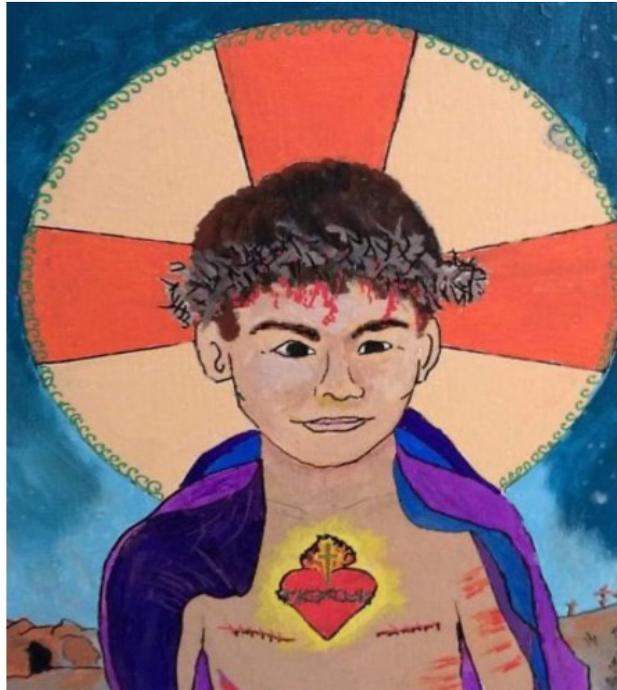




Friends Church

An Open & Affirming Congregation



"Trans Christ"

Bill Courson, 2021

November 20, 2022

9:00am

Reign of Christ Sunday

Transgender Day of Remembrance

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: The volunteers helping with today's worship services are Diane Simpson and Linda Fitzwater (lay leaders); Megan Yeager and Charity Stokes (communion steward); and Megan Yeager and Tim Scott (greeters).

Worship service volunteers for next Sunday, November 27, are Diane Simpson and Larry Napper (lay leaders); and Victoria Junek and Jodie Robinson (greeters).

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.

The Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Reign of Christ Sunday is the final Sunday of the Christian liturgical year. Its purpose is to celebrate the reign of reconciliation, and the one who leads us towards wholeness, healing, and love. We recognize this day alongside Transgender Day of Remembrance, when we honor our transgender and gender non-conforming neighbors who have lost their lives to violence rooted in transphobia, misogyny, racism, and xenophobia. To honor the reign of Christ is to recognize our responsibility to advocate for a just world where our trans neighbors may share in that love.

QUOTE FOR MEDITATION:

“The majesty of Christ is not found in treasures of temple or palace, burgled and broken apart, but in a crown of thorns beaten in by bullies and in his battered and denuded body. This human, mortal, woman-born Jesus is the glory and majesty of God... That humanness, shared with every girl and woman, boy and man, nonbinary child and adult, is also the majesty of Christ and our own.”

-The Rev. Dr. Wil Gafney

“Beyond a wholesome discipline, be gentle with yourself. You are a child of the universe no less than the trees and the stars; you have a right to be here.”

-Max Ehrmann

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

WORDS OF WELCOME

Dan De Leon

PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

**CALL TO WORSHIP

Diane Simpson

Adapted from We Remember Them from the Jewish Book of Prayer (response by McCallum/Miller)

One: In the rising of the sun and in its going down, we remember them.

All: We remember their radiant light that brightened the night with their life.

One: In the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter, we remember them.

All: We remember the warmth of their spirit and the joy they shared.

One: In the opening of buds and in the rebirth of spring, we remember them.

All: We remember who they blossomed to become, claiming their true selves.

One: When we have joys we yearn to share, we remember them.

All: We remember their joy, their pride, their excitement, and the love they gave to the world around them.

One: So long as we live, they too shall live.

All: For they live on in our hearts and in our commitment to create a society that truly values acceptance, inclusion, justice and love.

