



Friends Church

An Open & Affirming Congregation



*“Transfiguration”
Kelly Latimore (2014)*

February 19, 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: Dinah Anderson & Tom Vogel
Greeters: Robin Miller & Fran Duane
Communion Stewards: Kathy Yeager & Becky Burks

Next Sunday, February 26:
Lay Leaders: Kate Abbott & Becky Burks
Greeters: Jon Maxwell & Martha Newsome

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.

Transfiguration Sunday

The last Sunday of the Epiphany season, before we turn to the somber tones of Lent, we remember the Transfiguration of Jesus: a mystical mountaintop moment of perfect unity with God.

QUOTE FOR MEDITATION:

“The one who is transfigured on the mountain is the one who is disfigured by anguish, pain, and death on the cross. The two cannot be separated.”

–Dorothy Lee, “Transfiguration”

“God places us in the world as his fellow workers-agents of transfiguration. We work with God so that injustice is transfigured into justice, so there will be more compassion and caring, that there will be more laughter and joy, that there will be more togetherness in God’s world.”

–Archbishop Desmond Tutu

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

WORDS OF WELCOME

Dan De Leon

PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Dinah Anderson (9am)

Tom Vogel (11am)

One: Creativity and light belong to God.

All: Let all the earth rejoice.

One: Justice and glory belong to God.

All: Let all the earth rejoice.

One: Wisdom and wonder belong to God.

All: Let all the earth rejoice.

*OPENING HYMN: Glory to God #12 Immortal, Invisible God Only Wise

1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
 3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small.
 4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light.

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
 nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might:
 In all life thou liv - est, the true life of all.
 Thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight.

most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
 thy jus - tice, like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove;
 We blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,
 All praise we would ren - der; O help us to see

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise.
 thy clouds, which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 then with - er and per - ish; but naught chang - eth thee.
 tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

***INVOCATION**

Dinah Anderson (9am)
Tom Vogel (11am)

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. 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)!**

MISSION MOMENT

Grace Jackson

CALL TO PRAYER

Brooke Dooley

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (UNISON)

Brooke Dooley

God, you are the source of all time. Yet it neither contains nor constrains you. We who are time-bound confess that often we do not take the time, or make the time to enter into your great stillness and gaze on you.

Forgive us for all those times when the restless pursuit of the next thing has distracted and deflected us from spending time with you.

Help us to escape the bondage of busyness and find those moments of intersection with eternity, when your time and our time come together and we can grow in our awareness of you and of your purposes. We ask this in the name of Christ – the one who came into the world to make visible the Time of God. Amen

(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;

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

Fine

fall, when the stars be - gin to fall.

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of four systems of music. The first system contains the first line of the refrain. The second system contains the second line. The third system contains the third line, which ends with a double bar line and the word 'Fine' above it. The fourth system contains the fourth line. The key signature is one flat (Bb) and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is primarily in the treble clef, with piano accompaniment in the bass clef.

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!**

HEWBREW SCRIPTURE READING: Exodus 24:12-18 (NRSV)

Dinah Anderson (9am)

Tom Vogel (11am)

The Lord said to Moses, “Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.” So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. To the elders he had said, “Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them.” Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. The glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

CHORAL ANTHEM (11:00): O Nata Lux - Morten Lauridsen

O born light of light, Jesus, redeemer of the world, mercifully deem worthy and accept the praises and prayers of your supplicants.

Thou who once deigned to be clothed in flesh for the sake of the lost ones, grant us to be made members of your holy body.

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 17:1-9 (NRSV)

Trent Williams

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, “This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!” When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Get up and do not be afraid.” And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone. As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, “Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”

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

THE MESSAGE

Trent Williams

MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

INVITATION TO SHARE

Dinah Anderson (9am)
Tom Vogel (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 & Dan De Leon

Invitation to the Table

Communion Prayer

Sharing Bread and Cup

Song of Response: "How Great Thou Art"

(you are invited to stand at the refrain, and hold hands with those around you if you are comfortable doing so)

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder,
consider all the world thy hands have made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
thy power throughout the universe displayed:

****Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
How great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
How great thou art! How great thou art!**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Trent Williams

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

Brooke Dooley

***CLOSING HYMN: #182 We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding**

Tune: Hyfrydol

***BENEDICTION**

Trent Williams

POSTLUDE

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Instrumental Music:

Prelude: O Wondrous Sight - Ben Logan (based on "The Agincourt Song," England, 1415)

Offertory: How Great Is Our God - Chris Tonkin, Jesse Reeves, and Ed Cash, arranged by
Phillip Keveren

Communion: Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise - Traditional Welsh melody, arranged by Larry
Shackley

Postlude: God of the Ages - Roger Summers (based on "National Hymn" by George William
Warren, 1892)

Scriptures for February 26, 2023: Psalm 32; Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7; Matthew 4:1-II

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.

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 worshipped 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.

TEXAS INTERFAITH ADVOCACY DAYS WITH TEXAS IMPACT: Cecelia Hawkins, MID Kyle Riley, and Pastor Dan are joining Texas Impact in Austin, February 19-20, to participate in training and speaking events about faith-based advocacy work. On Feb. 21 they will talk with our legislators about important issues on the agenda this session. You can join them by registering at <https://texasimpact.org/tiad-2023>. A virtual option is available for those unable to attend in person. This is a great opportunity to learn about speaking on Reproductive Health issues from a faith perspective.

