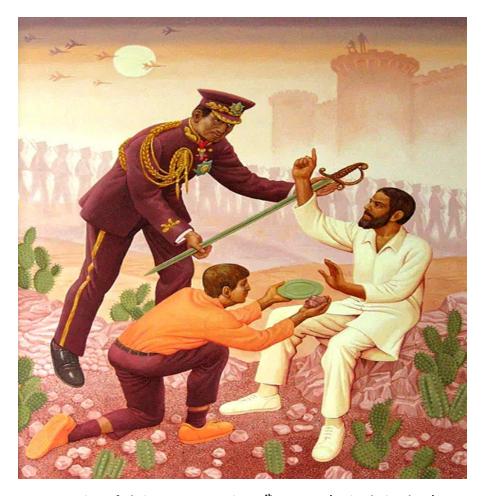


An Open & Affirming Congregation



Temptation of Christ, Peter Koenig, 20th Century (United Kingdom)

March 6, 2022 9:00am & 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.

First Sunday in Lent:

Lent is the season of renewal and reflection—a time when we remember that we are only human, broken yet beloved.

Words in BOLD are yours to speak out loud

**You are invited to stand

QUOTE FOR MEDITATION

"The struggle with evil in the world begins with the struggle with evil within ourselves, and that struggle depends upon self-knowledge: knowing and acknowledging our limitations and our capacities. Such introspection should take place at all times with us, but Lent is that particular time in the church year when we pay attention to that process."

-Peter Gomes

SCRIPTURE FOR MEDITATION: DEUTERONOMY 6:16-17, NRSV

Do not put the Lord your God to the test, as you tested him at Massah. You must diligently keep the commandments of the Lord your God, and his decrees, and his statutes that he has commanded you.

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

WORDS OF WELCOME

Trent Williams

PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

**CALL TO WORSHIP

Maggie Gartner (9:00) Tami Dudo (11:00)

One: Welcome, travelers, to the journey of faith.

All: The faith journey is the best route through the terrain called life.

One: Then come and continue the quest,

Acting out your faith by living life to the fullest.

All: We will let our spirits soar like eagles;

One: Taking a deep breath,

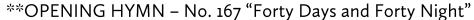
We will stretch ourselves to the limit like fully inflated balloons,

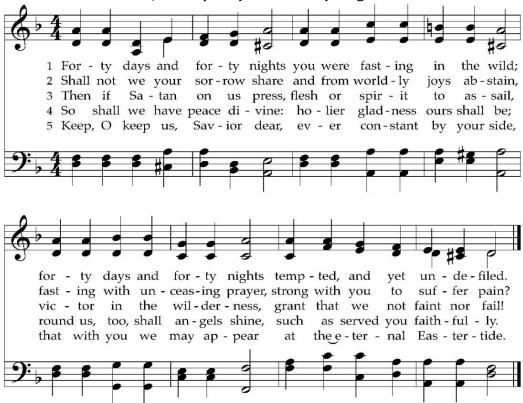
Colorful, hopeful, ready to sail and to soar,

All: And to drink in the world's color, absorbing its light and texture,

Inhaling its fragrance, dancing to its music.

One: This is the way we worship God.





**INVOCATION

Maggie Gartner (9:00) Tami Dudo (11:00)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Brooke Dooley

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)!

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Trent Williams

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (responsive)

Trent Williams

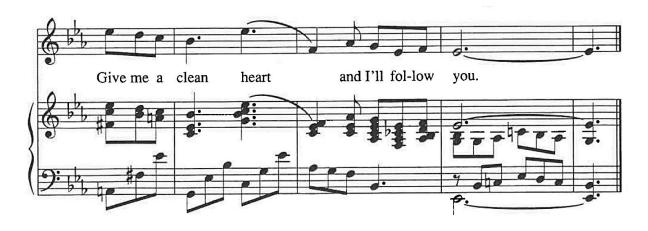
One: Merciful God, what a gentle and healing balm it is to come to you with our secret thoughts, our sad discouragements, and our noblest dreams, and find you here to listen, to forgive, and to renew us!

All: We confess our reluctance to understand your will and our hesitancy to act upon it. We are quick to blame others and slow to accept responsibility for ourselves. We wish for signs of your power even while we take for granted the beauty and love with which you have surrounded us.

