

FRIENDS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



The Second Sunday in Lent
March 5, 2023
9:00am

An Open & Affirming
Congregation

Psalm for Meditation: Psalm 16:5-8, NRSV

*The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot.
The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; I have a goodly heritage.
I bless the Lord who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me.
I keep the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.*

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

WORDS OF WELCOME

Brooke Dooley

PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Susan Fontaine

One: Day by day, God leads us:

All: to the deep pools of peace and the green lawns of grace.

One: Day by day, Jesus calls us:

All: to pour out ourselves in service, and to anoint the stranger with hope.

One: Day by day, the Holy Spirit shows us:

All: the community we could be, the family we are called to become.

*OPENING SONG: The Lord is My Song

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of two systems, each with a vocal line and a bass line. The first system has the lyrics: "The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: all my hope comes from God." The second system has the lyrics: "The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: God, the well-spring of life." Chord symbols are placed above the vocal line: Em, C6, D, G, C, Am6, B in the first system; and Em, C6, D, G6, Am, B, Em in the second system.

CALL TO PRAYER

Trent Williams

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Trent Williams

All: Eternal Maker of the endless heavens,
Lowly Christ, befriender of the changing earth,
Holy Spirit, wind over the flowing waters,
in earth, sea, and sky, you are ever present.

O hidden mystery,
sun behind all suns, soul within all souls,
in everything we touch, in everyone we meet,
you are there, and we give you thanks.

But where we have not touched, but trampled you in creation;
where we have not honored, but avoided you in one another;
where we have not received, but rejected your goodness,
forgive us and transform us, through the love of Christ
and in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

silent prayer and meditation

SONG OF RESPONSE NO. 409: Give Me Jesus (verse 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

Trent Williams

PASSING THE PEACE

Trent Williams

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

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Brooke Dooley

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Tami Dudo

Children are invited to come to the front as we 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.**

EPISTLE READING: Romans 4:1-5 (NRSV)

Susan Fontaine

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

“The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. After he agreed with the workers to pay them a denarion, he sent them into his vineyard.

“Then he went out around nine in the morning and saw others standing around the marketplace doing nothing. He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I’ll pay you whatever is right.’ And they went.

“Again around noon and then at three in the afternoon, he did the same thing. Around five in the afternoon he went and found others standing around, and he said to them, ‘Why are you just standing around here doing nothing all day long?’

“‘Because nobody has hired us,’ they replied.

“He responded, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’

“When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the workers and give them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and moving on finally to the first.’ When those who were hired at five in the afternoon came, each one received a denarion. Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more. But each of them also received a denarion. When they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ‘These who were hired last worked one hour, and they received the same pay as we did even though we had to work the whole day in the hot sun.’

“But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I did you no wrong. Didn’t I agree to pay you a denarion? Take what belongs to you and go. I want to give to this one who was hired last the same as I give to you. Don’t I have the right to do what I want with what belongs to me? Or are you resentful because I’m generous?’ So those who are last will be first. And those who are first will be last.”

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

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

THE MESSAGE

Dan De Leon

SILENT REFLECTION

One chime calls us into silence, and two chimes call us out of silence.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LIGHTING CANDLES FOR INTERCESSIONS

Brooke Dooley

INVITATION TO SHARE

Susan Fontaine

OFFERTORY

*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

Trent Williams

ANNOUNCEMENTS & INVITATION TO JOIN FRIENDS CHURCH

Dan De Leon

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Trent Williams

One: The Lord be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Many: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Eucharistic Prayer

Sharing Bread & Cup

The Lord's Prayer

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;

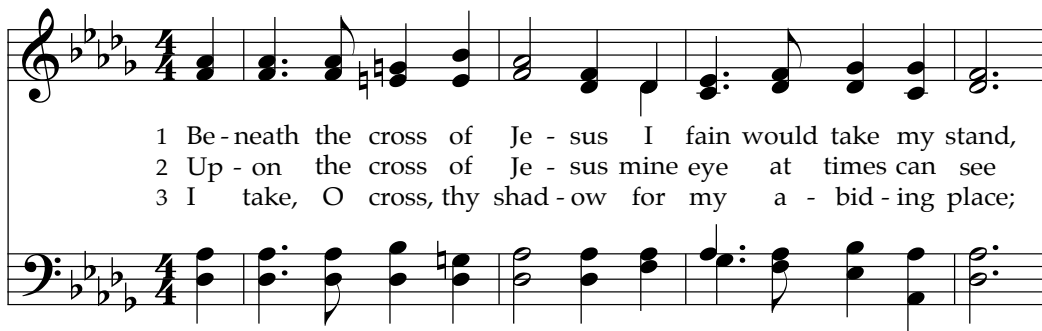
and forgive us our sins as we forgive our those who sin against us;

