FRIENDS
CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH

An Open & Affirming Congregation

Mural at Chimayo – Gathering to Worship, Anonymous, New Mexico

May 29, 2022
11:00am

WELCOME

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.

Eastertide - Seventh Sunday in Easter:
Easter is not just one day—it's a whole season. Throughout these 50 days, we celebrate and ponder the mystery of the resurrection and the promise of new life.

Words in **BOLD** are yours to speak out loud **You are invited to stand

PSALM FOR MEDITATION: Psalm 93, NRSV

The Lord is king, he is robed in majesty; the Lord is robed, he is girded with strength. He has established the world; it shall never be moved; your throne is established from of old; you are from everlasting. The floods have lifted up, O Lord, the floods have lifted up their voice; the floods lift up their roaring. More majestic than the thunders of mighty waters, more majestic than the waves of the sea, majestic on high is the Lord! Your decrees are very sure; holiness befits your house, O Lord, forevermore.

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

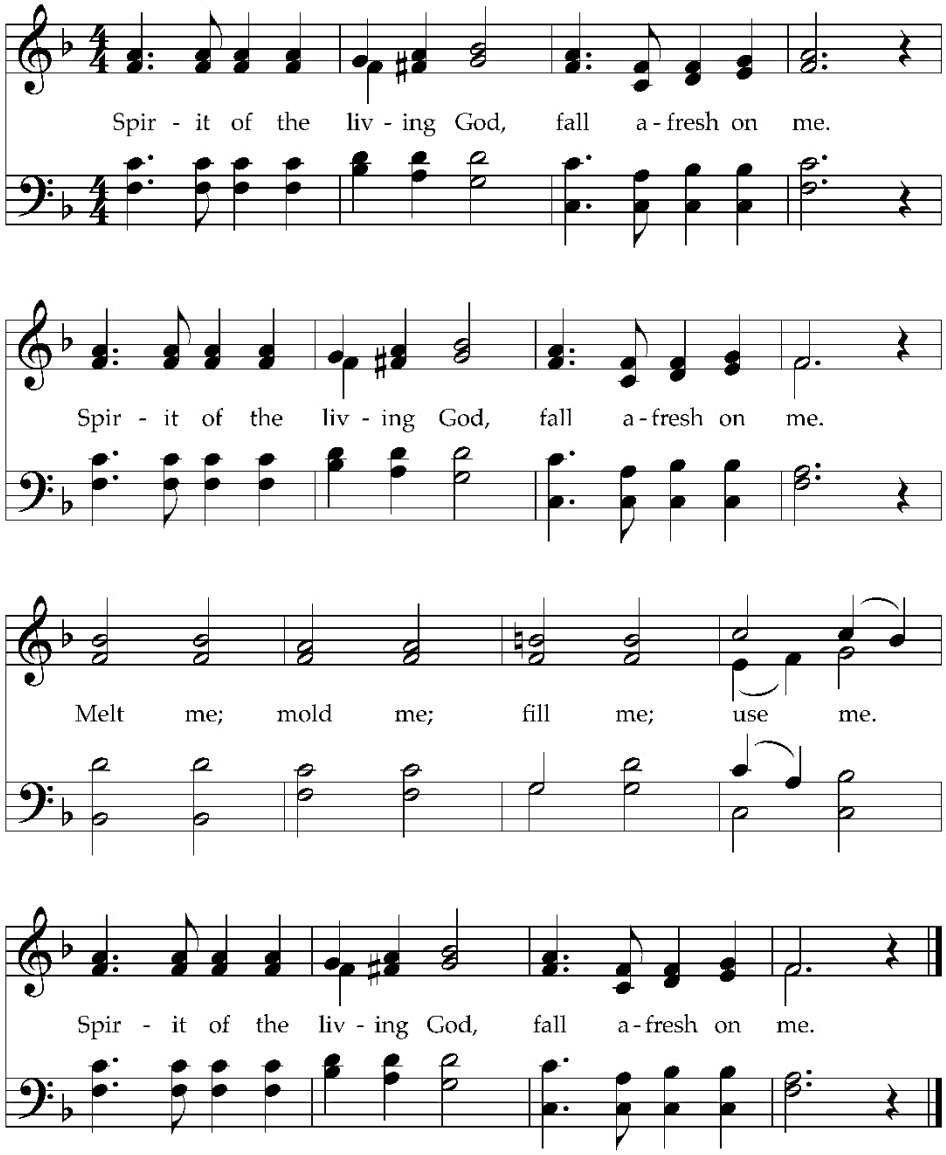
WORDS OF WELCOME Ryan Womack

PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

**CALL TO WORSHIP Carly Gilson

One: All you who are yearning for connection,
craving rest, dreaming of communities of compassion, come.
For God's Wisdom longs to be inherited.
All: God's Liberation longs to be danced with.
One: God's Anger longs for reparations to be made.
All: God's Peace longs to be sunk into.
One: Come, let us worship the Beloved,
All: for God is our desire for Transformative Love.

**OPENING HYMN – Spirit of the Living God



**INVOCATION — Carly Gilson

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE — Mary Howell

Children are invited to come forward with their masks on and sit at the front on a circle for distancing. Children at home are invited to get closer to their screens. 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)!

**PASSING OF THE PEACE Ludy Manthei

SCRIPTURE READING: John 17:20-26, CSB Carlos Figueroa

I pray not only for these, but also for those who believe in me through their word. May they all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us, so that the world may believe you sent me. I have given them the glory you have given me, so that they may be one as we are one. I am in them and you are in me, so that they may be made completely one, that the world may know you have sent me and have loved them as you have loved me. Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, so that they will see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the world's foundation. Righteous Father, the world has not known you. However, I have known you, and they have known that you sent me. I made your name known to them and will continue to make it known, so that the love you have loved me with may be in them and I may be in them.

