



Friends Church

An Open & Affirming Congregation



*Art by
Nicole Chan (2019)*

February 5, 2023
9:00am & 11:00am

WELCOME TO FRIENDS CHURCH!

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.

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: Thank you to the volunteers helping with today's worship services:

Lay Leaders: Anne Wehrly & Jackie Womack
Greeters: Eli Vasquez & Doris Machiniski
Communion Stewards: Chris and Kate Abbott & Becky Burks

Next Sunday, February 12:
Lay Leaders: Chris Abbott & Dwight Baker
Greeters: Kathy Yeager & Jodie Robinson

We give God thanks for our volunteers sharing their gifts. To volunteer for a Sunday as a lay leader, communion steward, or greeter, email worship@friends-ucc.org.

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

Epiphany is the Season of Light, when we remember the revelation of Jesus as the beloved Child of God, while recognizing the lengthening of the days and the growing of the light.

QUOTE FOR MEDITATION:

“Through the roofs and gables, I can see them. Every day they shout and scold and go about their lives, heedless of the gift it is to be them.”

-Out There (from *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*)

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

WORDS OF WELCOME

Trent Williams

PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Anne Wehrly (9am)
Jackie Womack (11am)

One: If the human body is to live, it needs salt.

All: If the body of Christ is to live, it needs us!

One: If the earthly creation is to flourish, it needs the sun's light.

All: If the new creation we are in Christ is to flourish, it needs the Spirit's light!

One: Jesus says we are salt of the earth, light of the world.

All: We shall be who we are meant to be in Christ: a welcoming oasis, a compassionate community, a justice-making people, giving glory to God!

*OPENING HYMN: #181 You Are Salt for the Earth, O People

Tune: Bring Forth

***INVOCATION**

Anne Wehrly (9am)
Jackie Womack (11am)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Trent Williams

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 "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 (oh let it shine)!**

CALL TO CONFESSION

Brooke Dooley

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (UNISON)

All: God, you placed us in the world to be its salt. We have been afraid of committing ourselves, afraid of being stained by the world. And our salt dissolved as if in water. Forgive us.

God, you placed us in the world to be its light. We were afraid of the shadows. We did not want to know other people's struggles. And our light slowly faded away. Forgive us.

(Silent prayer and meditation)

SONG OF RESPONSE: "My Lord! What a Morning" (refrain)

My Lord! what a morn - ing; my Lord! what a morn - ing;

O my Lord! what a morn - ing, when the stars be - gin to

Fine
fall, when the stars be - gin to fall.

The image shows a musical score for a song in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The lyrics are: "My Lord! what a morn - ing; my Lord! what a morn - ing; O my Lord! what a morn - ing, when the stars be - gin to fall, when the stars be - gin to fall." The word "Fine" is written above the final measure of the third system.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Brooke Dooley

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Brooke Dooley

One: The peace of Christ be with you all.

Many: And also with you!

HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING: Isaiah 58:9b-12 NRSV

Anne Wehrly (9am)
Jackie Womack (11am)

If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong, and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations, you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

9:00AM PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Trent Williams

9:00AM SUNG RESPONSE: LORD, LISTEN TO YOUR CHILDREN PRAYING

Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray - ing. Lord, send your
Spir - it in this place. Lord, lis - ten to your chil - dren
pray - ing. Send us love; send us power; send us grace.

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The lyrics are placed below the vocal line. The first system covers the first two lines of lyrics, the second system covers the next two lines, and the third system covers the final line. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line with chords that support the vocal melody.

11:00AM CHORAL ANTHEM: Send Out Thy Light - Mily Alexeyevich Balakireff, Edited by David M. Cherwein

Send out thy light, O send thy truth, that they may lead me, O Lord, that they lead me to thy holy hill, lead me to thy holy hill. My soul shall trust in God the Lord; for I will yet give thanks to God, who is the help of my countenance, and my God. Send out thy light,
O send thy truth, that they may lead me, Lord, to thy dwelling place.

