



**Friends Church**

*An Open & Affirming Congregation*



*"Ash"*

*Mike Moyers (2016)*

February 22, 2023

6:30 pm

Ash Wednesday Service & Imposition of Ashes

## WELCOME TO FRIENDS CHURCH!

We are honored that you have chosen to spend your Wednesday evening 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.

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).

## GATHERING MUSIC

## WORDS OF WELCOME

Dan De Leon

## PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: In your loving kindness,

**All: Have compassion on us, God.**

One: You want us to be honest.

**All: Have compassion on us, God.**

One: You invite us to tell the truth.

**All: Have compassion on us, God.**

One: You want to wash us clean.

**All: Have compassion on us, God.**

One: Have compassion on us, O God,

**All: As we return to you.**

### \*OPENING SONG: 188 "GIVE ME A CLEAN HEART"

### \*PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Trent Williams

**PSALM READING:** Psalm 51:1-12 (NRSV)

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment. Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me. You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice. Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.

**SPECIAL MUSIC:** If with all your hearts (from *Elijah*) - Felix Mendelssohn - Chris Hoffman, tenor

“If with all your hearts ye truly seek Me, ye shall ever surely find Me.” Thus saith our God.  
Oh! that I knew where I might find Him, that I might even come before His presence!

**GOSPEL READING:** Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 (NRSV)

Brooke Dooley

Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. “So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

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

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

## MEDITATION

Brooke Dooley

## MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

## CALL TO PRAYER

Dan De Leon

One: Move among us, God; give us life;

**Many: Let your people rejoice in you.**

One: Give us again the joy of your help;

**Many: With your spirit of freedom sustain us.**

One: God, make our hearts clean,

**Many: Restore us in body, mind, and spirit.**

One: Let us pray.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Brooke Dooley

**One:** Before God, with the people of God, I confess to my brokenness:  
to the ways I wound my life, the lives of others, and the life of the world.

**Many:** **May God forgive you, Christ renew you,  
and the Spirit enable you to grow in love. Amen.**

**Many:** **Before God, with the people of God, we confess to our brokenness:  
to the ways we wound our lives, the lives of others,  
and the life of the world.**

**One:** May God forgive you, Christ renew you,  
and the spirit enable you to grow in love. Amen.

## SUNG RESPONSE NO. 283: "SPIRIT OF THE LIVING GOD"

**Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me;  
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.  
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.  
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.**

## ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE

Trent Williams

**One:** With the whole church,

**Many:** **We affirm that we are made in God's image,  
befriended by Christ, empowered by the Spirit.**

**One:** With people everywhere,

**Many:** **We affirm God's goodness at the heart of humanity,  
planted more deeply than all that is wrong.**

**One:** With all creation,

**Many:** **We celebrate the miracle and wonder of life,  
the unfolding purposes of God, forever at work in ourselves and the world.**

## \*IMPOSITION OF ASHES

## \*HYMN OF RESPONSE: NO. 186 "DUST AND ASHES TOUCH OUR FACE"

## \*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Trent Williams

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/LIGHTING OF CANDLES

Dan De Leon

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Dan De Leon

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.

\*BENEDICTION

Brooke Dooley

(DEPART IN SILENCE)

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Instrumental Music:

Prelude:           What Wondrous Love Is This - American Folk Hymn, Music from William  
Walker's *Southern Harmony*

# 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