



Friends Church

An Open & Affirming Congregation



Christ Calling the Apostles Peter and Andrew
Duccio di Buoninsegna (1308-1311)

January 21, 2024

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.

LEADING IN TODAY'S SERVICE:

Lay Leaders: David Manuel & Dwight Baker
Communion Steward: Kathy Yeager & Holly Scott
Greeters: Megan Yeager & Alex Cannon

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.

COMMUNION ON REQUEST: While the sacrament of communion is observed in worship on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month at Friends, communion is available any Sunday on request. If you would like to receive communion on a 2nd, 4th, or 5th Sunday, please find one of our pastors to serve you at the conclusion of the worship service.

Third Sunday after Epiphany

Epiphany is the Season of Light, when we remember the revelation of Jesus as the beloved Child of God, while recognizing the lengthening of the days and the growing of the light.

PSALM FOR MEDITATION: Psalm 62:5-12 (NRSV)

For God alone my soul waits in silence, for my hope is from him. He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken. On God rests my deliverance and my honor; my mighty rock, my refuge is in God. Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us. Those of low estate are but a breath, those of high estate are a delusion; in the balances they go up; they are together lighter than a breath. Put no confidence in extortion, and set no vain hopes on robbery; if riches increase, do not set your heart on them. Once God has spoken; twice have I heard this: that power belongs to God, and steadfast love belongs to you, O Lord. For you repay to all according to their work.

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

WORDS OF WELCOME

Brooke Dooley

PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

CALL TO WORSHIP

Dwight Baker

One: God, in the beginning you called forth light.

All: O Holy Mystery, you call forth life!

One: Christ, you called to the fishermen and they followed.

All: O Deepening Love, you call forth love!

One: Holy Spirit, you call to us from within.

All: O Life-Giving Voice, you call forth our gifts!

One: We hear. Our hearts are awakened,

All: and we follow. Alleluia!

*OPENING HYMN - Will you come and follow me

Capo 3: (D) (A7) (Bm) (Em7) (Asus) (A)
 F C7 Dm Gm7 Csus C

1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call your name?
 2 "Will you leave your-self be-hind if I but call your name?
 3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call your name?
 4 "Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?
 5 Lord, your sum-mons ech - oes true when you but call my name.

(D) (A7) (Bm) (Em7) (G) (D)
 F C7 Dm Gm7 Bb F

Will you go where you don't know and nev - er be the same?
 Will you care for cruel and kind and nev - er be the same?
 Will you set the pris - oners free and nev - er be the same?
 Will you quell the fear in - side and nev - er be the same?
 Let me turn and fol - low you and nev - er be the same.

(Em7) (G) (F#m7) (G) (Asus) (A)
 Gm7 Bb Am7 Bb Csus C

Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known;
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare should your life at - tract or scare?
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as this un - seen,
 Will you use the faith you've found to re-shape the world a - round,
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and foot-steps show.

(D) (A7) (Bm) (Em7) (G) (D)
 F C7 Dm Gm7 Bb F

will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?"
 Will you let me an - swer prayer in you and you in me?"
 and ad - mit to what I mean in you and you in me?"
 through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?"
 Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

*INVOCATION

Dwight Baker

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Kyle Riley

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 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 (oh let it shine)!**

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Kyle Riley

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (RESPONSE)

Kyle Riley

One: Tender God, we have been caught in the nets of our own lives,
living in the small boats of our own ways, our own fears and desires.

All: **We confess that we have become entangled.**

In our fear and hurt we have hurt you and others.

We have not brought forth life as you have called us to do.

We confess our self-centeredness, and ask your forgiveness.

Call us out of our lives into yours.

Help us let go of all that holds us back, all that traps and entangles us.

Set us free by your grace,

free to follow you and serve you all our days. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Kyle Riley

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Kyle Riley

One: The peace of Christ be with you all.

Many: **And also with you!**

***HYMN OF RESPONSE #173** - Tú has venido a la orilla (You Have Come down to the Lakeshore), v. 1 in Spanish, then English, v. 2 in Spanish, then English

The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying, “Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.” So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days’ walk across. Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s walk. And he cried out, “Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!”

And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth. When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

CHORAL ANTHEM: Order My Steps (In Your Word) - Glenn Burleigh, Choral Setting by Jack Schrader

Order my steps in your Word, dear Lord, lead me, guide me, every day. Send your anointing, Father, I pray. Order my steps in your Word, please, order my steps in your Word. Humbly I ask Thee, teach me your will, while You are working, help me be still. Though Satan is busy, God is real! Order my steps in your Word, please, order my steps in your word! I want to walk worthy, walk worthy, Lord, my calling to fulfill. Please order my steps, Lord, order my steps, and I'll do your blessed will. The world is ever changing, yes, changing, Lord, but You are still the same. If You order my steps, I'll praise your name, praise your name. Order my steps in your Word, order my tongue in your Word; guide my feet in your Word, wash my heart, O Lord, in your Word. Show me how to walk in your Word, show me how to talk in your Word. When I need a brand new song to sing, show me how to let your praises ring, in your Word, your Word, in your Word, your Word! Please, order my steps in your Word.