****OPENING HYMN: Songs for the Holy Other - Jesus, You Have Truly Called Us**

Tune: Beach Spring

Unison F Dm B \flat B \flat /C

1 Je - sus, you have tru - ly called us. Still, to - day, we hear your
 2 Je - sus, save us from poor choic - es. Ha - tred, run - ning like a
 3 Je - sus, save us from our weak - ness, from de - ceit and from de -

F F F/E Dm Dm/C B \flat B \flat /C

voice. Lead us on - ward, lead us up - ward, till all peo - ple can re -
 thread through the fab - ric of our his - t'ry, mars our faith and leaves us
 spair. Move us on to new cre - a - tion in a world that's free and

F *Refrain* Am Am/C Dm Dm/C B \flat

joice.
 dead. Meet us in our time of tri - al, fill us with your Spir - it's
 fair.

B \flat /C C Dm Am/C B \flat F/A Gm7 B \flat /C F

power. As we stand be - fore op - pres - sion, give us cour - age for this hour.

****INVOCATION**

Diane Simpson

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Dan De Leon

Children in the sanctuary are invited to come to the front, and children watching online are invited to get closer to their screen for the children's message. 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

Dan De Leon

One: The peace of Christ be with you all.

Many: And also with you!

HYMN OF RESPONSE: Songs of the Holy Other - For Those Who Suffered

Tune: Memoria

♩ = 90

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 90. The lyrics are arranged in columns corresponding to the vocal line.

1. For those who suf - fered lives of sil - ent shame,
2. For those who found no peace in wor - ship pews,
3. For those who tossed on dark and rest - less nights,
4. For those who bear un - want - ed scars on skin,

for those whose plea - sure held their deep - est pain:
for those who suf - fered word and pow'r ab - used:
for those who slum - bered un - der al - ley lights:
for those who know no name for love but sin:

Dry off their cheeks, wipe up their tears. Grant them, Lord, e -
Make them your saints, and draw them near. Grant them, Lord, e -
Lay them to rest, their bat - tles fought. Grant them, Lord, e -
Lord, bless these wounds, O ho - ly scars! Grant them, Lord, e -

ter - nal joy. O grant them, Lord, e - ter - nal joy.
ter - nal peace. O grant them, Lord, e - ter - nal peace.
ter - nal sleep. O grant them, Lord, e - ter - nal sleep.
ter - nal life. O grant them, Lord, e - ter - nal life.

In times past, God spoke in fragmentary and varied ways to our ancestors through the prophets; in these final days, God has spoken to us through the Only Begotten, who has been made heir of all things and through whom the universe was first created. Christ is the reflection of God's glory, the exact representation of God's being; all things are sustained by God's powerful Word. Having cleansed us from our sins, Jesus Christ sat down at the right hand of the Glory of heaven—as far superior to the angels as the name Christ has inherited is superior to theirs. For to which of the angels did God ever say, “You are my Own; today I have begotten you,” or, “I will be your parent, and you will be my child,” or as when God said upon bringing the Firstborn into the world, “Let all the angels of God worship you?” Of the angels God says, “I make the angels winds, my servants flames of fire.” But to the Only Begotten, God says, “Your throne, O God, will last forever and ever, and justice is the scepter of your reign. You love justice as much as you hate wickedness; therefore, God, your God, has set you above your companions and anointed you with the oil of gladness.”

CHORAL ANTHEM: Ride On, King Jesus - Traditional Spiritual, arranged by Moses Hogan (Tom Vogel, baritone)

Ride on, King Jesus, ride on, the conquerin' king. Oh, Ride on, King Jesus, ride on. No man can a-hinder thee.

I was but young when I begun. No man can a-hinder thee. But now my race is almost done. No man can a-hinder thee. Oh, Ride on, King Jesus, ride on, the conquerin' king.

Oh, Ride on, King Jesus, ride on. No man can a-hinder thee.

King Jesus rides a milk white horse. No man can a-hinder thee. The river of Jordan he did cross. No man can a-hinder thee. Oh, Ride on, King Jesus, ride on, the conquerin' king.

Oh, Ride on, King Jesus, ride on. No man can a-hinder thee.

He's the King, and the Lord of all. No man can a-hinder thee. He's the first and the last. He's the Lord of Lords. Jesus is the Prince of peace. No man can a-hinder thee. Oh, Ride on, King Jesus, ride on, just ride on, Jesus. Ride on, King Jesus, ride on. No man can a-hinder thee.

