



Friends Church

An Open & Affirming Congregation



"Water into Wine"

Cara B. Hochhalter, 2019

January 15, 2023
9:00am & 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 Leaders: Cathy Hansen and Adriane Beer
Greeters: Kathy Yeager and Martha Newsome
Communion Stewards: Doris Machinski and Jacque Halverson

Next Sunday, January 22:
Lay Leaders: Diane Simpson and Katy Stewart
Greeters: Joelle Hodson

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.

The Second Sunday after the 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.

QUOTE FOR MEDITATION:

“We take for granted the slow miracle whereby water in the irrigation of a vineyard becomes wine. It is only when Christ turns water into wine, in a quick motion, as it were, that we stand amazed.”

–St. Augustine

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

WORDS OF WELCOME

Trent Williams

PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Cathy Hansen (9am)
Adriane Beer (11am)

One: Beautiful are the works of God!

All: Beautiful also are the skins of God’s people!

One: Beautiful is the mind of God!

All: Beautiful also are the hopes of God’s people!

One: Beautiful is the heart of God!

All: Beautiful also are the souls of God’s people!

One: God made the heavens and the earth!

All: To God be the glory for the things God has done.

*OPENING HYMN: "Sing of God Made Manifest"

Salzburg



1 Sing of God made man - i - fest in a child ro - bust and blest,
2 Sing of God made man - i - fest when at Jor - dan John con - fessed,
3 Sing of God made man - i - fest when Christ came as wed - ding guest
4 Sing of God made man - i - fest on the cloud - capped moun - tain's crest,



to whose home in Beth - le - hem where a star had guid - ed them,
"I should be bap - tized by you, but your bid - ding I will do."
and at Ca - na gave a sign, turn - ing wa - ter in - to wine;
where the law and proph - ets waned so that Christ a - lone re - mained:



ma - gi came and gifts un - bound, signs mys - te - rious and pro - found:
Then from heaven a dou - ble sign—dove - like Spir - it, voice di - vine—
fur - ther still was love re - vealed as he taught, for - gave, and healed,
glimpse of glo - ry, pledge of grace, given as Je - sus set his face



myrrh and frank - in - cense and gold grave and God and king fore - told.
hailed the true A - noint - ed One: "This is my be - lov - ed Son."
bring - ing light and life to all who would lis - ten to God's call.
towards the wait - ing cross and grave, sign of hope that God would save.



***INVOCATION**

Cathy Hansen (9am)

Adriane Beer (11am)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Lanette Schulte

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 "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)!**

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Kyle Riley

One: The peace of Christ be with you all.

Many: **And also with you!**

HYMN OF RESPONSE NO. 472: "Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

Precious Lord

EPISTLE READING: Romans 12:6-16 (NRSV)

Cathy Hansen (9am)

Adriane Beer (11am)

We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness. Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are.

SPECIAL MUSIC: Give Me Jesus - Traditional Spiritual, arranged by Moses Hogan (Tom Vogel, baritone)

*In the mornin' when I rise, in the mornin' when I rise, in the mornin' when I rise, give me Jesus.
Give me Jesus, give me Jesus, you may have all this world, give me Jesus.
Dark midnight was my cry, dark midnight was my cry, dark midnight was my cry, give me Jesus.
Give me Jesus, give me Jesus, you may have all of this world, give me Jesus.
Oh, when I come to die, oh, when I come to die, oh, when I come to die, give me Jesus.
Give me Jesus, nobody but Jesus, you may have all of this world, give me Jesus.
Nobody but Jesus, oh, you may have all of this world, give me Jesus.*

GOSPEL READING: John 2:1-11 (NRSV)

Trent Williams

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, “They have no wine.” And Jesus said to her, “Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.” His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.” Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, “Fill the jars with water.” And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, “Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.” So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, “Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.” Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

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

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

THE MESSAGE

Trent Williams

MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

INVITATION TO SHARE

Cathy Hansen (9am)
Adriane Beer (11am)

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 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**

