



# Friends Church

*An Open & Affirming Congregation*



*Mary Meets Jesus After the Resurrection*  
Peter Koeing (20th century)

March 31, 2024

11:00am

Easter Sunday

## 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: Kathy Yeager & Becky Burks  
Greeters: Tim Scott & Lanette and Rick Schulte  
Communion Stewards: Holly Scott & Doris Machinski

Next Sunday, April 7  
Lay Leaders: Dinah Anderson & Kathy Miller  
Greeters: Eli Vasquez & Alex Cannon  
Communion Stewards: Mary Johnson & Charity Stokes

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](mailto: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.

## *Easter Sunday*

Easter Sunday celebrates the resurrection of Christ and marks the beginning of the 50 days of the season of Easter, also called Eastertide.

### **SCRIPTURE FOR MEDITATION:** Isaiah 25:6-9, CEB

On this mountain, the Lord of heavenly forces will prepare for all peoples a rich feast, a feast of choice wines, of select foods rich in flavor, of choice wines well refined. He will swallow up on this mountain the veil that is veiling all peoples, the shroud enshrouding all nations. He will swallow up death forever. The Lord God will wipe tears from every face; he will remove his people's disgrace from off the whole earth, for the Lord has spoken. They will say on that day, "Look! This is our God, for whom we have waited—and he has saved us! This is the Lord, for whom we have waited; let's be glad and rejoice in his salvation!"

### **QUOTE FOR MEDITATION:**

"Those who live victoriously, though they wait in great hope and expectation for the final triumph of God's grace, live even more in present experience of what that grace in Christ can do in their lives here and now."

-Howard Hageman

### **CHIMING OF THE TRINITY**

### **WORDS OF WELCOME**

Trent Williams

### **PRELUDE, REDRESSING OF THE ALTAR, AND LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

### **\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Becky Burks

One: Shake off your grave clothes of despair,  
roll away your stones of resignation,  
tear down the middle your veil of your fear!

**All: Jesus rises in the lives of those who live like him—Alleluia!**

One: Challenge normalized violence,  
widen the margins of belonging,  
live simply, and offer healing!

**All: Jesus rises in the lives of those who live like him—Alleluia!**

One: Among death-dealing systems,  
we follow Christ through our living.

**All: Let us worship God. Alleluia!**

### **\*OPENING HYMN - #233 "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today"**

Tune: Easter Hymn

**\*INVOCATION**

Becky Burks

**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 #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.**

**INVITATION TO CONFESSION**

Trent Williams

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION (UNISON)**

**Gracious God, you have walked patiently with us throughout our Lenten journey. You have celebrated our successes and our growing understanding of your love; and you have mourned our failures and rejections of your healing mercies. This day, as we have gathered to celebrate the joy of Easter, let us remember that we are to become "Easter People," people of the Resurrection; people who know that what was thought to be impossible has been conquered. Forgive our stubbornness and fears. Fill us with your healing love and help us to become the disciples that you need to serve in this world. We ask this in the name of our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**ASSURANCE OF GRACE**

Trent Williams

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Trent Williams

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

**\*HYMN OF RESPONSE - #242 The Strife Is O'er**

Tune: Victory

**EPISTLE READING:**

1 Corinthians 15:1-11, NRSV

Becky Burks

Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain. For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

**CHORAL ANTHEM:** Alleluia - Ralph Manuel**GOSPEL READING**

John 20:1-18, CEB

Dan De Leon

Early in the morning of the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. She ran to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said, “They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don’t know where they’ve put him.” Peter and the other disciple left to go to the tomb. They were running together, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and was the first to arrive at the tomb. Bending down to take a look, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he didn’t go in. Following him, Simon Peter entered the tomb and saw the linen cloths lying there. He also saw the face cloth that had been on Jesus’ head. It wasn’t with the other clothes but was folded up in its own place. Then the other disciple, the one who arrived at the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. They didn’t yet understand the scripture that Jesus must rise from the dead.  
10 Then the disciples returned to the place where they were staying. Mary stood outside near the tomb, crying. As she cried, she bent down to look into the tomb. She saw two angels dressed in white, seated where the body of Jesus had been, one at the head and one at the foot. The angels asked her, “Woman, why are you crying?” She replied, “They have taken away my Lord, and I don’t know where they’ve put him.” As soon as she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she didn’t know it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you crying? Who are you looking for?” Thinking he was the gardener, she replied, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him

and I will get him.” Jesus said to her, “Mary.” She turned and said to him in Aramaic, “Rabbouni” (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, “Don’t hold on to me, for I haven’t yet gone up to my Father. Go to my brothers and sisters and tell them, ‘I’m going up to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” Mary Magdalene left and announced to the disciples, “I’ve seen the Lord.” Then she told them what he said to her.

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

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

## **THE MESSAGE**

“All the Proof People Need to Know”

Dan De Leon

## **MOMENT FOR REFLECTION**

## **INVITATION TO SHARE**

Becky Burks

## **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

## **CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION**

Trent Williams

# CONGREGATIONAL SINGING FOR COMMUNION

## I Danced in the Morning

Tune: Lord of the Dance



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)  
Gm

(A)  
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)  
F

(Bm)  
Dm

(F#m)  
Am

(Bm)  
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, I'll

(Em)  
Gm

(A7)  
C7

(G)  
Bb

(D)  
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.