A MESSAGE Carlos Figueroa

SPECIAL MUSIC – O Love – Elaine Hagenberg

(This anthem, recorded on Wednesday, May 25 during Choir Rehearsal, is being sung live today at Camp Allen, for the South Central Conference Annual Meeting.)

O Love, that will not let me go, O Love, I rest my weary soul in Thee; I give thee back the life I owe, That in thy ocean depths its flow may richer, fuller be.
O Joy, that seeks me through the pain, O Joy, I cannot close my heart to thee; I trace the rainbow through the rain, and feel the promise is not vain That morn shall tearless be.
O Love, that will not let me go, O Love, I rest my weary soul in Thee; I give thee back the life I owe and in thy ocean depths its flow shall richer, fuller be, that morn shall tearless be.
O Love, that will not let me go

SCRIPTURE READING: Isaiah 21:3-4; 25:1-9, HCSB Jackie Womack

Therefore I am filled with anguish. Pain grips me, like the pain of a woman in labor. I am too perplexed to hear, too dismayed to see. My heart staggers; horror terrifies me. He has turned my last glimmer of hope into sheer terror.
Yahweh, You are my God; I will exalt You. I will praise Your name, for You have accomplished wonders, plans formed long ago, with perfect faithfulness. For You have turned the city into a pile of rocks, a fortified city, into ruins; the fortress of barbarians is no longer a city; it will never be rebuilt. Therefore, a strong people will honor You. The cities of violent nations will fear You. For You have been a stronghold for the poor, a stronghold for the needy person in his distress, a refuge from the rain, a shade from the heat. When the breath of the violent is like rain against a wall, like heat in a dry land, You subdue the uproar of barbarians. As the

shade of a cloud cools the heat of the day, so He silences the song of the violent. The Lord of Hosts will prepare a feast for all the peoples on this mountain—a feast of aged wine, choice meat, finely aged wine. On this mountain He will destroy the burial shroud, the shroud over all the peoples, the sheet covering all the nations; He will destroy death forever. The Lord God will wipe away the tears from every face and remove His people's disgrace from the whole earth, for the Lord has spoken. On that day it will be said, "Look, this is our God; we have waited for Him, and He has saved us. This is the Lord; we have waited for Him. Let us rejoice and be glad in His salvation."

One: The Word of God for the people of God.
All: God is still speaking! Thanks be to God.