Kyle Riley

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Trent Williams, Kyle Riley

Invitation to the Table

Communion Prayer

Sharing Bread and Cup

Song of Response: “How Great Thou Art”

(you are invited to stand at the refrain, and hold hands with those around you if you are comfortable doing so)

**O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder,
consider all the world thy hands have made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
thy power throughout the universe displayed:**

****Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
How great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
How great thou art! How great thou art!**

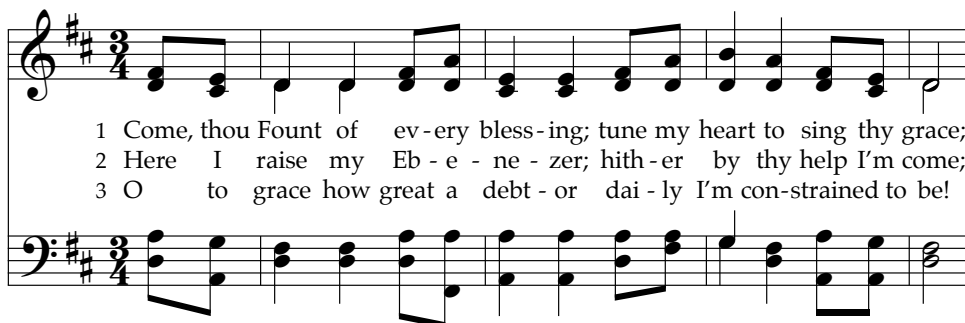
PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & THE LORD’S PRAYER

Trent Williams

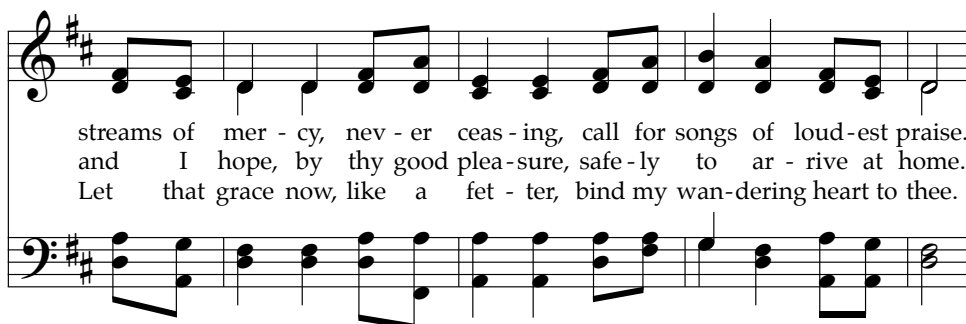
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