### Refrain



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

(Em)  
Gm

(A)  
C

(D)  
F

(Bm)  
Dm

(D)  
F

(A7)  
C7

(D)  
F



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

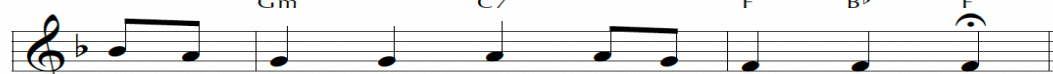
(Em)  
Gm

(A7)  
C7

(D)  
F

(G)  
Bb

(D)  
F



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

Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks

Tune: Alleluia

*Descant*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

*Refrain* E C#m F#m B

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Give thanks to the ris - en Lord. Al - le -

al - le - lu - ia! Praise to his name. *Fine*

E C#m F#m B E

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Give praise to his name.

E C#m F#m B

- 1 Je - sus is Lord of all the earth.
- 2 Spread the good news o'er all the earth:
- 3 We have been cru - ci - fied with Christ.
- 4 Come let us praise the liv - ing God,

E C#m F#m B *to Refrain*

He is the King of cre - a - tion.  
 Je - sus has died and has ris - en.  
 Now we shall live for - ev - er.  
 joy - ful - ly sing to our Sav - ior.

#340 Somos pueblo que camina (We Are People on a Journey) Tune: Somos Pueblo  
 (Verse 1 in Spanish, then in English; Verse 2 in Spanish, then in English)

#236 Hallelujah - Tune: Hallelujah



# THE LORD'S PRAYER

Brooke Dooley

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.

## \*CLOSING HYMN - In Christ Alone

Capo 1: (D) (G) (D) (G) (A) (D)  
Eb Ab Eb Ab Bb Eb

IN CHRIST ALONE LMD

1 In Christ a - lone my hope is found; he is my  
2 In Christ a - lone, who took on flesh— full - ness of  
3 There in the ground his bod - y lay, light of the  
4 No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the

light, my strength, my song— this cor - ner-stone, this sol - id  
God in help - less babe! This gift of love, and right-eous-  
world by cruel - ty slain; then burst - ing forth in glo - rious  
pow'r of Christ in me; from life's first cry to fi - nal

ground, firm through the fierc - est drought and storm.  
ness, scorned by the ones he came to save,  
day, up from the grave he rose a - gain!  
breath, Je - sus com - mands my des - ti - ny.

(G) (Em7) (A7) (D) (G) (D) (G)  
Ab Fm7 Bb7 Eb Ab Eb Ab

(A) (D) (G) (Em7) (A7) (D)  
Bb Eb Ab Fm7 Bb7 Eb

(G/B) Ab/C (D/F#) Eb/G (A) Bb (D) Eb

What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are  
till on the cross as Je - sus died, the love of  
And as he stands in vic - to - ry, sin's curse has  
No pow'r of hell, no hu - man plan, can ev - er

(G) Ab (D/F#) Eb/G (A) Bb (G) Ab (D) Eb (G) Ab

stilled, when striv - ings cease. My com - fort - er, my all in  
God was mag - ni - fied. My ev - 'ry sin on him was  
lost its grip on me; for I am his and he is  
pluck me from his hand; till he re - turns or calls me

(A) Bb (D) Eb (G) Ab (Em7) Fm7 (A7) Bb7 (D) Eb

all, here in the love of Christ I stand.  
laid; here in the death of Christ I live.  
mine, bought with the pre - cious blood of Christ.  
home, here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand!

\*BENEDICTION

Dan De Leon

## POSTLUDE

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### Instrumental Music:

- Prelude: Fanfare for Easter - Based on the hymn tune *Victory*, and a theme from the second movement of *Symphony No. 3* by Camille Saint-Saëns, arranged by Sondra Tucker (Handbell Choir and Ruthie De Leon, organ)
- Offertory: The Great Gate of Kiev (from *Pictures at an Exhibition*) - Modest Mussorgsky, arranged by Douglas E. Wagner (Handbell Choir)
- Postlude: Thine Is the Glory (from *Judas Maccabeus*) - George Frideric Handel

Scriptures for Sunday, April 7, 2024: Psalm 133; Ephesians 1:15-23; Acts 1:1-14

## 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

**EASTER EGG HUNT, MARCH 31:** After the 11am service, Christian Ed will host the Easter Egg Hunt at the church. Please meet up in the double classroom with a basket. A potluck will follow after the egg hunt.

**EASTER FINGER FOOD POTLUCK, MARCH 31:** Please join us in the sanctuary following the 11am Easter service for a finger food potluck. We ask that donated food is able to be eaten without requiring flatware. Drinks will be provided. Direct any questions to [Fellowship@friends-ucc.org](mailto:Fellowship@friends-ucc.org).

**FIRST FRIDAY WITH FRIENDS, APRIL 5:** First Friday with Friends is held in conjunction with Downtown Bryan’s First Friday activities. We have a meet up at Blackwater Draw and always have a few people there for the 5:30-7:30 timeframe. Some folks stay at Blackwater all evening and others stop by on their way to or from dining and playing in downtown Bryan.

## SAVE THE DATE

**FABULOUS AT ANY AGE “SOLAR ECLIPSE PARTY AND POTLUCK”, APRIL 8:** On April 8, a total solar eclipse will cross North America passing over FRIENDS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH! Don’t miss out on this experience! Bring your favorite potluck dish to the church at noon and join your friends for this AMAZING event! Solar glasses will be provided.

**WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY WITH WOMEN, APRIL 10:** Wonderful Wednesday with Women will meet at the Rooftop Bar at the Hilton on University.

# Friends Congregational Church United Church of Christ

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## 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

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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.