



Friends Church

An Open & Affirming Congregation



"Let Justice Roll Like a Mighty River, Amos"

SarahFillerArt

February 2, 2025
Service of Word and Sacrament
Celebrating the Ordination
of Kyle Riley

WELCOME TO FRIENDS CHURCH!

We are honored that you have chosen to spend your Sunday afternoon 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.

FIRST TIME AT FRIENDS? If you are a guest with us today, please let us know. Welcome cards are located in the chair backs to fill out and leave in the offering plate during today's offertory. If you are joining us online for today's service, 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.

CHILDCARE: We invite children to participate fully in our community and worship life. Children of all ages are welcome in worship or you may choose childcare, offered for ages 1-5 in the nursery down the hall through the piano side double doors. We currently have Covid Protocols in place, which you can find posted outside the nursery door.

WiFi: To access church WiFi, please use this login information,
WiFi – The Promised LAN Password: stillspeaking

RESTROOMS are located through the double doors on the piano side of the sanctuary. Gender assigned restrooms are straight down at the end of the hall, and a gender neutral restroom is to the immediate right.

NOTE OF GRATITUDE: Special thanks to the volunteers serving in today's ordination service.

Greeters: Evan Ballweg and Peggy Vitek
Communion Steward: Charity Stokes

QUOTES FOR MEDITATION:

“God, unwilling to stick to a single form for our comfortable comprehension.
Incapable of making Themselves so flat.
Their names are always changing.
They are a multitude of incarnations.
Our Deliverer from the status quo.
Our Liberator from ordinary logics of power.
Our Invitation to live into the abundance of possibilities within and around us.”

-M Jade Kaiser, enfleshed

“Here you are, alive. Would you like to make a comment?”

-Mary Oliver

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Dan De Leon

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Hannah Murrow

One: Beloveds, the Holy One gathers us together with purpose:

All: To dream of futures yet imagined.

One: To bolster our courage before powers and principalities.

All: To nurture our love for one another.

One: God's blessing is upon us as we come to wrestle:

All: with meaning and justice,

One: with questions of love,

All: with the calling upon our lives.

One: The Spirit is moving! Let us worship together.

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN: No. 451 Be Now My Vision

Slane

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Timothy Riley

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Georgia Riley

One: The peace of Christ be with you all.

Many: And also with you!

***HYMN OF RESPONSE:** No. 18 Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer

Cwm Rhondda

HEBREW BIBLE READING: Psalm 99, NRSV

Amanda Newton

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous. Praise befits the upright. Praise the Lord with the lyre; make melody to him with the harp of ten strings. Sing to him a new song; play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts.

For the word of the Lord is upright, and all his work is done in faithfulness. He loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord.

By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and all their host by the breath of his mouth. He gathered the waters of the sea as in a bottle; he put the deeps in storehouses. Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him. For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm.

The Lord brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; he frustrates the plans of the peoples.

CHORAL ANTHEM: Here I Am, Lord - Daniel L. Schutte, Choral Setting by Jack Schrader

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry. All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save. I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright. Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send? Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night. I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart. I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain. I have wept for love of them - they turn away. I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone. I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send? Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night. I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart. I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame; I will set a feast for them; my hand will save. Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied. I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send? Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night. I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart. Here I am, Lord.

And you say, ‘Whoever swears by the altar is bound by nothing, but whoever swears by the gift that is on the altar is bound by the oath.’ How blind you are! For which is greater, the gift or the altar that makes the gift sacred? So whoever swears by the altar, swears by it and by everything on it; and whoever swears by the sanctuary, swears by it and by the one who dwells in it; and whoever swears by heaven, swears by the throne of God and by the one who is seated upon it. “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint, dill, and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. It is these you ought to have practiced without neglecting the others. You blind guides! You strain out a gnat but swallow a camel! “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and of the plate, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. You blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup, so that the outside also may become clean. “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which on the outside look beautiful, but inside they are full of the bones of the dead and of all kinds of filth. So you also on the outside look righteous to others, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

THE MESSAGE

“Justice is a Symphony, Not a Solo”

Rev. Brooke Dooley

MOMENT FOR REFLECTION: Come to the Garden Alone (In the Garden)

Garden

AFFIRMATIONS OF THE CANDIDATE

Texas Impact

Bee Moorhead

Iliff School of Theology Rev. Dr. Kristina Lizardy-Hajbi, read by Scout Odegaard

South Central Conference

Rev. Molly Carlson

Friends Church Justice and Mission Committee

Cecelia Hawkins

SERVICE OF ORDINATION

Greeting (responsive)

Rev. Nikki Stahl

One: One: Grace to you and peace from God, who is and who was and who is to come, and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness and the sovereign of the rulers on earth. The Heart of Texas Association of the South Central Conference of the United Church of Christ greets you in the name of Jesus Christ, the head of the church.

All: **To God, who by the power at work within us is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Presentation of the Candidate

Rev. Dr. CJ Wood

Exhortation of the Candidate

Rev. Nikki Stahl

Examination

Rev. Dr. Dan De Leon

***Acclamation**

Association Minister: People of God, you have heard the promises Kyle has made. What is your will?

Association Members: By the grace of God, he is worthy! Let us ordain him. Come, Holy Spirit.

Association Minister: Will you support Kyle in the ministry of Christ?

Association Members: We will.

***Laying on of Hands**

Declaration

Rev. Nikki Stahl

Presentation of Gifts

OFFERTORY

Today's offering will go towards the 2025 Youth Group Mission Trip, and the Youth Ministry of Friends Congregational Church.

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

Rev. Trent Williams

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Rev. Kyle Riley

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. 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 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. 459 Come, O Fount of every Blessing

Nettleton

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Kyle Riley

RECESSIONAL

POSTLUDE

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Instrumental Music:

Prelude: Be Thou My Vision - Traditional Irish Hymn, arranged by Melody Bober
Offertory: Tiny Dancer - Elton John and Bernie Taupin, arranged by Phillip Keveren
Communion: Bridge Over Troubled Water - Paul Simon, arranged by Scott Willis
Postlude: The Best - Mike Chapman and Holly Knight, arranged by Francesco Parrino

Friends Congregational Church United Church of Christ

Vision:

Rooted in the way of Christ, we strive to be a community of God's radical inclusion and extravagant welcome.

Mission:

United by the example of Jesus, we live faithfully, love limitlessly, and serve boldly.

Friends Church Staff

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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.