A MESSAGE — Jackie Womack

MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

OFFERTORY INVITATION — Carly Gilson

OFFERTORY

Secure online giving via Church Office Giving at bit.ly/givetofriends
GivePlus text to 833-421-0009
Venmo to 979-446-5746 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 uplifits,
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION — Ludy Manthei

Living Christ, our heartstrings are tugged in all directions. We wrestle with how to live when we have inherited patterns of harm. Remind us that we, too, are inheritors of Creativity, Love, and Imagination. May our collected resources offer a legacy of Love. Amen.

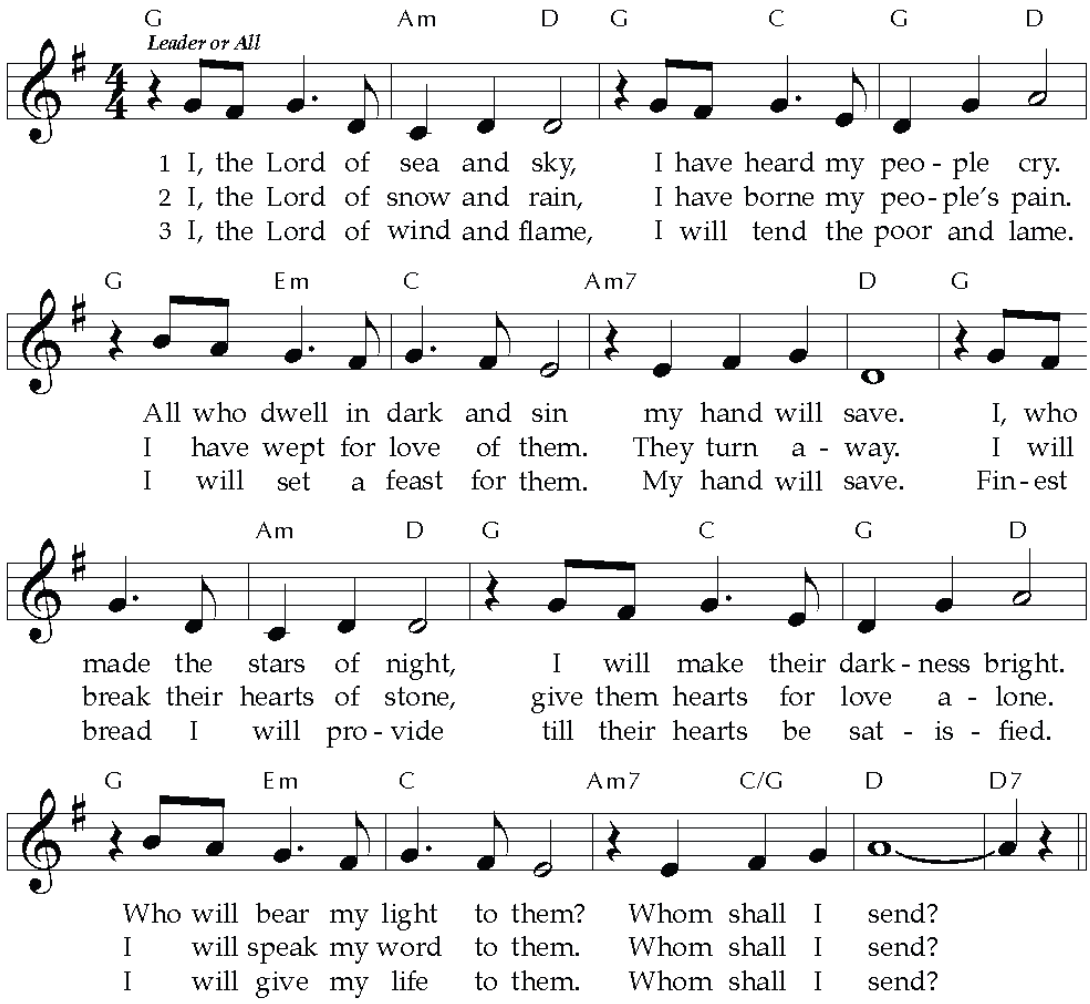
PASTORAL PRAYER — Ludy Manthei

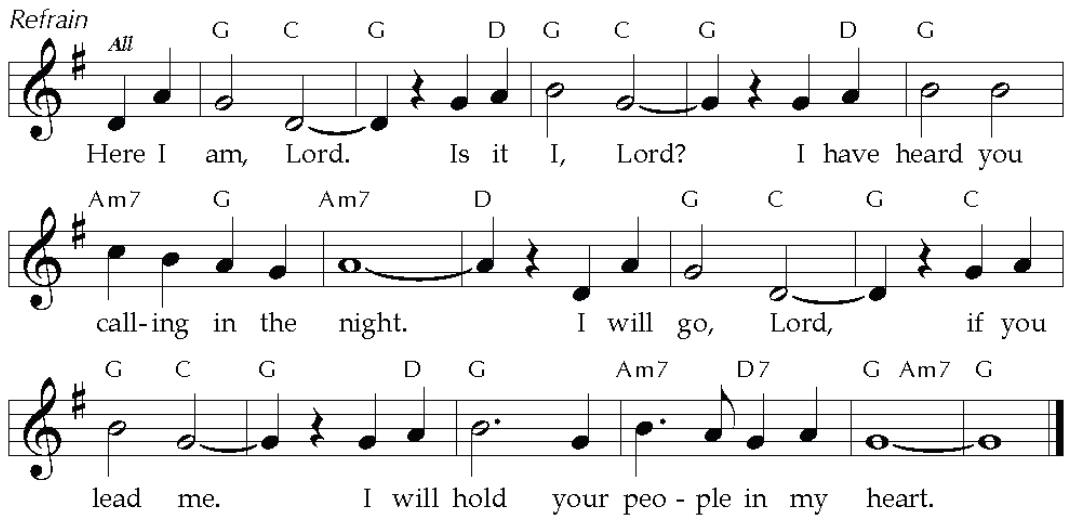
THE LORD'S PRAYER Ludy Manthei

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 Ryan Womack

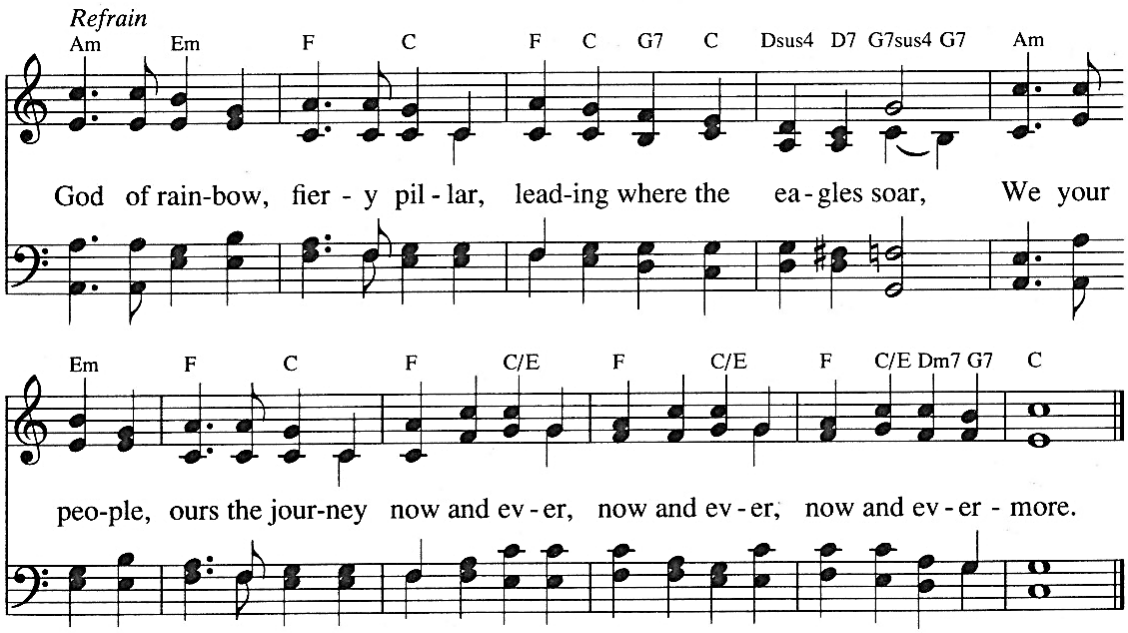
**CLOSING HYMN: I The Lord of Sea and Sky (Here I am Lord)





