

# FRIENDS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



Third Sunday after Epiphany  
January 21, 2024  
9:00am

*An Open & Affirming  
Congregation*

## **PSALM FOR MEDITATION:** Psalm 62:5-12 (NRSV)

For God alone my soul waits in silence, for my hope is from him. He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken. On God rests my deliverance and my honor; my mighty rock, my refuge is in God. Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us. Those of low estate are but a breath, those of high estate are a delusion; in the balances they go up; they are together lighter than a breath. Put no confidence in extortion, and set no vain hopes on robbery; if riches increase, do not set your heart on them. Once God has spoken; twice have I heard this: that power belongs to God, and steadfast love belongs to you, O Lord. For you repay to all according to their work.

## CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

## WORDS OF WELCOME

Trent Williams

## PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

## CALL TO WORSHIP

David Manuel

One: God, in the beginning you called forth light.

**All: O Holy Mystery, you call forth life!**

One: Christ, you called to the fishermen and they followed.

**All: O Deepening Love, you call forth love!**

One: Holy Spirit, you call to us from within.

**All: O Life-Giving Voice, you call forth our gifts!**

One: We hear. Our hearts are awakened,

**All: and we follow. Alleluia!**

## \*OPENING HYMN - Will you come and follow me

Capo 3: (D) (A7) (Bm) (Em7) (Asus) (A)  
 F C7 Dm Gm7 Csus C

1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call your name?  
 2 "Will you leave your-self be-hind if I but call your name?  
 3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call your name?  
 4 "Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?  
 5 Lord, your sum-mons ech - oes true when you but call my name.

(D) (A7) (Bm) (Em7) (G) (D)  
 F C7 Dm Gm7 Bb F

Will you go where you don't know and nev - er be the same?  
 Will you care for cruel and kind and nev - er be the same?  
 Will you set the pris - oners free and nev - er be the same?  
 Will you quell the fear in - side and nev - er be the same?  
 Let me turn and fol - low you and nev - er be the same.

(Em7) (G) (F#m7) (G) (Asus) (A)  
 Gm7 Bb Am7 Bb Csus C

Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known;  
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare should your life at - tract or scare?  
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as this un - seen,  
 Will you use the faith you've found to re-shape the world a - round,  
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and foot-steps show.

(D) (A7) (Bm) (Em7) (G) (D)  
 F C7 Dm Gm7 Bb F

will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?"  
 Will you let me an - swer prayer in you and you in me?"  
 and ad - mit to what I mean in you and you in me?"  
 through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?"  
 Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

## \*INVOCATION

David Manuel

## \*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Kyle Riley

One: The peace of Christ be with you all.

Many: And also with you.

## PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Trent Williams

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Kyle Riley

*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

Mark1:14-20 (CEB)

Dan De Leon

After John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee announcing God's good news, saying, "Now is the time! Here comes God's kingdom! Change your hearts and lives, and trust this good news!"

As Jesus passed alongside the Galilee Sea, he saw two brothers, Simon and Andrew, throwing fishing nets into the sea, for they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," he said, "and I'll show you how to fish for people." Right away, they left their nets and followed him. After going a little farther, he saw James and John, Zebedee's sons, in their boat repairing the fishing nets. At that very moment he called them. They followed him, leaving their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired workers.

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

Trent Williams

## INVITATION TO SHARE

David Manuel

## **OFFERTORY**

Secure online giving via Church Office Giving at [bit.ly/givetofriends](https://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 (UNISON)**

Trent Williams

O Love that invites us to let go and follow,  
bless us that in our letting go we will know fulfillment.  
Bless those who are in need, that our gifts may give them life.  
Bless us that in our giving we may understand how we receive.  
We pray as followers of Jesus. Amen.

## **CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION**

Trent Williams, Kyle Riley

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Kyle Riley

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.

