

# FRIENDS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



Fifth Sunday after Epiphany  
February 4, 2024  
9:00am

*An Open & Affirming  
Congregation*

## **PSALM FOR MEDITATION:** Psalm 147:I-II, CEB

Praise the Lord! Because it is good to sing praise to our God! Because it is a pleasure to make beautiful praise! The Lord rebuilds Jerusalem, gathering up Israel's exiles. God heals the brokenhearted and bandages their wounds. God counts the stars by number, giving each one a name. Our Lord is great and so strong! God's knowledge can't be grasped! The Lord helps the poor, but throws the wicked down on the dirt! Sing to the Lord with thanks; sing praises to our God with a lyre! God covers the skies with clouds; God makes rain for the earth; God makes the mountains sprout green grass. God gives food to the animals—even to the baby ravens when they cry out. God doesn't prize the strength of a horse; God doesn't treasure the legs of a runner. No. The Lord treasures the people who honor him, the people who wait for his faithful love.

## **CHIMING OF THE TRINITY**

## **WORDS OF WELCOME**

Brooke Dooley

## **PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES**

## **\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Ann Wild

One: Gather us in, the brokenhearted and the joyful.

**All: Gather us in, the weak and the strong.**

One: Gather us in, the fearful and the courageous.

**All: Gather us in, the young and the old.**

One: Gather us in, to sing of God's works.

**All: Gather us in, to praise Jesus Christ.**

One: Gather us in, to worship and wonder.

**All: Gather us in, to know of God's love.**

**\*OPENING HYMN - Let Us Build a House (All Are Welcome)**

Tune: Two Oaks

Capo 3: (A7) (D) (A) (D) (G) (A) (Bm)  
C7 F C F B<sup>b</sup> C Dm



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can  
2 Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are  
3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa-ter,  
4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be-yond the  
5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and

(D) (A) (D) (Bm7) (Em) (A)  
F C F Dm7 Gm C



safe-ly live, a place where saints and chil-dren tell  
strong and true, where all God's chil-dren dare to seek  
wine, and wheat; a ban-quet hall on ho-ly ground  
wood and stone to heal and strength-en, serve and teach,  
vi-sions heard and loved and trea-sured, taught and claimed

(Em) (A7) (G) (D) (F#m) (Bm)  
Gm C7 B<sup>b</sup> F Am Dm



how hearts learn to for-give. Built of hopes and dreams and  
to dream God's reign a-new. Here the cross shall stand as  
where peace and jus-tice meet. Here the love of God, through  
and live the Word they've known. Here the out-cast and the  
as words with-in the Word. Built of tears and cries and

(Em) (A) (D) (G)  
Gm C F B<sup>b</sup>



vi-sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the  
wit-ness and as sym-bol of God's grace; here as  
Je-sus, is re-vealed in time and space; as we  
strang-er bear the im-age of God's face; let us  
laugh-ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace; let this

(D) (G) (F#7) (Bm) (Em) (Bm)  
F B<sup>b</sup> A7 Dm Gm Dm



love of Christ shall end di-vi-sions:  
one we claim the faith of Je-sus:  
share in Christ the feast that frees us: all are wel-come;  
bring an end to fear and dan-ger:  
house pro-claim from floor to raf-ter:

(F#m) (Em) (D) (Em) (A7) (D) (G) (D)  
Am Gm F Gm C7 F B<sup>b</sup> F



all are wel-come; all are wel-come in this place.

**\*INVOCATION**

Ann Wild

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Brooke Dooley

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

## PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Brooke Dooley

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Lanette Schulte

*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

Mark 1:29-39, (CEB)

Dan De Leon

After leaving the synagogue, Jesus, James, and John went home with Simon and Andrew. Simon's mother-in-law was in bed, sick with a fever, and they told Jesus about her at once. He went to her, took her by the hand, and raised her up. The fever left her, and she served them.

That evening, at sunset, people brought to Jesus those who were sick or demon-possessed. The whole town gathered near the door. He healed many who were sick with all kinds of diseases, and he threw out many demons. But he didn't let the demons speak, because they recognized him.

Early in the morning, well before sunrise, Jesus rose and went to a deserted place where he could be alone in prayer. Simon and those with him tracked him down. When they found him, they told him, "Everyone's looking for you!"

He replied, "Let's head in the other direction, to the nearby villages, so that I can preach there too. That's why I've come." He traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and throwing out demons.

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**

Ann Wild

### **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)**

Brooke Dooley

Holy One, we bring our gifts and pray that they may be  
for the building up and lifting up of your people,  
for the binding of wounds and the healing of hearts,  
for shelter and for covering and clothing for those in need.  
With these gifts we offer our praise as we hope in your steadfast love. Amen.

### **CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION**

Brooke Dooley

### **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.

**\*CLOSING HYMN #181** You Are Salt for the Earth, O People

Tune: Bring Forth

**\*BENEDICTION**

Dan De Leon

## POSTLUDE

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*Instrumental Music:*

Prelude: Give Me Jesus - Traditional Spiritual, arranged by Mary McDonald  
Offertory: 'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus - William J. Kirkpatrick, arranged by Randall Hartsell  
Communion: Living Hope - Phil Wickham and Brian Johnson, arranged by Phillip Keveren  
Postlude: I'm Gonna Sing/Ain't-a That Good News? - Traditional Spirituals, arranged by Larry Shackley

Scriptures for Transfiguration Sunday, February 11, 2024: Genesis 3:1-7; 1 Timothy 2:11-15

## 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

**LEAVING A LEGACY: PLANNED GIVING WORKSHOP:** You are invited to join us for a Planned Giving Workshop after today's 11:00am service. 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>.