*CLOSING HYMN: Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

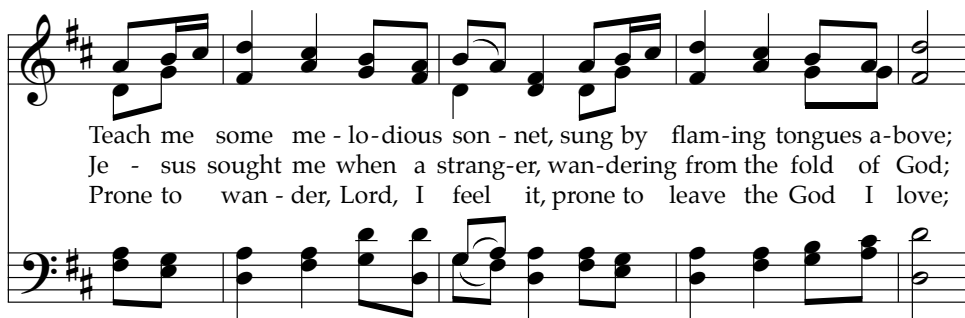
Nettleton



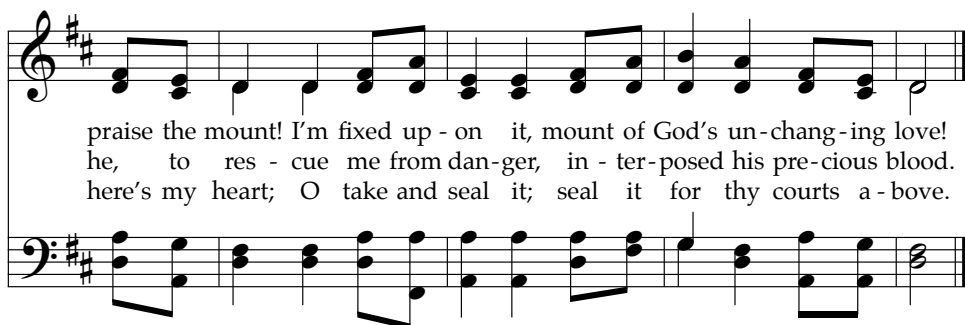
1 Come, thou Fount of ev-ery bless-ing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;
 2 Here I raise my Eb - e - ne - zer; hith-er by thy help I'm come;
 3 O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be!



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud-est praise.
 and I hope, by thy good plea-sure, safe-ly to ar - rive at home.
 Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan-dering heart to thee.



Teach me some me - lo-dious son - net, sung by flam-ing tongues a-bove;
 Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-dering from the fold of God;
 Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;



praise the mount! I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un-chang-ing love!
 he, to res - cue me from dan-ger, in - ter-posed his pre-cious blood.
 here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

POSTLUDE

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Instrumental Music:

- Prelude: Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing - Music from John Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music
- Offertory: Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee - John Bacchus Dykes, arranged by Randall Hartsell
- Communion: How Beautiful - Twila Paris, arranged by Lloyd Larson
- Postlude: I'm Gonna Sing/Ain't-a That Good News? - Traditional Spirituals, arranged by Larry Shackley

GETTING CONNECTED AT FRIENDS

FRIENDS CHURCH TO SPONSOR BOOK FAIR AT CROCKETT ELEMENTARY: The No-Cost Book Fair will happen on Thursday, February 2. Donations of books are still needed, especially Spanish language books for pre-K through 4th grade and both English and Spanish chapter books for the older children. A bin will be in the hallway outside the office and double classroom for collection of books through Sunday, January 29. Also, volunteers will be needed to sort and box the books at the church on Tuesday, January 31 and to staff the book fair at the school for shifts of one hour or more on February 2 between 8:30 and 2:30. All who volunteer to work at the school must bring a state approved ID with them for admittance to the school. Volunteers will also be needed to transport the books to the school on Wednesday afternoon, February 1 after 3:00 p.m. If you would be willing to help with transporting the books or have any questions, please contact Jodie Robinson (281-923-9727) or Pam Engler (979-324-1631) by text or phone.

TINY HOPE VILLAGE: We have an opportunity to tour their site in Hearne and/or help with various aspects of construction on Saturday, January 28. We will gather in the church parking lot at 8:45 AM if you want to carpool there. For those who want to go directly to the site, the address is 10946 W. Henry Prairie Rd, Hearne, TX. THV is having a volunteer workday beginning at 9:30 AM. Everyone should wear close-toe shoes since it is an active construction site and those planning to work should bring construction tools and/or paint brushes. If you are interested in going, please sign up at <https://rb.gy/wz5h-fq> and let us know whether you plan to work or just tour and also if you plan to meet at Friends or go directly to Hearne. If you have questions, contact Cady Engler at cenglertx@gmail.com or at 979-324-1994.

NEW MEMBER SUNDAY: January 29 is New Member Sunday, when we welcome new members into the life of our community of faith. If you are interested in joining Friends Church on New Member Sunday, please contact Pastor Dan, Pastor Trent, or Pastor Brooke.

CHURCH DATABASE & DIRECTORY UPDATE: As we shared in our recent congregational meetings, we are migrating to a new church database and directory system called Realm. You should be receiving an email soon, if you haven't already, from Realm inviting you to login and claim your profile. This is a legitimate message, so feel free to follow the link. Once you've set up your password and login, you can edit your profile and access the church directory. There is also an app for your phone or mobile device that will use the same login as the desktop version. The app is called Realm Connect, developed by ACS Technologies Group. We will share more details about how to edit your profile soon, and if you have any questions in the meantime, reach out to Pastor Trent at pastortrent@friends-ucc.org.