and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

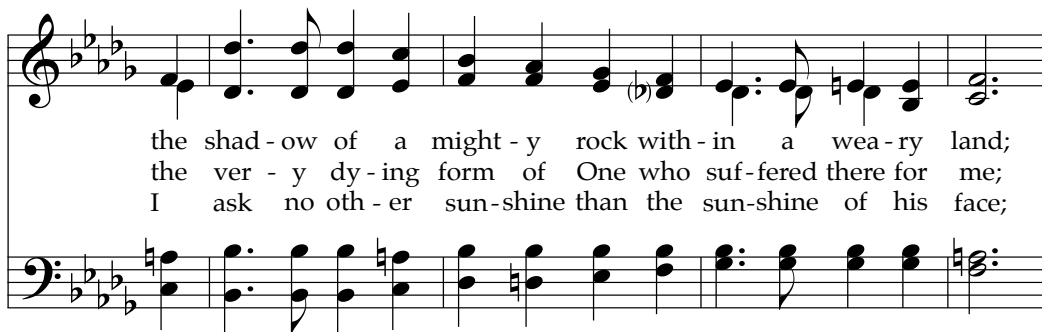
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN: Beneath the Cross of Jesus


St. Christopher



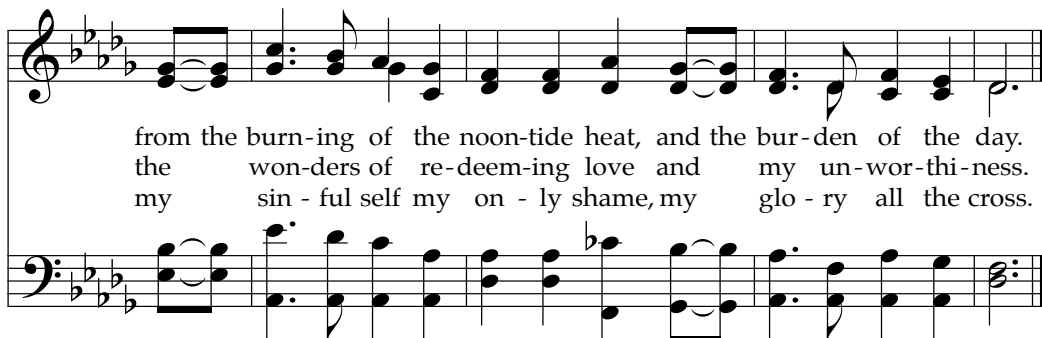
1 Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I fain would take my stand,
2 Up - on the cross of Je - sus mine eye at times can see
3 I take, O cross, thy shad - ow for my a - bid - ing place;



the shad - ow of a might - y rock with - in a wea - ry land;
the ver - y dy - ing form of One who suf - fered there for me;
I ask no oth - er sun - shine than the sun - shine of his face;



a home with - in the wil - der - ness, a rest up - on the way,
and from my strick - en heart with tears two won - ders I con - fess:
con - tent to let the world go by, to know no gain or loss,



from the burn - ing of the noon - tide heat, and the bur - den of the day.
the won - ders of re - deem - ing love and my un - wor - thi - ness.
my sin - ful self my on - ly shame, my glo - ry all the cross.

POSTLUDE

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Instrumental Music:

- Prelude: All the Way My Savior Leads Me - Text by Fanny J. Crosby, music by Robert Lowry, arranged by Stan Pethel
- Offertory: Blessed Quietness - W. S. Marshall, arranged by Melody Bober
- Communion: The Old Rugged Cross - George Bennard, arranged by Cindy Berry
- Postlude: I Surrender All - Winfield S. Weedon, arranged by Marilyn Thompson

Scriptures for March 12, 2023: Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42

GETTING CONNECTED AT FRIENDS

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 THIS WEEK! Wonderful Wednesdays with Women! Wednesday, March 8, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Downtown Uncorked (1551 Greens Prairie Rd., CS). Join 15-20 of your best friends for a fun, casual evening on a beautiful patio.

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.

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: Our drive last October was a big success and provided for many in need. In conjunction with the Justice & Mission Committee's focus on reproductive rights this month, Friends Church will again collect feminine hygiene products for distribution at the Brazos Church Pantry, a local non-profit providing food and other items to those in need in our community. Beginning Sunday, February 19th, you can drop your new donation items in the labeled boxes in the narthex and by the office. Smaller packages for individual distribution are preferred (as bulk cannot be divided) with an emphasis on liners and tampons. Collection continues through March 5th.

MARCH THEOLOGY ON TAP: For March, Theology on Tap will gather on the second Thursday of the month as usual at KinderHill Brew Lab, 800 S. Bryan Ave in Bryan. We call it "Theology on Tap" because the informal discussions revolve around faith and spirituality, bringing our lives more in tune with God's will and way, 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 food truck onsite. What's more, our friends from Treehouse Lutherans campus ministry will be joining us and bringing our discussion topic! As a gesture of hospitality, "sponsors" are needed to buy dinner for students. Please let Pastor Dan know if you'd like to help with this: pastor@friends-ucc.org. See you and our Treehouse Lutherans friends at 6pm on March 9 at Theology on Tap!

Friends Church Staff

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