FRIENDS CHURCH BOOK CLUB: The Linda Coats Book Club meets on the last Thursday of every month, which in February will be the 23rd. We meet at 6:30pm in the Sanctuary. In 2023, the theme will be "spiritual memoirs," with our next book being *Brother to a Dragonfly* by Will D. Campbell. March's book will be *The Very Worst Missionary* by Jamie Wright. All are welcome. For questions or information, or if you need help getting a book, contact the Spiritual Life Committee at spirit_develop@friends-ucc.org.

FRIENDS GROUP THERAPY INFORMATION: A therapy group is currently being offered at Friends' Church. This group meets Monday evening from 6:00 – 7:30 and there are currently openings in the group. This group membership is limited to the congregation of Friends, although you do not have to be a member to participate in group. Attendance at each session is expected, barring an emergency. COVID vaccination is required to participate in this group. Appropriate issues for the group are depression, anxiety, grief, COVID response, relationship issues, and other issues that affect daily life. Group will be led by a board-certified psychologist who is also a member of Friends. There is no charge for this group. There is childcare available in the church nursery. Those who have more comprehensive issues, including suicidality, eating disorder, substance abuse, and other issues that would respond better to more intensive treatment should seek therapy in another setting. New members of the group may join after February 25, but you must speak with Maggie before joining. Questions? Interested, but want to know more? Please talk to Maggie Gartner at 979-777-3090 or email her at maggiegartner68@gmail.com.

SOCIAL JUSTICE CLASS: The Social Justice class currently meets at 10am in one side of the double classroom across from the office. Join us any Sunday for impromptu discussions of current events, and join us February 27th for a joint class with the high schoolers to dive into a sermon by Diana Butler Bass entitled “Mary the Tower.” As we work together to make sense of this world and God’s kingdom, we welcome new perspectives and voices. We hope you consider joining us.

HESED LECTURE SERIES: Friends Church has been invited to the Hesed Lecture Series at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, March 4, 9:30-4:00 (transportation from church will be coordinated). There is no fee for participation and lunch is provided. If you are interested in attending, contact Dwight Baker at dwight.d.baker@gmail.com. The purpose of the Hesed lectureship is to promote awareness and church involvement in the area of social justice, thus enabling hesed, which is Hebrew for love in action. The featured speaker is Rev. Dr. Stephen G. Ray Jr., the Crump Visiting Professor and Black Religious Scholars Group Scholar-in-Residence at Seminary of the Southwest. He recently retired as the 13th President of Chicago Theological Seminary (a seminary related to the United Church of Christ). Find more information at <https://www.austinseminary.edu/lifelong-learning/lectures/hesed>.

SAVE THE DATE! REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH WATCH: Join us on Sunday, February 26th from 3pm to 4:30pm at Friends as legislative policy analysts with Texas Impact in Austin explain reproductive health bills currently under consideration by the Texas Legislature, identify key players, and guide us in developing action steps people of faith can take to influence legislators on reproductive health issues during the 2023 Legislature. Faith leaders will share how our faith can inform our advocacy work for reproductive freedom. Sign-ups will be available for lobbying trips to Austin and local advocacy activities. Light refreshments and childcare will be provided. See the Facebook event <https://fb.me/e/2yc57MWKl> for more information.

WHO IS JESUS TO YOU? The question examines our relationship with Christ during the season of Lent, the period between Ash Wednesday (Feb. 22) and Easter (Apr. 9). During Lent, as we remember Jesus’ journey from suffering and death to resurrection and new life, we look inwardly and ponder our relationship with him. Jesus says, “Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 18:3). And, as The Rev. Dr. Amy Butler, former pastor of the historic Riverside Church in New York, says, “We do not change unless we’re in relationship.” So, who is Jesus to you? What is that relationship like? What difference does that relationship make in your life, and, consequently, in the lives of others and the world we share? If you are interested in sharing a brief testimony responding to the question “who is Jesus to you,” contact Pastor Dan for more info: pastor@friends-ucc.org. We hope to include a “Who Jesus is to Me” testimony each Sunday in worship during Lent. It is through the sharing of our stories and the relationships we have with each other that our community can be changed to be more like the Jesus we follow; the Christ who is in relationship with each one of us.

FEMININE HYGIENE PRODUCTS DRIVE: Our drive last October was a big success and provided for many in need. In conjunction with the Justice & Mission Committee’s focus on reproductive rights this month, Friends Church will again collect feminine hygiene products for distribution at the Brazos Church Pantry, a local non-profit providing food and other items to those in need in our community. Beginning Sunday, February 19th, you can drop your new donation items in the labeled boxes in the narthex and by the office. Smaller packages for individual distribution are preferred (as bulk cannot be divided) with an emphasis on liners and tampons. Collection continues through March 5th.

LENT IS COMING: To receive a copy of the UCC’s Daily Devotionals booklet for Lent, Running from Empty, you are invited to visit the basket in the narthex and take a printed copy (one per household please).

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