

FRIENDS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Reign of Christ, Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
November 26, 2023
9:00am



*An Open & Affirming
Congregation*

SCRIPTURE FOR MEDITATION: Ephesians 1:15-23, NRSV

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

WORDS OF WELCOME

Brooke Dooley

PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Anne Wehrly

One: God shepherds us towards pastures of compassion.
God leads us to wide, roaming fields of connection,
calls us by name, and blesses our lives, saying:

All: **Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden,
and I will give you rest,
for I am gentle and lowly in heart,
and you will find rest for your souls.**

***OPENING SONG #252** Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us

Tune: Bradbury

***INVOCATION**

Anne Wehrly

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Brooke Dooley

One: The peace of Christ be with you all.

Many: And also with you.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Dan De Leon

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Brooke Dooley

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 25:31-46, NRSV

Dan De Leon

"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry

and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

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 REFLECTION & MEDITATION

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LIGHTING OF CANDLES FOR INTERCESSIONS

Brooke Dooley

INVITATION TO SHARE

Anne Wehrly

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

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 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Brooke Dooley

*CLOSING HYMN - You Are My All in All

Capo 5: (C) (G) (Am7) (Em) (C)
F C Dm7 Am F

The musical score is written for guitar and voice. It features a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a 4/4 time signature. The guitar part is in the key of F major (one flat), with a capo at the 5th fret. The melody is written on a treble clef staff, and the bass line is on a bass clef staff. The lyrics are written below the melody. The score is divided into two systems, each with five staves. The first system contains the first two lines of the hymn, and the second system contains the last three lines. The lyrics are: 'You are my strength when I am weak; you are the treasure that I seek; you are my all in all. When I fall down, you pick me up; when I am dry, you fill my cup; you are my all in all. Je - sus, Lamb of God, wor - thy is your name! Je - sus, Lamb of God, wor - thy is your name!' The chords are indicated above the melody. The first system has five staves, and the second system has five staves. The lyrics are written below the melody. The score is divided into two systems, each with five staves. The first system contains the first two lines of the hymn, and the second system contains the last three lines. The lyrics are: 'You are my strength when I am weak; you are the treasure that I seek; you are my all in all. When I fall down, you pick me up; when I am dry, you fill my cup; you are my all in all. Je - sus, Lamb of God, wor - thy is your name! Je - sus, Lamb of God, wor - thy is your name!' The chords are indicated above the melody. The first system has five staves, and the second system has five staves.

You are my strength when I am weak; you are the trea-sure that I

seek; you are my all in all. When I fall down, you pick me

up; when I am dry, you fill my cup; you are my all in all.

Je - sus, Lamb of God, wor - thy is your name!

Je - sus, Lamb of God, wor - thy is your name!

POSTLUDE

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Instrumental Music:

Prelude: All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name! - Oliver Holden, arranged by Marianne Kim
Offertory: Fairest Lord Jesus - arranged by Joel Raney
Postlude: Soon and Very Soon - Andraé Crouch, arranged by Jack Schrader

Scripture for First Sunday in Advent, December 3, 2023: Isaiah 64:1-9; Mark 13:24-37

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

FIRST FRIDAY WITH FRIENDS - DEC. 1: Jon Taute will be at Blackwater Draw, 701 N Main St, Bryan beginning at 5:30 pm to grab some tables and greet Friends folks. Good fellowship, good beer and of course non-alcoholic options available. There will be a food truck starting around 6pm as well.

HELP PREP THE CHURCH FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS-DEC. 2: It's almost time to hang the greens, put up the purple, and deck the halls! On Saturday December 2nd, at 10am, the Worship Committee invites you to help set up and decorate the sanctuary and narthex for Advent and Christmas. We are changing the banners, hanging wreaths, setting up the angel trees, and putting out the Advent candles. Chris Hoffman will crank out carols on the piano to put us in the spirit as we work and enjoy hot cocoa, cider, and holiday treats. RSVP to help by emailing worship@friends-ucc.org.