**BENEDICTION Ludy Manthei

**SUNG RESPONSE: In the Midst of New Dimensions (Refrain)



POSTLUDE

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Instrumental Music:

Prelude: *Morning Prayer – Laura Bergquist (based on familiar hymns)*

Offertory: *Offertory on "Ville du Havre" – Philip P. Bliss, arranged by Lani Smith*

Postlude: *Salvation unto Us Has Come (based on "Es ist das Heil" from "Etlich christlich Lieder," Wittenberg, 1524) – Paul Taylor*

Scriptures for June 5th:

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 bring to the baptismal font 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

FRIENDS CHURCH FOOD DISTRIBUTION AT PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH: Would you consider stepping in for an hour or two on Friday afternoons to distribute fresh fruits and vegetables to our B-CS neighbors**?** Join folks from Friends and the community in the parking lot at Peace Lutheran this Friday (and every Friday) between 2:30 and 6:00 pm to assist in the distribution of food from the Brazos Valley Food Bank. Become part of our very enthusiastic "food team" and make some new friends. Send questions on how to get involved to awehrly@suddenlink.net.

SOCIAL JUSTICE CLASS - Sundays 10am: The Social Justice class currently meets in the music library between the two services. This room is located next to the gender-neutral restroom and the childcare room. We use the UCC Still Speaking Daily Devotional that you can sign up for at *https://www.ucc.org/daily-devotional/*. It comes to your inbox daily, and each Sunday a volunteer reads one that was meaningful to them that week and this sparks our group discussion. We hope you consider joining us!

FRIENDS CHURCH HAS A NEW BOOK CLUB! The Linda Coats Book Club meets on the last Thursday of every month. This first year, we will be reading banned books. Our May gathering will be Thursday, June 30, at 6:30 pm. We will read "The Color Purple" by Alice Walker. The book club will be a hybrid gathering. Look forward to seeing you there!

LAST CHANCE TO SUPPORT THE YOUTH GROUP'S WALL OF GIVING: This summer our youth will be traveling to Albuquerque with Reach Beyond Mission. Today is our last day to support the mission trip by contributing to the Wall of Giving! Just stop by the display in the sanctuary and take an envelope for any amount from $1 to $50. Follow the directions inside to donate that amount to help cover our travel expenses and chaperone costs for the trip. Thank you for supporting our youth.

MISSING CHURCH CANOPIES: There are two small canopies missing that belong to the church. If you have them or know where they might be, please contact Susan Fontaine at svfontaine@gmail.com.

NEW MEMBER SUNDAY: On June 12 in the 11am service it's New Member Sunday, when we welcome our newest members into the life of Friends Congregational Church. If you are interested in joining Friends Church on New Member Sunday, June 12, please contact Senior Pastor Dan De Leon (pastor@friends-ucc.org), Associate Pastor Trent Williams (pastortrent@friends-ucc.org), or Church Council Moderator Cathy Hansen (moderator@friends-ucc.org).

HYGIENE KITS UPDATE: After last Sunday's amazing party of hygiene kit stuffing with participants of all ages, we ended up with 107 completed hygiene kits. This more than surpasses our goal! We also had about 20 pounds of "extra" hygiene items that came from many sources. These hygiene kits will bring welcome relief to our unhoused neighbors. Our kits will be delivered to Camp Allen this weekend, the site of the Annual Meeting of the South Central Conference of the United Church of Christ (UCC). Our bounty will be added to donations from the other 50 churches of our Conference. Stay tuned to see how many kits are gathered all together. These hygiene kits are ultimately bound for Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, Mississippi. Back Bay has been serving folks on the Gulf Coast for 100 years. Thanks for your generosity and support in this effort.

FRIENDS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Our Vision:

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

Our Mission:

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

SUNDAY WORSHIP

9:00am In-Person – 11:00am In-Person & Online

FRIENDS CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Dr. Dan De Leon *he/him/his, Senior Pastor*
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UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST