



Friends Church

An Open & Affirming Congregation



*"Resurrection of Lazarus"
tot Sint Jans Geertgen (1480)*

March 26, 2023

II: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: Kathy Yeager & Ryan Womack
Greeters: Megan Yeager & Doris Machinski

Next Sunday, April 2nd:
Lay Leaders: Dinah Anderson & Jackie Womack
Greeters: Bill Harper & Peggy Vitek
Communion Stewards: Jacque Halverson & Doris Machinski

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.

Fifth 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 130, CEB

I cry out to you from the depths, Lord—my Lord, listen to my voice! Let your ears pay close attention to my request for mercy! If you kept track of sins, Lord—my Lord, who would stand a chance? But forgiveness is with you—that’s why you are honored. I hope, Lord. My whole being hopes, and I wait for God’s promise. My whole being waits for my Lord—more than the night watch waits for morning; yes, more than the night watch waits for morning! Israel, wait for the Lord! Because faithful love is with the Lord; because great redemption is with our God! He is the one who will redeem Israel from all its sin.

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

WORDS OF WELCOME

Trent Williams

PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Ryan Womack

One: Spirit of life, light of life, breath of life,

All: breathe new life into us.

One: Christ of love, Christ of sorrow, Christ of hope,

All: breathe new life into us.

One: Wind of God, breath of God, spirit of God,

All: breathe new life into us.

We worship you, open to your grace.

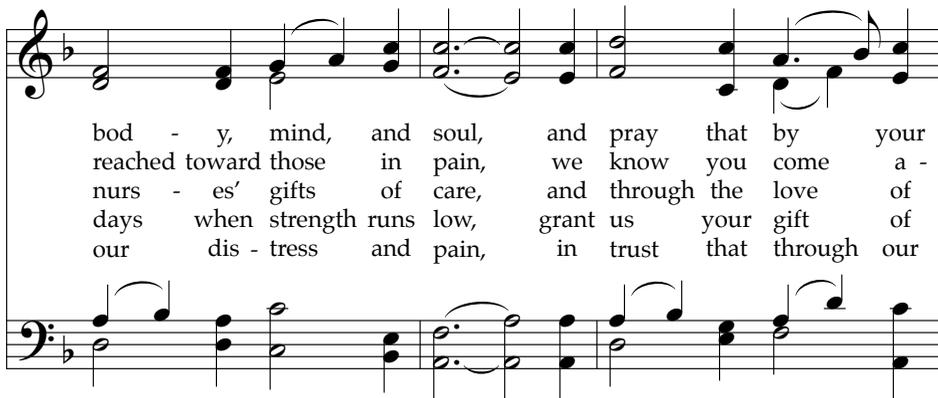
Raise us to new life in your spirit. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN: Glory to God #796 We Come to You for Healing, Lord

Tune: Land of Rest



1 We come to you for heal - ing, Lord, of
2 As once you walked through an - cient streets and
3 You touch us through phy - si - cians' skills, through
4 Through nights of pain and wake - ful - ness, through
5 We come to you, O lov - ing Lord, in



bod - y, mind, and soul, and pray that by your
reached toward those in pain, we know you come a -
nurs - es' gifts of care, and through the love of
days when strength runs low, grant us your gift of
our dis - tress and pain, in trust that through our



Spir - it's touch we may a - gain be whole.
mong us still with power to heal a - gain.
faith - ful friends who lift our lives in prayer.
pa - tience, Lord, your calm - ing peace to know.
nights and days your grace will heal, sus - tain.

***INVOCATION**

Ryan Womack

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Sue Ambrus

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?

Grace Jackson

CALL TO CONFESSION

Kyle Riley

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Kyle Riley

One: Sometimes in our brokenness, we cause brokenness in others.

All: We are never beyond your Grace.

One: Sometimes in our woundedness, we wound others.

All: We are never beyond your Grace.

One: In these despairing moments, we need healing and restoration.

All: We give thanks that we are never beyond your reach or grace. Amen

(Silent prayer and meditation)

SONG OF RESPONSE: NCH #409 "I 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

Kyle Riley

One: The peace of Christ be with you all.

Many: **And also with you!**

GOSPEL READING: John 11:1-16, CEB

Trent Williams

A certain man, Lazarus, was ill. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. (This was the Mary who anointed the Lord with fragrant oil and wiped his feet with her hair. Her brother Lazarus was ill.) So the sisters sent word to Jesus, saying, "Lord, the one whom you love is ill." When he heard this, Jesus said, "This illness isn't fatal. It's for the glory of God so that God's Son can be glorified through it." Jesus loved Martha, her sister, and Lazarus. When he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed where he was. After two days, he said to his disciples, "Let's return to Judea again." The disciples replied, "Rabbi, the Jewish opposition wants to stone you, but you want to go back?" Jesus answered, "Aren't there twelve hours in the day? Whoever walks in the day doesn't stumble because they see the light of the world. But whoever walks in the night does stumble because the light isn't in them." He continued, "Our friend Lazarus is sleeping, but I am going in order to wake him up." The disciples said, "Lord, if he's sleeping, he will get well." They thought Jesus meant that Lazarus was in a deep sleep, but Jesus had spoken about Lazarus' death. Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus has died. For your sakes, I'm glad I wasn't there so that you can believe. Let's go to him." Then Thomas (the one called Didymus) said to the other disciples, "Let us go too so that we may die with Jesus."

CHORAL ANTHEM: Kyrie - John Leavitt

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Alleluia.

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Bethany was a little less than two miles from Jerusalem. Many Jews had come to comfort Martha and Mary after their brother's death. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him, while Mary remained in the house. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother wouldn't have died. Even now I know that whatever you ask God, God will give you." Jesus told her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha replied, "I know that he will rise in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me will live, even though they die. Everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She replied, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Christ, God's Son, the one who is coming into the world." After she said this, she went and spoke privately to her sister Mary, "The teacher is here and he's calling for you." When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to Jesus. He hadn't entered the village but was still in the place where Martha had met him. When the Jews who were comforting Mary in the house saw her get up quickly and leave, they followed her. They assumed she was going to mourn at the tomb. When Mary arrived where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother wouldn't have died." When Jesus saw her crying and the Jews who had come with her crying also, he was deeply disturbed and troubled. He asked, "Where have you laid him?" They replied, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to cry. The Jews said, "See how much he loved him!" But some of them said, "He healed the eyes of the man born blind. Couldn't he have kept Lazarus from dying?"

Jesus was deeply disturbed again when he came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone covered the entrance. 39 Jesus said, "Remove the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said, "Lord, the smell will be awful! He's been dead four days." Jesus replied, "Didn't I tell you that if you believe, you will see God's glory?" So they removed the stone. Jesus looked up and said, "Father, thank you for hearing me. I know you always hear me. I say this for the benefit of the crowd standing here so that they will believe that you sent me." Having said this, Jesus shouted with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his feet bound and his hands tied, and his face covered with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Untie him and let him go." Therefore, many of the Jews who came with Mary and saw what Jesus did believed in him.

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

Ryan Womack

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 & THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Brooke Dooley

**Indwelling God,
infused throughout all existence,
we honor you with many names.**

**Your realm is within the human heart.
We accept life for all that it can be,
on earth as throughout all creation.**

**May we continue to draw sustenance from this earth,
and may we receive forgiveness equal to our own.**

**May we ever move from separation toward union,
to live in grace, with love in our hearts,
forever and ever. Amen.**

TESTIMONY: 30-HOUR FAMINE

Friends Church Youth

ANNOUNCEMENTS & INVITATION TO JOIN FRIENDS CHURCH

Trent Williams

*CLOSING HYMN: #484 O Come to Me, You Weary

Tune: Meirionydd

CHORAL BENEDICTION

Friends Church Chancel Choir

POSTLUDE

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Instrumental Music:

- Prelude: Lord, I Need You - Jesse Reeves, Kristian Stanfill, Matt Maher, Christy Nockels, and Daniel Carson; arranged by Phillip Keveren
- Offertory: He Hideth My Soul - William J. Kirkpatrick, arranged by Stan Pethel
- Postlude: Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart - Arthur H. Messiter, arranged by Cindy Berry

GETTING CONNECTED AT FRIENDS

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.

ON PALM/PASSION SUNDAY, BYOF (BRING YOUR OWN FRONDS): Palm/Passion Sunday is almost upon us, when we celebrate Jesus' triumphal and humble entry into Jerusalem. We know the story of the palm branches, and have memories of our children and youth waving their own in the sanctuary. This year, we're imagining how we might respond to such an arrival in our world today. What would we have nearby to wave in celebration, or to lay down on the path? Maybe you have yaupon lining your yard, oak trees, or Texas wildflowers. This Palm/Passion Sunday, April 2, you're encouraged to BYOF (bring your own fronds) to church and wave whatever you may have in your yard, except, of course, poison ivy. And if you would prefer to stay with traditional palms, we will have those available as well.

MAUNDY THURSDAY, 7:30PM, APRIL 6: Mandatum novum do vobis: A new command I give you...that you love one another as I have loved you. These instructions from Jesus are what Maundy Thursday is all about. During Holy Week on April 6 at 7:30pm we observe Maundy Thursday with a special service remembering Jesus' final night with his disciples. The service carries us through communion, foot- or hand-washing, and the stripping of the sanctuary. The service will also be live-streamed.

GOOD FRIDAY AT FRIENDS: Please mark your calendars for Friday, April 7, at 7:30 pm and worship through music as the Friends Choir performs Théodore Dubois' beautiful and moving Masterwork, "The Seven Last Words of Christ." A long-standing staple of choral repertoire, our wonderful choir and soloists will be joined by a Chamber Orchestra. We hope you can join us this Good Friday.

WALK THE PRAYER LABYRINTH ON HOLY SATURDAY: Friends community, this is an invitation for you to walk our beautiful prayer labyrinth, located directly behind the sanctuary, as a part of your Holy Week. You are welcome to walk the labyrinth any time on Holy Saturday, April 8th. The labyrinth can provide a place for you or your small group to walk, meditate and pray during this liminal time between the sorrow of Good Friday and the joy of Easter Sunday. All are welcome. For more information, contact Spiritual Life Chair Becky Burks: spirit_develop@friends-ucc.org.

EASTER SUNDAY: Join us on Easter Sunday for a light brunch while the kids have their Easter Egg Hunt! Interested in helping? Contact Jan Paterson at jwpbloom@hotmail.com to sign up for bringing a finger food to share or helping with clean up after the fun.

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).

NURTURE UPDATES: Fabulous At Any Age is touring The Painted Churches of Fayette County on Tuesday, April 11. See details and sign-up in TW@F. This is going to be a great trip! Hey Guyz, it's BREAKFAST TIME! Saturday, April 1, 8:30 a.m. at the church. Bring your favorite breakfast item to share and enjoy some really good morning fixins' and company.

HELP KEEP THE KITCHEN CLEAN AND TIDY: Can you sign up to be a "Kitchen Angel" once every 3-4 months? We need help on Sundays, after the 11am service loading and running the dishwashers, clearing counters and the refrigerator of leftover food and supplies, and then stopping by once during the week (during office hours) to unload the dishwasher. Sign-up list is in the kitchen.

COMMUNION STEWARDS NEEDED FOR 9AM AND 11AM SERVICES: Would you consider signing up to be a Communion Steward once every 3-4 months for the 9AM or 11AM service? Communion Stewards are responsible for setting up (9AM) or cleaning up (11AM) communion. You are also responsible for assisting the pastors service the communion or you can find someone to serve for you. To volunteer and get more information, contact the Worship Committee Chair Ryan Womack: worship@friends-ucc.org.

9AM GREETERS NEEDED: Would you consider signing-up to be a Greeter ONCE every 3-4 months for the 9AM service? Greeters are responsible for handing out worship guides, making a count of worship attendees, and helping take up the offering. To volunteer and get more information, contact the Worship Committee Chair Ryan Womack: worship@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.

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*)
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