FAIR TRADE CRAFT SALE- Dec. 2 & 3: Get a jump on your Christmas shopping Saturday and Sunday (Dec. 2 & 3). Visit our annual Guatemalan Craft Sale held in the blue tent in the parking lot at Friends Church. UPAVIM (United for a Better Life) exports beautiful Fair Trade handmade gifts and crafts all around the world. Your purchases support educational and medical programs in the impoverished community of La Esperanza in Guatemala City. Come on Saturday 10-2 or before or after church on Dec. 3rd. In the event of inclement weather, the sale will move inside the church.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING FROM FRIENDSGIVING: A love offering was taken up at our Friendsgiving event on November 19. The total collected was \$544, all of which will be donated to the Brazos Interfaith Immigration Network. Thank you for your generosity

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ANNOUNCED - Dec 3. Sunday, December 3rd after the 11:00 service, join us for a congregational meeting to discuss important issues about church finances. This informational meeting will not require any voting.

DEVOTIONAL BOOKLET FOR ADVENT NOW AVAILABLE: Advent begins Sunday, December 3. Copies of the UCC's Daily Devotionals booklet for Advent, GLOW are available for pickup in the narthex; one per household, please. The electronic version (pdf) may be purchased individually at thepilgrimpress.com.

FRIENDS CHURCH PODCAST: "Friends Congregational Church Sermons" has launched! Our weekly podcast featuring the messages from Sunday worship services is introduced by Friends Church members giving a brief testimony of what Friends Church means to them. To volunteer to introduce an episode, contact A/V Tech Jeremy Dudo at av@friends-ucc.org. Look for it on Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, Spotify, Amazon Music/Audible, iHeartRadio, PlayerFM, Listen Notes, Samsung, Podchaser, or Boomplay; and spread the word!

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE AND SHARE

CROCKETT ELEMENTARY BOOK FAIR: Last year our free Book Fair at Crockett Elementary School in Bryan was a great success. Each child received three books to keep. Even the teachers were able to pick two books for themselves. We are doing it again this spring, so it's time to collect books! You can donate books by placing them in the box outside the office, or you can donate gift cards or money, and we will buy books with your donations. If you have questions, please contact Jodie Robinson (jocelinbrune@gmail.com) or Pam Engler (penglertx@gmail.com). Thank you!

FRIENDS CHURCH ANGEL TREE: The Friends Church Angel Tree is back this year! This is a way that Friends can bring joy to children from around Brazos County. The Justice and Mission committee has been in touch with the Brazos County Child Welfare Board to find 64 children for Friends folk to sponsor. These are all children and youth who are in foster care or receiving other support services. You may choose your sponsored child in person on Sunday after worship, at Friendsgiving, or sign up virtually on the Friends website by using Sign up genius. We will also be accepting food and gas cards for our pastors to distribute to those in need in our community. Gift cards can be mailed to the church or put in the Gift Card box that will appear under the Christmas trees in the narthex. Contact awehrly@suddenlink.net with questions.

SHARE YOUR TIME AND TALENTS: There are plenty of opportunities for you to share your time and talents both here at the church and in the community.

Greeters and Communion Stewards Needed: If you can help with a 9am Sunday service or two, please contact Worship Committee Chair Ryan Womack: worship@friends-ucc.org.

Youth Group Looking for Extra Help: We are still looking for volunteers to help with remaining Youth Group events for the fall, including lessons, and a Christmas party. 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: Volunteer once or multiple times to prepare the coffee for the 9am or the 11am service. Contact fellowship@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

MORNING MEDITATIONS FOR ADVENT BEGIN- Dec. 5: On Tuesdays during Advent, you are invited to the Friends Church sanctuary to start your morning with centering meditation. At 7:30am on Tuesdays, Dec. 5, 12, & 19, we gather for a brief introduction, followed by silent meditation, and follow-up conversation as time permits. We are excited about this series of morning meditations that will bring us together in self- and community-preparation for the coming of Emanuel, God-With-Us, on Christmas. All are welcome.

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

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT DRESS REHEARSAL: Dress rehearsal for Christmas Pageant is on Saturday, Dec. 9. All youth and any child with a speaking part should show up at 10:30 am. All children with non-speaking parts should show up at 11:30 am. A hotdog lunch will be provided at 12:30 pm.

Friends Church Staff

Senior Pastor

The Rev. Dr. Dan De Leon (*he, him*)
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