Jesus was brought before the governor. The governor said, "Are you the king of the Jews?" Jesus replied, "That's what you say." But he didn't answer when the chief priests and elders accused him. Then Pilate said, "Don't you hear the testimony they bring against you?" But he didn't answer, not even a single word. So the governor was greatly amazed. The governor's soldiers took Jesus into the governor's house, and they gathered the whole company of soldiers around him. They stripped him and put a red military coat on him. They twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head. They put a stick in his right hand. Then they bowed down in front of him and mocked him, saying, "Hey! King of the Jews!" After they spit on him, they took the stick and struck his head again and again. When they finished mocking him, they stripped him of the military coat and put his own clothes back on him. They led him away to crucify him.

As they were going out, they found Simon, a man from Cyrene. They forced him to carry his cross. When they came to a place called Golgotha, which means Skull Place, they gave Jesus wine mixed with vinegar to drink. But after tasting it, he didn't want to drink it. After they crucified him, they divided up his clothes among them by drawing lots. They sat there, guarding him. They placed above his head the charge against him. It read, "This is Jesus, the king of the Jews."

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

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

THE MESSAGE

Brooke Dooley

INVITATION TO SHARE

Diane Simpson

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

Dan De Leon

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Dan De Leon and Brooke Dooley

THE LORD'S PRAYER FOR TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

by. Rev. Kim Sorrells

- One: Our Mother and Father, our beloved parent, in whom we move and breathe and have our being, the hallowing of your name shines forth in the diversity of your children.
- All: May your peace and love, justice and equality, inclusion and belonging reign here on earth as in heaven.**
- One: Grant that our transgender loved ones might have their daily needs met—that they might find gainful employment without discrimination;
- All: That they might have access to medical care without fear; that they might have their rights and lives protected, and that they might find a loving community to belong to and call their own.**
- One: Forgive us for the ways that we have fallen short and failed your transgender children.
- All: Forgive us of the times we turned away, or did not care; for the times we laughed or judged their unique expression of your image; for the times we have misspoken, asked too much, or failed to hear, as we forgive those who might have failed us.**
- One: Lead us away from the temptation to be complacent in the face of injustice. But instead give us courage to stand up and stand with your beloved children.
- All: For your love and justice is to be made manifest now and forever. Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS & INVITATION TO JOIN FRIENDS CHURCH

Dan De Leon

****CLOSING HYMN:** NCH 303 - Rejoice, Give Thanks and Sing Tune: Darwall's 148th

****BENEDICTION**

Brooke Dooley

POSTLUDE

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Instrumental Music:

Prelude: Rejoice, the Lord is King (Inspired by Mozart's Symphony No. 41, "Jupiter") - John Darwall, arranged by Phillip Keveren

Offertory: Near to the Heart of God - Cleland B. McAfee, arranged by Melody Bober

Communion: Hymns of Praise - Arranged by Phillip Keveren

Postlude: Soon and Very Soon - Andraé Crouch, arranged by Jack Schrader

Scriptures for Nov 27: Matthew 26:36-38; Habakkuk 1:1-7; 2:1-4; 3:17-19

GETTING CONNECTED AT FRIENDS

REQUEST A NEW NAME TAG: Our new name tags are available and can be picked up in the narthex. If you haven't yet had a chance to request an updated version, you can do that here: bit.ly/friendsnametags.

ANNOUNCING DECEMBER 4TH CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: Please make plans to stay following the December 4th 11:00 am worship service for an important Congregational Meeting.

THE FRIENDS CHURCH ANGEL TREE IS BACK!: This is a way that Friends can bring joy to children from around the Brazos Valley. The Justice and Mission committee has been in touch with the Brazos County Child Welfare Board to find 65 children for Friends folk to sponsor. These are all children who have been removed from their homes and are in foster care at this time. This is an especially sad time to be apart from family. You may chose your sponsored child in person on Sunday after worship. You will receive a wish list for each child as well as instructions on what to do next. **Starting on Monday November 21st, you may sign up for the children virtually.** The link will be on the church's home-page. We will also be accepting food and gas cards for our pastors to distribute to those in need in our community. Gift cards can be mailed to the church or put in the Gift Card box that will appear under the Christmas trees in the narthex. **Contact awehrly@sudden-link.net with questions.**

GETTING CONNECTED AT FRIENDS

FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN: We want to be together! In the past, this group provided support and companionship for both parents and children. The Nurture Committee developed a survey to use to plan how and when to gather. Please take a moment (literally, one minute) to respond to the survey at <https://forms.gle/94Uecmt4Huut-niRW6>.

THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT IS COMING!: December is just around the corner and we've already started planning Friends' Christmas Pageant. Please let us know we can count on your child/youth for the pageant by completing this survey using the link: <https://forms.gle/A2CkPBfzFekXTRzp6>.

ADVENT IS HERE: To receive a copy of the UCC's Daily Devotionals booklet for Advent, you are invited to sign up in the narthex and take a printed copy (one per household please) or electronically (<https://forms.gle/y9k52HQPAHoeiLkF9>) for a digital copy by November 25th.

YOUTH GROUP BAKE SALE: The Friends Youth Group is getting a jump on raising funds for their summer mission trip to Tulsa, OK. Join us for a Thanksgiving bake sale before and after the 11:00 AM worship service today! Cash, check and online donations in any amount are welcomed. NOTE: The Friends Thanksgiving Fellowship will be held tonight, so cakes and pies may be purchased and then brought to share at the fellowship event.

PEACE FOOD DISTRIBUTION HOLIDAY CHANGE: Our regular food distribution at Peace Lutheran will be on **Wednesday November 23 from 12:30-3:30**. Come share in this ministry with the enthusiastic food team from Friends.

ADVENT MIDDAY LUNCHEON RECITALS: Need a midweek holiday pick-me up? Join us at Friends Church for Advent Midday Luncheon Recitals, every Wednesday at noon during Advent (November 30, December 7, 14, and 21). Bring your lunch and enjoy some fellowship, followed by performances of Advent and Christmas music performed by talented members of Friends Church's Music Ministry. We hope you can join us for fellowship and music to put you in the holiday spirit.

GETTING CONNECTED AT FRIENDS

HELP PREP THE CHURCH FOR ADVENT & CHRISTMAS: It's almost time to hang the greens, put up the purple, and deck the halls! On the Saturday after Thanksgiving, November 26, at 10am, the Worship Committee invites you to help set up and decorate the sanctuary and narthex for Advent and Christmas. We are changing the banners, hanging wreaths, setting up the angel trees, and putting out the Advent candles. Chris Hoffman will crank out carols on the piano to put us in the spirit as we work and enjoy hot cocoa, cider, and holiday treats. RSVP to help with us by emailing worship@friends-ucc.org.

FRIENDSGIVING WORSHIP & DINNER, NOV. 20: Friends Church's annual Friendsgiving at Stephen C. Beachy Central Park, 1000 Krenek Tap Rd, CS, is scheduled for today. We gather at 5:30pm for a brief time of worship and then enjoy a potluck meal together. The Fellowship Committee is seeking additional help with transporting items from the church to the park before the event, and then transporting them back afterwards. We look forward to gathering and giving thanks for all the blessings we enjoy!

CROP HUNGER WALK RECAP: This year we had 123 walkers with a record-breaking fund-raising total of \$21,710 (as of Nov. 18), to provide hunger relief worldwide through Church World Service and locally, where 25% of the proceeds go to the Brazos Church Pantry. Donations can still be made until Nov. 22 at www.crophungerwalk.org/bryantx.

PASTOR DAN LEADS MLK BOOK STUDY AT LINCOLN CENTER: Coretta Scott King wrote that "if there is one book [my husband] Martin Luther King, Jr. has written that people consistently tell me has changed their lives, it is Strength to Love." At 6:30pm on the Wednesday evening after MLK Day, January 18, 2023, the Lincoln Center offers an informal study of Dr. King's 1963 book, Strength to Love, that Coretta Scott King says, "best explains the central element of [his] philosophy of nonviolence: His belief in a divine, loving presence that binds all life." Our own Pastor Dan will lead the book study and discussion that is free and open to the public. Copies of Strength to Love are available to purchase at the Lincoln Center, 1000 Eleanor Street in College Station, for \$12.

SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE: Children and youth Sunday School classes will meet as scheduled this Sunday, November 20th, at 10:00. Be sure to join us for our annual ornament making session next Sunday, November 27th, at 10:00.

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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The Rev. Dr. Dan De Leon (*he, him*)
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