

FRIENDS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
June 16, 2024
9:00am



*An Open & Affirming
Congregation*

QUOTE FOR MEDITATION:

“They tried to bury us. They didn’t know we were seeds.”

Dinos Christianopoulos

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

WORDS OF WELCOME

Brooke Dooley

PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Ann Wild

One: All around us, God is looking for folks
who will join in serving others.

**All: It is as if God is planting seeds of compassion in us,
watching for them to bloom in our lives.**

One: In our midst, Jesus is walking among us,
tending our hearts, watering us with grace.

**All: It is as if Jesus is trusting that our souls
will grow big enough to welcome everyone.**

One: From morning to evening, the Spirit is at work,
gently tending this garden called life.

**All: It is as if the Spirit has found the perfect spots
to bring forth crops of justice and peace.**

***OPENING HYMN - #383** Come, Let Us Join with Faithful Souls

Tune: Azmon

***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

Sue Ambrus

Children in the sanctuary are invited to come to the front. 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.**

He also said, “The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.”

He also said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”

With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

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

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

SILENT PRAYER & 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
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 God, magnificent, sustaining farmer of the future, receive these gifts, we pray.
Through our offering, help us know in some surprising way that you are bringing into
being something wonderful and new. 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 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**

Brooke Dooley

POSTLUDE

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Instrumental Music:

Prelude: Jesus Loves Me - William B. Bradbury, arranged by Joel Raney
Offertory: The Power of Your Love - Geoff Bullock, arranged by Jane Holstein
Communion: O Praise the Name (Anastasis) - Marty Sampson, Benjamin Hastings, and Dean Ussher;
arranged by Phillip Keveren
Postlude: To God Be the Glory - William H. Doane, arranged by Larry Shackley

Scriptures for the Fifth Sunday after Pentecost, June 23, 2024: I Samuel 17: (1a, 4-11, 19-23), 32-49; II Corinthians 6:1-13

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.

EVENTS THIS WEEK

O.W.L. SEXUALITY EDUCATION CLASSES INFORMATIONAL MEETING, JUNE 18 & 29: Our Whole Lives is a comprehensive and secular sexuality education program that centers scientifically accurate, inclusive, and age appropriate information taught by trained facilitators. Classes for 7th & 8th grade will begin in August and run through May 2025. Classes will be held at Friends Congregational Church and the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Brazos Valley. If you would like to learn more about the Brazos Valley OWL program, join us for our upcoming informational meetings on June 18 and June 29. Reach out to brazosvalleyowl@gmail.com for questions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

EARLY WORSHIP END FOR SUMMER, JUNE 30: The last 9am worship service for the summer is on June 30. The 9am service will resume on August 18.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE AND SHARE

SUPPORT OUR PODCAST: The “Friends Congregational Church Sermons” podcast is getting downloads across the country and even overseas! Each episode, featuring a sermon and introduced by a different church member, is an evangelism and outreach tool for all of us at Friends. Support the podcast by sharing it widely. So far the record number of downloads for an episode is 69. With your help we can hit at least 100 every week! You can also support the podcast by lending your voice to it. Contact A/V Tech Jeremy Dudo to record the intro for an episode: 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.

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.

Sunday School Teachers Needed: Are you feeling called to teach our children or youth? Contact Pastor Dan for more information: 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. 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

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) ▶ Get **Involved** ▶ **Volunteer** or email office@friends-ucc.org for more information or to volunteer.

SAVE THE DATE

LINDA COATS BOOK CLUB, JUNE 27: For June, the book club will be reading Greg Boyle's Tattoos on the Heart. Join us for discussion at 6:30pm.

VBS REGISTRATION, JUNE 30: Please fill out registration by JUNE 30 if you intend for your K-5th grade child(ren) to attend VBS July 15-19th! Copy the link here: <https://forms.gle/WnLZ-1V7e4qVcRab8A>.

FAMILY PROMISE MEALS, JUNE 30: 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." Friends Church will be hosting one or two families at the Family Promise Center for a week starting Sunday, June 30th. You can be a part of this vital ministry. Options for helping: prepare a meal, provide breakfast & lunch food, or spend the night at the Family Promise Center. Learn more about Family Promise and sign up on Sunday morning in the fellowship area after worship. Direct questions or offers to volunteer to Mary Howell mhowell61@gmail.com or Sally Manthei manthei_sally@aol.com.

FAITHFUL FRIENDS GATHERING GROUNDS, JULY: Join folks in the sanctuary for fellowship, coffee, pastries, and nibbles before the 11 am services in July between 10:15am-10:45am.

Friends Church Staff

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The Rev. Dr. Dan De Leon (*he, him*)
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www.friends-ucc.org • Office Hours: Monday–Friday, 9:00–3:00
Pastor Dan's weekday off is Friday. Pastor Trent's weekday off is Monday.