We desire some guarantee of your favor and, at the same time, shudder to think about the suffering of the cross and what it portends for us and for our world. Submerge us in your Spirit and grant us faith to perceive good arising from evil and to sense your immediate presence within the solitude of endless space. Amen.

SUNG RESPONSE: No. 188 "Give Me a Clean Heart"





SILENT MEDITATION AND PRAYER

Trent Williams

The sound of one chime will call us into silence. Two chimes will call us out of silence.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Trent Williams

**PASSING OF THE PEACE

Trent Williams

PSALM READING: Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16, CEB

Maggie Gartner (9:00) Tami Dudo (11:00)

Living in the Most High's shelter, camping in the Almighty's shade, I say to the Lord, "You are my refuge, my stronghold! You are my God—the one I trust!"

Because you've made the Lord my refuge, the Most High, your place of residence—no evil will happen to you; no disease will come close to your tent.

Because he will order his messengers to help you, to protect you wherever you go. They will carry you with their own hands so you don't bruise your foot on a stone. You'll march on top of lions and vipers; you'll trample young lions and serpents underfoot. God says, "Because you are devoted to me, I'll rescue you. I'll protect you because you know my name.

Whenever you cry out to me, I'll answer. I'll be with you in troubling times. I'll save you and glorify you. I'll fill you full with old age. I'll show you my salvation."

SPECIAL MUSIC (9AM) – Kyrie – Music based on Movement II from Symphony No. 9 by Anthonín Dvořák, arranged by Jay Rouse (Tom Vogel, baritone)

CHORAL ANTHEM (11AM) Kyrie – Music based on Movement II from Symphony No. 9 by Anthonín Dvořák, arranged by Jay Rouse (Mary Creel, English Horn) – Translation Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.' Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone." '

Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, 'To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.' Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him."'

Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you", and "On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone." '

Jesus answered him, 'It is said, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test." 'When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

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

THE MESSAGE

"Confrontation in the Wilderness"

Dan De Leon

MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

INVITATION TO SHARE

Maggie Gartner (9:00) Tami Dudo (11:00)

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, Praise God the source of all our gifts, Praise Jesus Christ whose power uplifts. Amen. Holy Wisdom, we have inherited narrow ideas of who owns what. We seek a more expansive curiosity, contemplating how to live our life together so all might flourish. We ask about what must be restored, repaired, and returned for justice to take root. Broaden our minds and kindle our hearts, so that we may be brave enough to ponder questions beyond the bounds of consumerism and dominance. Bless our offerings to this spacious way of being. Amen.

THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Brooke Dooley, Trent Williams

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.

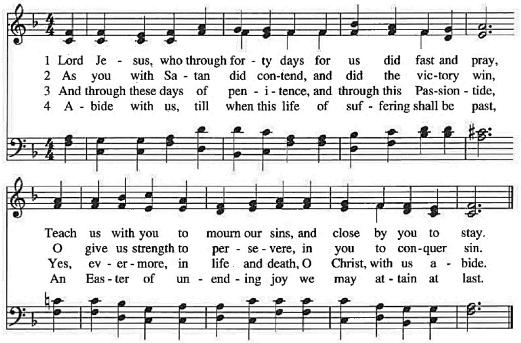
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

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 Dan De Leon

**CLOSING HYMN: No. 211 "Lord Jesus, Who through Forty Days"



**BENEDICTION Dan De Leon

**SUNG RESPONSE - Eagle's Wings



POSTLUDE

Hymns reprinted with permission —

Instrumental Music:

Prelude: Give Me Jesus – John Purifoy

Offertory: Passacaille - George Frideric Händel

Communion: Two Spirituals - Eugene Butler

Postlude: In the Cross of Christ I Glory - John Leavitt

Scriptures for March 13th: Psalm 92:12-15, Inclusive; Genesis 3:1-7, CEB; Matthew 7:15-20, Inclusive

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.