ANNOUNCING CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: There will be a Congregational Meeting on January 29, 2023 immediately following the 11:00 am service. During the meeting we will vote on becoming a Reproductive Freedom Church. We will also hear from our Executive Pastor, Trent Williams about Stewardship and Realm Transition. Supporting documents are available in the narthex, the office hallway, and on the FCC website.
Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87438224852>
Meeting ID: 874 3822 4852

PASTOR DAN LEADS MLK BOOK STUDY AT LINCOLN CENTER: Coretta Scott King wrote that "if there is one book [my husband] Martin Luther King, Jr. has written that people consistently tell me has changed their lives, it is Strength to Love." At 6:30pm on the Wednesday evening after MLK Day, January 18, the Lincoln Center offers an informal study of Dr. King's 1963 book that Coretta Scott King says, "best explains the central element of [his] philosophy of nonviolence: His belief in a divine, loving presence that binds all life." Our own Pastor Dan will lead the book study and discussion that is free and open to the public. Copies of Strength to Love are available to purchase at the Lincoln Center, 1000 Eleanor Street in College Station, for \$12.

JANUARY THEOLOGY ON TAP: The first Theology on Tap of 2023 will meet on the third Thursday of the month, January 19, at 6pm. T.o.T. gathers at KinderHill Brew Lab, 800 S. Bryan Ave in Bryan. Our informal discussions revolve around faith and spirituality, and the venue has an assortment of great beers on tap. You don't need to be fond of beer to join us, nor do you have to be 21 or older. There are non-alcoholic beverages, minors are welcome, as are four-leggeds, and there is a wood-fired pizza food truck onsite.

FRIENDS CHURCH BOOK CLUB: The Linda Coats Book Club meets on the last Thursday of every month. In 2023, the theme will be "spiritual memoirs," with our first book being *Take This Bread* by Sara Miles. February's book will be *Brother to a Dragonfly* by Will D. Campbell. All are welcome. For questions or information, contact the Spiritual Life Committee at spirit_develop@friends-ucc.org.

PREPARING FOR THE VOTE: SHOULD FRIENDS CHURCH BECOME A REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM CONGREGATION?: Over the last couple of months, Friends Church has engaged in information sessions and presentations exploring this question. At the January 29th Congregational meeting after the 11:00 am worship service, the congregation will vote on whether to become a Reproductive Freedom Congregation, a designation recognized by Just Texas. To learn more about what this decision might mean for our congregation, please see your Jan. 13 edition of *This Week at Friends* (TW@F). You can also visit Texas Freedom Network's "Just Texas Reproductive Freedom Initiative" website at <https://justtx.org/rfc/>.

FRIENDS CHURCH FOOD DISTRIBUTION: Pondering a resolution for 2023? Try getting involved with our weekly food distribution. Meet and serve your neighbors on Friday afternoons as a team of Friends folk hand out produce from the Brazos Valley Food Bank. To be a part of this outreach effort, join us for an hour or two in the parking lot at Peace Lutheran Church this Friday (and every Friday) between 2:30 and 6pm to assist in the distribution. For more info, contact Anne Wehrly at awehrly@suddenlink.net.

ORDINATION & INSTALLATION SERVICE FOR BROOKE DOOLEY: At 3pm on Sunday, January 22, Brooke Dooley will be ordained a minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and installed as Associate Pastor to Youth & Young Adults at Friends Congregational Church. Rev. Dr. Jo Hudson, a former pastor of Friends Church, will offer the sermon. Our friends throughout the Heart of Texas Association and South Central Conference of the United Church of Christ are invited, and all are welcome to attend the ordination and installation service. A reception in Brooke's honor will follow.

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

Brooke Dooley (*she, her, they, them*)
pastorbrooke@friends-ucc.org

Administrative Assistant

Michael Rangel (*he, him*)
office@friends-ucc.org