**DEADLINE TO SIGN UP FOR SPRING BREAK MISSION TRIP, FEB 5:** It's not too late. You can still join our group of Friends headed to the Texas/Mexico border March 10 - 13. Plans are underway to visit immigration court, interact with Border Patrol agents, volunteer at a respite center, and visit an outdoor encampment for asylum seekers in Matamoros--all with the intent to bear witness to the realities beneath the rhetoric. If you would like to participate, contact Cecelia at [programs@friends-ucc.org](mailto:programs@friends-ucc.org).

**GUYZ BREAKFAST, FEB 10:** 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

**GIVING STATEMENTS 2023:** The giving statements for 2023 are available now for pick up. 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!

**DEVOTIONAL BOOKS FOR LENT ARE HERE!:** LENT begins Ash Wednesday, February 14th, 2024. Copies of the UCC's Lenten Daily Devotional booklet, BEND, are available for pickup in the Narthex; one per household, please. The electronic version (pdf) may be purchased individually at [thepilgrimpress.com](http://thepilgrimpress.com).

**WALL OF GIVING:** The youth group will hold a Wall of Giving fundraiser every Sunday in February (before & after both services) in the fellowship area of the sanctuary. The Wall of Giving is a display with 100 envelopes marked with dollar amounts from \$1 to \$100. Those who wish to participate in the fundraiser will select an envelope based on the amount they want to contribute. That amount can be paid either with cash, check or via Venmo (to 979.307.8860 or @friendsucc) with a note that specifies that the money is for the 'Youth Mission Trip.' Inside the envelopes, and in exchange for the contribution, the youth are offering 'I Owe Yous' (Ex. One postcard from the mission trip or one selfie from the mission trip). As always, thank you for your support of our youth group!

## 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!

**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).

**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

**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



**“BROKEN”: REAL LIFE AND REAL FAITH, FEB 13:** Join us for a special Lenten series centered around the 2017 BBC drama series “Broken.” Over six weeks, we will watch an episode of the series and have conversation about how faith and real life intersect. Participants are encouraged to make each session if possible, since the series builds on each previous episode. Please be advised that the themes can be intense, including suicidal ideation and the intersection of race and police violence. Contact Pastor Trent if you have any questions.

**ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE, FEB 14:** The Ash Wednesday service will be held on Feb 14. There will be a morning service at 7:30am, and an evening service at 6:30pm.

**FABULOUS AT ANY AGE BREAKFAST, FEB 14:** Fabulous at Any Age will meet for breakfast AFTER 7:30 a.m. Ash Wednesday Service. Join us at Coco Loco (1804 Welsh, CS) for delicious breakfast and wonderful fellowship. All are welcome!

**THEOLOGY ON TAP, FEB 15:** At 6pm on February 15th, Theology on Tap (T.o.T.) is held at KinderHill Brew Lab, 800 S. Bryan Ave. T.o.T.'s informal discussions bring our lives more in tune with God's will and way as we get to know each other better beyond church walls. The venue has an assortment of great beers on tap. You don't need to be fond of beer to join us, nor do you have to be 21 or older. Non-alcoholic beverages are available, and minors are welcome, as are four-leggeds. Cheers, and amen!

**INQUIRE CLASS:** Are you wanting to learn more about Friends Church? Join us after the worship service on February 18th for the Inquire Class with lunch provided. 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. For more information and to sign up for Inquire, email Spiritual Life Chair Becky Burks at [spirit\\_develop@friends-ucc.org](mailto:spirit_develop@friends-ucc.org).

**NEW MEMBER SUNDAY:** On February 25, 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](mailto:pastor@friends-ucc.org)), Executive Pastor Trent Williams ([pastortrent@friends-ucc.org](mailto:pastortrent@friends-ucc.org)), or Associate Pastor Brooke Dooley ([pastorbrooke@friends-ucc.org](mailto:pastorbrooke@friends-ucc.org)).

### Friends Church Staff

#### Senior Pastor

The Rev. Dr. Dan De Leon (*he, him*)  
[pastor@friends-ucc.org](mailto:pastor@friends-ucc.org)

#### Director of Music Ministries

Chris Hoffman (*he, him*)  
[choir@friends-ucc.org](mailto:choir@friends-ucc.org)

#### Executive Pastor

The Rev. Trent Williams (*he, him*)  
[pastortrent@friends-ucc.org](mailto:pastortrent@friends-ucc.org)

#### Associate Pastor to Youth & Young Adults

The Rev. Brooke Dooley (*she, her, they, them*)  
[pastorbrooke@friends-ucc.org](mailto:pastorbrooke@friends-ucc.org)

#### Administrative Assistant

Michael Rangel (*he, him*)  
[office@friends-ucc.org](mailto:office@friends-ucc.org)

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