

# FRIENDS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost  
September 15, 2024  
9:00am



*An Open & Affirming  
Congregation*

## **SCRIPTURE FOR MEDITATION:** Luke 6:20a & 21b, NRSV

Then he looked up at his disciples and said: “Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.”

## **QUOTE FOR MEDITATION:**

“What a deadly religion if it has no humor—what a dreary life where that precious venture has not emerged. Thank God for humor!”

-Howard Thurman, *Meditations of the Heart*

## **CHIMING OF THE TRINITY**

## **WORDS OF WELCOME**

Trent Williams

## **PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES**

## **\*CALL TO WORSHIP (RESPONSIVE)**

Dinah Anderson

One: Holy One, giver of joy and laughter, we thank you for giving us these gifts:

**All: for opportunities to laugh at ourselves,  
for the belly laughs of children,  
for those who have hope even when others think there is no hope.**

One: We thank you for the words of Jesus that defy our logical minds;

**All: for the absurdity of a camel trying to fit through the eye of a needle,  
for tiny bits of faith that can move entire mountains,  
for the reality that nothing can live unless it first dies.**

One: We thank you for the great reversal of the Gospel:

**All: that the last shall be made first,  
that those who wish to become great must serve,  
that when we are weak, your strength shines through us.**

**\*OPENING HYMN** - No. 55 Rejoice, You Pure in Heart

Marion

**\*INVOCATION**

Dinah Anderson

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Trent Williams

One: The peace of Christ be with you all.

Many: **And also with you.**

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

Trent Williams

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

Mary Howell

*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.**

**HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING**

Genesis 22:1-14, NRSV

Dan De Leon

After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you."

So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt offering, and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you." Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together. Isaac said to his father Abraham, "Father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" Abraham said, "God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So the two of them walked on

together. When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son.

But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place "The Lord will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided."

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

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

**THE MESSAGE** "Laughter: Hope's Last Weapon in the Holocaust" Dan De Leon

## **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**

Trent Williams

## **INVITATION TO SHARE**

Dinah Anderson

## **OFFERTORY**

Secure online giving via Realm Giving at [bit.ly/givetofriendsucc](https://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**

Trent Williams

# OBSERVANCE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Trent Williams

## 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.

## \*CLOSING HYMN - I Danced in the Morning


*Lord of the Dance*

Capo 3: (D) (Bm) (F#m) (Bm)  
F Dm Am Dm




1 I danced in the morn-ing when the world was be-gun, and I  
2 I danced for the scribe and the Phar - i - see, but  
3 I danced on the Sab-bath and I cured the lame. The  
4 I danced on a Fri - day when the sky turned black. It's  
5 They cut me down and I leapt up high. †

(Em) (A)  
Gm C




danced in the moon and the stars and the sun, and I  
they would not dance and they would not foll - ow me. I  
ho - ly peo - ple said it was a shame. They  
hard - to dance with the dev - il on your back. They  
I am the life that will nev - er, nev - er die. I'll

(D) (Bm) (F#m) (Bm)  
F Dm Am Dm



came down from heav - en and I danced on the earth. At  
danced for the fish - er - men, for James and John. They  
whipped and they stripped and they hung me high, and  
bur - ied my bod - y and they thought I'd gone, but  
live in you if you'll live in me, †

(Em) (A7) (G) (D)  
Gm C7 Bb F



Beth - le - hem I had my birth.  
came with me and the dance went on.  
left me there on a cross to die.  
I am the dance and I still go on.  
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.

(F#m) (Bm) (F#m) (Bm) (D) (Bm)  
 Refrain Am Dm Am Dm F Dm

Dance, then, wher-ev - er you may be; I am the Lord of the

(Em) (A) (D) (Bm) (D) (A7) (D)  
 Gm C F Dm F C7 F

Dance, said he, and I'll lead you all, wher - ev - er you may be,

(Em) (A7) (D) (G) (D)  
 Gm C7 F Bb F

and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

## \*BENEDICTION

Dan De Leon

## POSTLUDE

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*Instrumental Music:*

- Prelude: For the Beauty of the Earth - Conrad Kocher, arranged by Joel Raney  
 Offertory: Lift High the Cross - Sydney H. Nicholson, arranged by Larry Shackley  
 Communion: Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee - John B. Dykes, arranged by Marilyn Ham  
 Postlude: Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart - Arthur H. Messiter, arranged by Cindy Berry

Scriptures for the Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 22, 2024: Matthew 25:14-30; Exodus 25:1-9

## 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](mailto:office@friends-ucc.org).

## EVENTS THIS WEEK

**FRIENDS DISTRIBUTES FOOD, SEPT 20:** Now that you have heard all about our food distribution, how about giving it a try next Friday Sept. 20th. With a tinge of fall in the air, it should be nice outside. Become a part of our “food team” and make some new friends. Join us any time between 2:30 PM-6PM to distribute food in the Peace Lutheran parking lot. Come for an hour or more. Contact Anne Wehrly (awehrly@suddenlink.net) if you have questions.

**NAACP BRAZOS COUNTY BRANCH BANQUET, SEPT 21:** NAACP Brazos County Branch is having a Freedom Fund Banquet September 21, 2024, at 7:00 pm at the Brazos Center. Churches can sponsor a table for \$600. If you would like to help Friends sponsor a table, contact Dan DeLeon at pastor@friends-ucc.org. If you would like more information about the event or to purchase tickets for yourself, contact brazoscountynaacp@gmail.com.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**FRIENDS GREETERS NEEDED:** Join our Friends Church greeter team! We are in need of additional folks to help welcome people on Sunday mornings and make our worship services flow smoothly. If you are interested in learning more, reach out to Worship Committee chair Charity Stokes at [worship@friends-ucc.org](mailto:worship@friends-ucc.org). You can also sign up online here: [bit.ly/FriendsGreeter](https://bit.ly/FriendsGreeter).

**SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED:** We have all the Sunday school classes covered but are still looking for volunteers who could be called when teachers are out of town to be substitutes. Please let Pastor Dan or Abby Burley, [Christian\\_ed@friends-ucc.org](mailto:Christian_ed@friends-ucc.org), know if we can add you to our list.

**SEPTEMBER SERMON SERIES:** This month, our preachers are offering a special sermon series: “Untaught History: Reparations, Resoluteness, Resistance, and Redemption.” Our former school days of selective history lessons that left out countless stories and altered others, and these present days of banned books and whitewashed curriculums beckon us to learn some of that untaught history as a testament to our faith in Jesus’ insistence that “you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” Pastor Brooke, Pastor Trent, and Pastor Dan will explore stories from the post-Reconstruction era, the Holocaust, the civil rights and gay rights movements, and how God is still speaking through that largely untaught history. Here’s a snapshot of the remaining Sundays...

Sept 15, Pastor Dan: “Laughter: Hope’s Last Weapon in the Holocaust,” Genesis 22:1-14

Sept 22, Pastor Trent: “Building the Future Together,” Exodus 25:1-9

Sept 29, Pastor Brooke: “The Bridge Which Christ Had Built,” Genesis 32: 24-32

So, bring a friend and join us every Sunday in September for some “Untaught History.”

**“SCRIPTURE & AMERICAN SACRED TEXTS”:** MORNING MANNA SUNDAY SCHOOL SERIES: In conjunction with our September sermon series “Untaught History,” join us on Sunday mornings at 10:00am from August 25 through September 29 for a series that will explore historic American works in conversation with scripture.

September 15: Declaration of Rights and Sentiments & Biblical Women

September 22: The Byrds’ “Turn, Turn, Turn” & Ecclesiastes/Biblical Wisdom Writings

September 29: Martin Luther King’s “Letter from a Birmingham Jail” & Paul’s Prison Epistles

## OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE AND SHARE

**SUPPORT OUR PODCAST:** Help us spread the good word! Share this week’s sermon with those you love with our “Friends Congregational Church Sermons” podcast, available wherever you can find podcasts! Easily access and publicize our mission to follow the model of Jesus: to live faithfully, love limitlessly, and serve boldly. With over 100 episodes published (since Advent of last year) we’ve expanded (since Eastertide this year) our efforts to include the wider library of sermons offered before this podcast kicked off. We would love to have your support by either showing this podcast to friends and loved ones, and/or contributing your voice to introduce an episode. Volunteers can reach out to [av@friends-ucc.org](mailto:av@friends-ucc.org) (Jeremy) if interested, or you might get approached after service. Recording takes less than 10 minutes and is almost entirely scripted.

**Be a Greeter and Communion Steward:** To help in the 9am and 11am services, please contact Worship Committee Chair Charity Stokes: [worship@friends-ucc.org](mailto: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 school year. Contact Pastor Brooke at [pastorbrooke@friend-ucc.org](mailto:pastorbrooke@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](mailto:pastor@friends-ucc.org).

**Coffee Crew/Kitchen Angel:** Do you enjoy having coffee/hot beverages available at Sunday morning services? Sign up via sheet on counter in kitchen, or Realm ( 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](mailto: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](http://Friends-ucc.org))▶Get **Involved**▶**Volunteer** or email [office@friends-ucc.org](mailto:office@friends-ucc.org) for more information or to volunteer.

## SAVE THE DATE

**LINDA COATS BOOK CLUB, SEPT 26:** For September, the book club will be reading Matthew Desmond's *Poverty, By America*. Join us for discussion at 6:30pm.

**FAMILY PROMISE, SEPT 29:** 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 two families at the Family Promise Center for a week starting Sunday, September 29th. 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](mailto:mhowell61@gmail.com) or Sally Manthei [manthei\\_sally@aol.com](mailto:manthei_sally@aol.com).

### Friends Church Staff

#### Senior Pastor

The Rev. Dr. Dan De Leon (*he, him*)  
[pastor@friends-ucc.org](mailto:pastor@friends-ucc.org)

#### Director of Music Ministries

Chris Hoffman (*he, him*)  
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#### Executive Pastor

The Rev. Trent Williams (*he, him*)  
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#### Associate Pastor to Youth & Young Adults

The Rev. Brooke Dooley (*she, her, they, them*)  
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#### Administrative Assistant

Michael Rangel (*he, him*)  
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[www.friends-ucc.org](http://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.