After John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee announcing God’s good news, saying, “Now is the time! Here comes God’s kingdom! Change your hearts and lives, and trust this good news!”

As Jesus passed alongside the Galilee Sea, he saw two brothers, Simon and Andrew, throwing fishing nets into the sea, for they were fishermen. “Come, follow me,” he said, “and I’ll show you how to fish for people.” Right away, they left their nets and followed him. After going a little farther, he saw James and John, Zebedee’s sons, in their boat repairing the fishing nets. At that very moment he called them. They followed him, leaving

their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired workers.

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

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

THE MESSAGE

Dan De Leon

MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

INVITATION TO SHARE

Dwight Baker

OFFERTORY

Secure online giving via Realm Giving at bit.ly/givetofriendsucc
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

**O Love that invites us to let go and follow,
bless us that in our letting go we will know fulfillment.
Bless those who are in need, that our gifts may give them life.
Bless us that in our giving we may understand how we receive.
We pray as followers of Jesus. Amen.**

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Brooke Dooley, Kyle Riley

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

Kyle Riley

**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 our 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, Trent Williams

***CLOSING HYMN #402** De colores (Sing of Colors) (Spanish, then English)

Tune: De Colores

*BENEDICTION

Dan De Leon

POSTLUDE

Hymns reprinted with permission — One License #A-730489, CCLI #20046014

Instrumental Music:

Prelude: Praise to the Lord, the Almighty - arranged by John Carter
Offertory: Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us - William B. Bradbury, arranged by John Carter
Communion: His Eye Is on the Sparrow - Charles H. Gabriel, arranged by Melody Bober
Postlude: Sunday (from "Sunday in the Park with George") - Stephen Sondheim

Scriptures for Fourth Sunday after Epiphany, January 28, 2024: Psalm 111; Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Mark 1:21-28

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

JANUARY BOOK CLUB AT FRIENDS: JOIN US on January 25th, as we discuss the book *Trust Women, A Progressive Christian Argument for Reproductive Justice* by the Rev. Dr. Rebecca Todd Peters. For many of us, reproductive freedom is not only a political concept, it is a religious one. We'll meet and discuss the intersection between our faith and issues of reproductive justice, in anticipation of Dr. Peters joining us at Friends on February 11th for Changing the Conversation: The Theology of Reproductive Justice. Pick up a book and join the conversation, and then come again on February 11th and get your book signed by the author!! We meet at 6:30pm in the Sanctuary. All are welcome. For questions or more information, contact the Spiritual Life Committee at spirit_develop@friends-ucc.org.

FAMILY PROMISE ANNUAL COOK-OFF FUNDRAISER: Family Promise's 15th annual Comfort Food Cook-Off fundraiser is back! Join us Friday evening, January 26, 2024 at A&M Church of Christ in College Station for an exciting evening of food, music and great fellowship. Please contact Sally at manthei_sally@aol.com or Anne at awehrly@suddenlink.net if you are interested in being on the cook-off team. More information on tickets and prices available on church calendar and This Week at Friends.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

VOLUNTEER VOICES NEEDED FOR FRIENDS CHURCH PODCAST: Our new weekly podcast, featuring the messages from Sunday worship services, is introduced by Friends Church members giving a brief testimony of what Friends Church means to them. To volunteer to introduce an episode, contact A/V Tech Jeremy Dudo at av@friends-ucc.org.

GIVING STATEMENTS 2023: Due to inclement weather and the office being closed, giving statements for 2023 will be available for pick up by Sunday, January 28. This year, since we transitioned systems, there will be two statements: one for January to June from Church Office Online, and one for July to December, from Realm. Thank you for your generosity and support of the mission and ministry of Friends Church in 2023!

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE AND SHARE

CROCKETT ELEMENTARY BOOK FAIR: Last year our free Book Fair at Crockett Elementary School in Bryan was a great success. Each child received three books to keep. Even the teachers were able to pick two books for themselves. We are doing it again this spring, so it's time to collect books! You can donate books by placing them in the box outside the office, or you can donate gift cards or money, and we will buy books with your donations. If you have questions, please contact Jodie Robinson (jocelinbrune@gmail.com) or Pam Engler (penglertx@gmail.com). Thank you!

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

PLANNED GIVING WORKSHOP: You are invited to join us for a Planned Giving Workshop after the 11:00 worship service on February 4. Lunch will be provided, and we will learn about how to remember the church in your will or estate plans, ways to make use of retirement assets, and answer your questions. All are welcome--even if you're not at retirement age yet, this can be valuable learning as you think about planning for the future. You can sign up to let us know you'll be coming here: <https://bit.ly/friendsplannedgiving>.

CHANGING THE CONVERSATION: THE THEOLOGY OF REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE, 2/11:
For many of us, reproductive freedom is not only a political concept, it is a religious one. Friends Church is hosting a speaker on February 11 who will help us explore the intersection of our faith and issues of reproductive justice. Plan to join us in person (registration encouraged) and to share this opportunity with your friends and colleagues. Register with the QR code below



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