trumpet Tune and Bell Symphony - Henry Purcell

Performed by Taryn Hairston, *trumpet*; and Chris Hoffman, *organ*.

Scriptures for April 11, 2021: Psalm 18:1-6; Matthew 28:11-15; Acts 3:1-10

FIRST TIME AT FRIENDS? If you are visiting us today, please let us know. 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.

OUTDOOR WORSHIP SERVICES AT FRIENDS CHURCH: As long as the Friends Church Decision Meter remains on “orange” or better, outdoor services will be offered on the first and third Sundays of the month at 11am. The next outdoor service will be two weeks from today, April 18.

SOUL FRIENDS SMALL GROUPS: New small groups have begun, and there is still time to join one. Our small groups offer an opportunity for connection, building relationships, and deepening your spiritual growth. We currently have four groups available:

- Women’s Group (for all women-identified persons)
- Men’s Group (for all men-identified persons)
- Parent’s Group
- LGBTQ+ Group

Contact Pastor Trent (pastortrent@friends-ucc.org) for more information. You can also indicate your interest here: bit.ly/soulfriendsgroups.

PARENTING SMALL GROUP: Calling all parents of young children and youth! The Parenting Small Group is meeting Sunday, April 18, at 12:30 p.m. At our first meeting last Sunday, we chose the book, Parenting Forward: How to Raise Children with Justice, Mercy, and Kindness, as our focus of study. Please join us for study, conversation, and support. For more information, please contact Brian Gilson at gilson.brian@gmail.com.

FRIENDS BOOK CLUB, Thursday, April 29, 6:30pm: The next Friends Book Club is *Thursday, April 29, at 6:30pm* by Zoom. Rev. Ron Petty will lead us in discussing the book, *Rabbi Jesus*, by Bruce Chilton. Please join us for a fun and informative discussion.

SOUL FRIENDS SMALL GROUPS: A new semester of Soul Friends small groups has launched. We have several options for deepening connection and spiritual growth, and we hope you'll take advantage of them. Sign-ups are available *here* (<https://bit.ly/3pBVFmQ>) for our ongoing small groups. Contact Pastor Trent or Jodie Robinson, Spiritual Life chair, with any questions.

SOCIAL JUSTICE CLASS, 10:00AM SUNDAY: The Social Justice Class at Friends Church has concluded its special study and will resume meeting at the regular time of 10am. For more information, please contact Jackie (jackiejowomack@gmail.com).

MORNING MANNA 10AM SUNDAY: Join us for our adult Bible study on Sunday morning at 10:00am on Zoom. Please follow the link, below. We will gather to reconnect, check in with each other, and bring ideas for what we'll study over the coming weeks. All are welcome. If you have any questions, contact Pastor Trent.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82444908275?pwd=VUxnK0tYV2EzRzJhYkkveFo3NFFDdz09>.

CHURCH DIRECTORY ONLINE (ChMS): Need a Friends Church online directory? Download the free Church Office Online app and contact the Church office for the domain name and password. It's an easy way to have quick access to the names and contact info for Friends Church people, as well as birthdays and anniversaries! Don't see your info in the online directory? Give us your updated information: office@friends-ucc.org.

FRIENDS CHURCH CARES FUND (FCCF): Friends Church recently received a donation of \$10,000 for the purpose of helping those suffering financial hardships resulting from COVID-19 measures. Friends Church members needing financial assistance are encouraged to request one-time assistance for up to \$1,500 from the FCCF. The FCCF request form can be found on the church's website (www.friends-ucc.org) or by contacting Church Council Vice Moderator Cathy Hansen at vice-moderator@friends-ucc.org. Requests are kept in discretion between the requester and the Vice Moderator, Treasurer, and Senior Pastor.

FRIENDS CHURCH CRISIS FUND: While the FCCF is set aside exclusively to assist with COVID-19-related hardships, the Crisis Fund, established several years ago, is designated to help Friends Church members in financial need for any reason. Should the FCCF run out, our congregation has this fund to further help one another. To contribute to the Crisis Fund, contact Treasurer Theresa Walker at treasurer@friends-ucc.org. To request Crisis Fund assistance, contact the pastors at pastor@friends-ucc.org or pastortrent@friends-ucc.org. Requests remain confidential between the requester and members of Church Council.

STAY CONNECTED WITH WHAT'S HAPPENING AT FRIENDS!: Subscribe to This Week at Friends published every Friday to your email address, and the E-Connection Newsletter published monthly to your email address. You can sign up on our website: www.friends-ucc.org or email the church office: office@friends-ucc.org. Please add e-connection@friends-ucc.org and office@friends-ucc.org to you email address book to ensure delivery.

UPDATE CONTACT INFORMATION: If you are not currently receiving Church email correspondence, and would like to, please send a message to the Church office with your name and email address: office@friends-ucc.org, and add e-connection@friends-ucc.org and office@friends-ucc.org to you email address book to ensure delivery.

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

Online at 11:00am

FRIENDS CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Dr. Dan De Leon, *Senior Pastor*

pastor@friends-ucc.org

The Rev. Trent Williams, *Associate Pastor*

pastortrent@friends-ucc.org

Chris Hoffman, *Director of Music Ministries*

choir@friends-ucc.org

Kathy Robbins, *Pianist*

pianist@friends-ucc.org

Kate Rabe, *Administrative Assistant*

office@friends-ucc.org

2200 Southwood Drive
College Station, Texas 77845
979-693-7021

Office Hours: 9:00am—1:00pm, M—F
office@friends-ucc.org
www.friends-ucc.org