**\*CLOSING HYMN #503** O Savior, Let Me Walk with You

Tune: Maryton

**\*BENEDICTION**

Dan De Leon

## **POSTLUDE**

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*Instrumental Music:*

Prelude: Praise to the Lord, the Almighty - arranged by John Carter  
Offertory: Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us - William B. Bradbury, arranged by John Carter  
Communion: His Eye Is on the Sparrow - Charles H. Gabriel, arranged by Melody Bober  
Postlude: Sunday (from "Sunday in the Park with George") - Stephen Sondheim

Scriptures for Fourth Sunday after Epiphany, January 28, 2024: Psalm 111; Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Mark 1:21-

28

## 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](mailto:office@friends-ucc.org).

## EVENTS THIS WEEK

**JANUARY BOOK CLUB AT FRIENDS: JOIN US** on January 25th, as we discuss the book *Trust Women, A Progressive Christian Argument for Reproductive Justice* by the Rev. Dr. Rebecca Todd Peters. For many of us, reproductive freedom is not only a political concept, it is a religious one. We'll meet and discuss the intersection between our faith and issues of reproductive justice, in anticipation of Dr. Peters joining us at Friends on February 11th for Changing the Conversation: The Theology of Reproductive Justice. Pick up a book and join the conversation, and then come again on February 11th and get your book signed by the author!! We meet at 6:30pm in the Sanctuary. All are welcome. For questions or more information, contact the Spiritual Life Committee at [spirit\\_develop@friends-ucc.org](mailto:spirit_develop@friends-ucc.org).

**FAMILY PROMISE ANNUAL COOK-OFF FUNDRAISER:** Family Promise's 15th annual Comfort Food Cook-Off fundraiser is back! Join us Friday evening, January 26, 2024 at A&M Church of Christ in College Station for an exciting evening of food, music and great fellowship. Please contact Sally at [manthei\\_sally@aol.com](mailto:manthei_sally@aol.com) or Anne at [awehrly@suddenlink.net](mailto:awehrly@suddenlink.net) if you are interested in being on the cook-off team. More information on tickets and prices available on church calendar and This Week at Friends.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**VOLUNTEER VOICES NEEDED FOR FRIENDS CHURCH PODCAST:** Our new 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](mailto:av@friends-ucc.org).

**GIVING STATEMENTS 2023:** Due to inclement weather and the office being closed, giving statements for 2023 will be available for pick up by Sunday, January 28. This year, since we transitioned systems, there will be two statements: one for January to June from Church Office Online, and one for July to December, from Realm. Thank you for your generosity and support of the mission and ministry of Friends Church in 2023!

## 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](mailto:jocelinbrune@gmail.com)) or Pam Engler ([penglertx@gmail.com](mailto:penglertx@gmail.com)). Thank you!

**Be a Greeter and Communion Steward:** To help in the 9am and 11am services, please contact Worship Committee Chair Ryan Womack: [worship@friends-ucc.org](mailto: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 year, including the June Mission Trip. Contact Pastor Brooke at [pastor-brooke@friend-ucc.org](mailto:pastor-brooke@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](mailto:pastor@friends-ucc.org).

**Coffee Crew/Kitchen Angel:** Do you enjoy having coffee/hot beverages available at Sunday morning services? Signup via sheet on counter in kitchen, or Sign-up Genius ( link provided in Friday church email) or by contacting [Fellowship@ friends-ucc.org](mailto:Fellowship@friends-ucc.org). Training available by request.

**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](mailto: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](http://Friends-ucc.org))►Get **Involved**►**Volunteer** or email [office@friends-ucc.org](mailto:office@friends-ucc.org) for more information or to volunteer.

## SAVE THE DATE

**PLANNED GIVING WORKSHOP:** You are invited to join us for a Planned Giving Workshop after the 11:00 worship service on February 4. Lunch will be provided, and we will learn about how to remember the church in your will or estate plans, ways to make use of retirement assets, and answer your questions. All are welcome--even if you're not at retirement age yet, this can be valuable learning as you think about planning for the future. You can sign up to let us know you'll be coming here: <https://bit.ly/friendsplannedgiving>.

**CHANGING THE CONVERSATION: THE THEOLOGY OF REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE, 2/11:** For many of us, reproductive freedom is not only a political concept, it is a religious one. Friends Church is hosting a speaker on February 11 who will help us explore the intersection of our faith and issues of reproductive justice. Plan to join us in person (registration encouraged) and to share this opportunity with your friends and colleagues. Register with the QR code below



### Friends Church Staff

#### Senior Pastor

The Rev. Dr. Dan De Leon (*he, him*)  
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#### Director of Music Ministries

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#### Associate Pastor to Youth & Young Adults

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#### Administrative Assistant

Michael Rangel (*he, him*)  
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[www.friends-ucc.org](http://www.friends-ucc.org) • Office Hours: Monday–Friday, 9:00–3:00