



"Christ at the Well" Peter Koeing (20th Century)

March 12, 2023 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 Leader: Grace Jackson Greeter: Fran Duane

Next Sunday, March 19: Lay Leaders: Jacque Halverson & Diane Simpson Greeters: Kathy Yeager & Eli Vasquez Communion Stewards: Megan Yeager, & Becky Burks & Ryan Womack

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**.

Third Sunday in Lent

Lent, from the Latin quadragesima, 'fortieth,' is a penitential season of preparation for Easter commemorating the 40 days Jesus spent fasting in the desert and enduring temptation before beginning his public ministry. In Western churches, Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, six and a half weeks before Easter, and is marked by fasting, prayer, charity, and self-reflection on our discipleship with Christ.

SCRIPTURE FOR MEDITATION: Psalm 95:1-7, NRSV

O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

For the Lord is a great God and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also.

The sea is his, for he made it, and the dry land, which his hands have formed.

O come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.

Chiming of the Trinity

WORDS OF WELCOME

Prelude & Lighting of the Candles

*Call to Worship

- One: We've come to worship God, who makes streams flow from rock,
- All: Who turns the parched earth into springs of water, who makes the wilderness blossom and flourish.
- One: As the deer thirsts for flowing streams,
- All: So we thirst for you, O God.
- One: Come, let us worship our life-giving God,
- All: Who pours out living water on all who thirst.

Dan De Leon

Grace Jackson

***Оремінд Нумм: Glory то God #65** Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah Tune: Cwm Rhondda



*INVOCATION

Grace Jackson

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Brooke Dooley

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 #525 "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)!

TESTIMONY: Who is Jesus to You?		Drew Bowen
Call to Confession		Dan De Leon
Prayer of Confession		Dan De Leon
One:	Creator Spirit, wellspring of our lives, as the refreshing rain falls on the just and unjust alike,	
All:	Refresh us with your mercy, who know our own injustice.	
One:	As a stream flows steadily on, defying all the odds of stone and water,	
All:	Flow over every boundary and border that separates us from each other.	
One:	: As the waters of our baptism washed us and welcomed us,	
All:	Renew us now in newness of life and unity of love.	
One:	As we were once held in the waters of our mother's womb,	
All:	Hold us in the power and peace of your abiding presence. Amen.	
(Silent prayer and meditation)		

Song of Response: NCH #409"1 Heard My Mother Say" v. 4

In the morning when I rise, in the morning when I rise, In the morning when I rise, give me Jesus. Give me Jesus, give me Jesus, You may have all this world, give me Jesus.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Dan De Leon

*Passing of the Peace

Dan De Leon

One: The peace of Christ be with you all. Many: And also with you!

HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING: Exodus 17:1-7 (NRSV) Grace Jackson

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

HANDBELL ANTHEM: Go to Dark Gethsemane - Richard Redhead, arranged by Jeffry Honoré

So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worship is must worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" They left the city and were on their way to him. Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor." Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

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

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

THE MESSAGE

Moment for Reflection

INVITATION TO SHARE

Grace Jackson

Trent Williams

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 Christ the Word in flesh born low, Praise Holy Spirit evermore: One God, Triune, whom we adore. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

Brooke Dooley

The Lord's Prayer

Our Mother, which art the earth, nurturing are thy ways. Thy web of life be woven, thy way be found within, as it is all around. Thank you this day for our daily bread and work; and forgive us our misuse of you, as we forgive others their misuse of us. And lead us not into exploitation, but deliver us from lording it over you, and over each other, and over all our other fellow creatures. For thine are the waters of life, The hills, valleys and plains of home, The breeding, seeding, feeding ground, For now, and for as close to forever as we will ever come. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & INVITATION TO JOIN FRIENDS CHURCH Dan De Leon

*CLOSING HYMN: NCH #489 I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

Tune: Evan

*Benediction

Trent Williams

Postlude

Hymns reprinted with permission — One License #A-730489, CCLl #20046014 Instrumental Music:

Prelude:Allemande (from Suite in D Minor, G 108) - George Frideric HandelOffertory:Near to the Heart of God - Cleland B. McAfee, arranged by Melody BoberPostlude:Sonata in A, Hob. XVI: 5, First Movement (Allegro) - Franz Joseph HaydnScriptures for March 19, 2023:

Getting Connected at Friends

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 worshiped 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.

20/30 SOMETHING POTLUCK: Do you ever wonder how Jesus had so many close friends in his 30s? Are you in your 20s or 30s and think often about having a social life? You're not alone. All 20/30 somethings are invited for a potluck at Brooke Dooley's home. We'll be discussing how we might support each other and get involved with the community, but mostly we'll be joining at the table to remember that we're not alone. The potluck will be on Sunday, March 19 at 5pm, 16861 Calumet Trl in College Station. Bring your favorite dish or beverage, or just show up and grab a plate. All are welcome. Contact Pastor Brooke for more details at pastorbrooke@friends-ucc.org.

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. As we work together to make sense of this world and God's kin-dom, we welcome new perspectives and voices. We hope you consider joining us.

MORNING MEDITATION: Are you looking for quiet time during Lent? Please join us for morning meditation on Tuesdays during Lent at 7:30 am in the sanctuary. We will share readings and spend time in silence. Please join us for this special time.

FEMININE HYGIENE PRODUCTS DRIVE: Extended one week!!! Bring your donations of feminine hygiene products for Brazos Church Pantry by this Sunday, March 12th!! Smaller packages for individual distribution are preferred (as bulk cannot be divided), with an emphasis on liners and tampons. Thank you!!

FABULOUS AT ANY AGE! (An informal group that includes everyone interested in getting together) is planning a trip to the Chappell Hill Lavender Farm on Thursday, March 23. We'll leave from the church at 10:00 a.m. and return by 3:00. ALL ARE WELCOME! Sign-up with Kristin Harper at 979-676-3808 or kristinsharper@outlook.com. It's a "Bring your own Lunch" event. Drivers are needed. **NEW MEMBER SUNDAY:** April 30 is New Member Sunday, when we welcome our newest members into the life of Friends Congregational Church. If you are interested in joining Friends Church on New Member Sunday, please contact Senior Pastor Dan De Leon (pastor@friends-ucc. org), Executive Pastor Trent Williams (pastortrent@friends-ucc.org), or Associate Pastor Brooke Dooley (pastorbrooke@friends-ucc.org.

YOUTH GROUP 30 HOUR FAMINE EVENT: The season of Lent is often a time for giving, prayer, and fasting. On this journey, we are reminded of those who go hungry everyday in a world that has enough. This month, the Friends Youth Group will be participating in World Vision's 30 Hour Famine event in solidarity with our neighbors who do not have access to food and clean water. We hope to reach our fundraising goal of \$1200 while we prepare for our time of fasting, which will last from 6pm on Sat. March 25th to the end of the 11am worship service the following day. During that time, we will spend the night at Friends church engaging in activities, discussion, and rest before breaking our fast together. Check out our team page to donate and learn more: https://30hourfamine.worldvision.org/team/Friends-UCC-Youth

FRIENDS CHURCH FOOD DISTRIBUTION: 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 the next 2 Fridays of March) between 2:30 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. Feel free to just show up! Send any questions to Anne at awehrly@ suddenlink.net.

SENIOR PASTOR OUT OF THE OFFICE: Pastor Dan will be away from the church and church office March 13-17. If you have a pastoral need during that time, please contact Pastor Trent or Pastor Brooke.

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