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 5:13-20 (NRSV)

Brooke Dooley

You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

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

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

THE MESSAGE

Brooke Dooley

MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

INVITATION TO SHARE

Anne Wehrly (9am)
Jackie Womack (11am)

OFFERTORY

Secure online giving via Church Office Giving at bit.ly/givetofriends
Text to give: Text **Friends** to 979-500-2523
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

Trent Williams

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Trent Williams & 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 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 & INVITATION TO JOIN FRIENDS CHURCH

Trent Williams

***CLOSING HYMN:** #460 Be Not Dismayed (God Will Take Care of You) Tune: Martin

***BENEDICTION**

Brooke Dooley

POSTLUDE

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Instrumental Music:

Prelude: Come, Christians, Join to Sing - Traditional Spanish Melody, arranged by Carol
Tornquist

Offertory: Bist du bei mir (You Are With Me) - Johann Sebastian Bach

Communion: No One Is Alone (from *Into the Woods*) - Stephen Sondheim

Postlude: Great Is Thy Faithfulness - William M. Runyan, arranged by Joel Raney

Scriptures for February 12, 2023: Psalm 84:1-12; I Corinthians 3:1-9; Matthew 13:24-43

GETTING CONNECTED AT FRIENDS

CHURCH DATABASE & DIRECTORY UPDATE: As we make the transition to our new database and directory system, you will be receiving an email soon, if you haven't already, from Realm inviting you to login and claim your profile. This is a legitimate message, so feel free to follow the link. Once you've set up your password and login, you can edit your profile and access the church directory. Feel free to add a profile picture as well; if you would prefer that we take that photo, we can also do that for you.

In addition, our online giving platform will also be shifting to Realm, so if you have a recurring gift set up through our current system, you will need to set that up again. More information will be shared about how to do that in the next couple of weeks. We are hoping to make the transition to the database fully by March 1. If you have any questions or run into any issues, please contact Pastor Trent at pastortrent@friends-ucc.org.

GIVING STATEMENTS: The 2022 Statements of Giving are available in the narthex for the next couple of weeks. Please pick yours up at your convenience. Don't worry if you can't. We will mail the remaining statements on February 13th. If you do not see yours please reach out to Justin Dudo at fin_sec@friends-ucc.org.

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS WITH WOMEN! February 8, from 5-7 p.m. at Vino Boheme (210 W. 26th St, next to the Village Café) in Downtown Bryan. Casual, fun, and very relaxing! Join us.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION: February is the month of Love. Would you consider sharing a little love with our neighbors on any Friday this month? Get involved with our weekly food distribution. To be a part of this outreach effort, join us for an hour or two in the parking lot at Peace Lutheran Church between 2:30 and 6pm to assist in the distribution of fresh produce. For more info, contact Anne Wehrly at awehrly@suddenlink.net

SENIOR PASTOR OUT OF THE OFFICE: Pastor Dan will be away February 3-9 preaching the installation service for a friend at a UCC church in Grand Rapids, and taking advantage of a continuing education opportunity at Brite Divinity School's Ministers Week in Fort Worth. If you have a pastoral need during that time, please contact Pastor Trent or Pastor Brooke.

GREETERS NEEDED FOR 9AM SERVICE: At Friends Church, we have a vision of being a radically inclusive community of faith that extends God's extravagant welcome to all. That's why having volunteers to greet folks when they walk in the church door is so important. Greeters are responsible for handing out worship guides, making a count of worship attendees, and helping take up the offering. Where greeters are most needed right now is in the 9am worship service. If you haven't worshiped at the earlier service on a Sunday morning, this would be a great opportunity to give it a try. To volunteer and get more information, contact Worship Committee Chair Ryan Womack: worship@friends-ucc.org.

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

Senior Pastor

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

Director of Music Ministries

Chris Hoffman (*he, him*)
choir@friends-ucc.org

Executive Pastor

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

Associate Pastor to Youth & Young Adults

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

Administrative Assistant

Michael Rangel (*he, him*)
office@friends-ucc.org