TODAY - COMMUNTY SUPPORT & INFO SHARING RE: MANDATORY REPORTING OF TRANS YOUTH: Pride Community Center of B-CS in cooperation with Friends Congregational Church is offering a hybrid gathering (in person and online) for anyone needing more information about the ramifications of the Texas attorney general's opinion calling gender-affirming care for trans youth "child abuse," and the governor's directive to report parents of young people who might be receiving that healthcare to the Department of Family Protective Services. The event will also serve as space for those needing support in this anxious time. Today, March 6, immediately following the 11am worship service, the informal gathering begins in the double classroom. Snacks and bottled water will be provided. Zoom access: Meeting ID: 840 8675 2943, Passcode: 762173.

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

FAMILY PROMISE UPDATE: Family Promise of Bryan-College Station (FPBCS), a ministry of Friends Church since 2008, has as its mission "to help homeless children and their families achieve sustainable independence." For a bit over 2 years, Family Promise has not been able to host families due to COVID restrictions. But that has just changed! Friends Church will be hosting for a week starting Sunday April 3rd. You can be a part of this vital ministry. You may prepare a meal, bring breakfast & lunch food, or spend the night. Learn more about Family Promise and sign up on Sunday morning in the fellowship area. Direct questions or offers to volunteer to Mary Howell by texting 979-219-8007.

INQUIRY CLASS: New to Friends Congregational Church or the United Church of Christ, or just want to know more about our mission and ministry? You are invited to join us for an Inquiry Class on Sunday, March 27th following the 11:00 worship service. This will be a hybrid session, so you can join in-person in the double classroom or on Zoom. You can sign up here to let us know you'll be attending: bit.ly/friendsinquiry. If you have questions, Associate Pastor Trent Williams at pastortrent@friends-ucc.org. We hope to see you there.

NEW MEMBER SUNDAY, 3/27: On the Fourth Sunday in Lent, March 27, we will receive new members into the life of Friends Church. Join us for New Member Sunday to welcome our newest church members in the 11am service. If you are interested in joining Friends Church, 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).

SPRING BREAK SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE: Children and Youth Sunday school classes will not meet on Sunday, March 13th. We'll have a multi-age service activity during the Sunday school hour on March 20th.

FRIENDS CHURCH HAS A NEW BOOK CLUB! The Linda Coates Book Club will meet the last Thursday of every month. This first year, we will be reading banned books. Our first gathering will be Thursday, March 31, at 6:30 pm. We will read the young adult book, The Hate U Give, by Angie Thomas. Look for more information about whether the gathering will be in person or hybrid. Look forward to seeing you there!

FRIENDS CHURCH FOOD DISTRIBUTION AT PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH: Would you consider during this Lenten season 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 3:00 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 YOUTH CAMPAIGN TO FORGIVE MEDICAL DEBT: Last summer, Friends Youth spent their week-long mission trip engaging in local service projects and learning about systemic injustice, one being medical debt in the United States. An estimated 43 million people in the U.S. are struggling with medical debt (that number exceeds the population of Canada). Medical debt is also the #1 reason people file for bankruptcy. Friends UCC Youth is partnering with RIP Medical Debt to forgive medical debt in the Brazos Valley and other surrounding counties in Texas.

This is how it works. RIP Medical Debt buys portfolios of debt at a fraction of the cost, and the program benefits families whose incomes are 2x below the poverty level, whose debts exceed 5% of their income. Every dollar donated eliminates \$100 in medical debt. The campaign spans four months and we are looking to wrap up our campaign around Easter of 2022. Together with other local faith communities, and a fundraising goal of \$30,000, we hope to wipe out \$3,000,000 in medical debt.

Check out our campaign page to be part of this movement!

https://ripmedicaldebt.org/campaign/brazos-valley-medical-debt-forgiveness

For more information contact Brooke Dooley at pastoralintern@friends-ucc.org

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 pastor@friends-ucc.org

The Rev. Trent Williams he/him/his, Associate Pastor pastortrent@friends-ucc.org

Chris Hoffman he/him/his, Director of Music Ministries choir@friends-ucc.org

Brooke Dooley *she/her/they/them*, *Pastoral Intern* pastoralintern@friends-ucc.org

Michael Rangel he/him/his, Admin. Assistant office@friends-ucc.org

2200 Southwood Drive College Station, Texas 77845 979-693-7021 Office Hours: 9:00am—1:00pm, M—F office@friends-ucc.org www.friends-ucc.org

