



Friends Church

An Open & Affirming Congregation



"The Flame Going to Nazareth"
Frank Wesley

January 1, 2023

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: The volunteers helping with today's worship services are David Manuel (lay leader); Holly Scott (communion steward); Doris Machiniski (greeter)

Worship service volunteers for next Sunday, January 8, are Kathy Yeager and Holly Scott (lay leader); Eli Vasquez (greeter).

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.

First Sunday after Christmas Day

Christmas is not just a day; it is a season! Christmas Day is the festival commemorating the birth of the Christ Child, observed primarily on December 25 among billions of people around the world. The 12 days that follow are known as the Christmas season or Christmastide.

SCRIPTURE FOR MEDITATION: Isaiah 63:7-9, CEB

I will recount the Lord's faithful acts; I will sing the Lord's praises, because of all the Lord did for us, for God's great favor toward the house of Israel. God treated them compassionately and with deep affection. God said, "Truly, they are my people, children who won't do what is wrong." God became their savior. During all their distress, God also was distressed, so a messenger who served him saved them. In love and mercy God redeemed them, lifting and carrying them throughout earlier times.

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

WORDS OF WELCOME

Trent Williams

PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

David Manuel

One: Rejoice, for God has sent a Savior

All: to bind up the broken hearted,

One: to proclaim liberty to the captives,

All: to grant a garland to those who mourn instead of ashes.

One: The mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

All: Arise! Shine! For our light has come. We will rejoice and be glad!

*OPENING HYMN: Glory to God #134 - Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their songs
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na -

her king; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
 em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow
 tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness

and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
 and heaven and na - ture sing,

and
 sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.
 heaven and na - ture sing,

*INVOCATION

David Manuel

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 for the children's message. All are invited to sing the first verse of "Away in a Manger" (NCH #124) to begin the children's message

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Brooke Dooley

One: The peace of Christ be with you all.

Many: And also with you!

HYMN OF RESPONSE: NCH #124 Away in a Manger (v. 2 & 3)

F B \flat F

1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed, the
2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the poor ba - by wakes, but
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay close

C7 F

lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head. The
lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I
by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless

F B \flat F

stars in the sky looked down where he lay, the
love you, Lord Je - sus; pro - tect me, I pray, and
all the dear chil - dren in your ten - der care, and

C7 F B \flat C7 F

lit - tle Lord Je - sus, a - sleep on the hay.
stay by my side un - til night turns to day.
fit us for heav - en to live with you there.

It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying,

‘I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.’ And again, ‘I will put my trust in him.’ And again, ‘Here am I and the children whom God has given me.’

Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

SPECIAL MUSIC: O Come, Little Children - Traditional Carol (Wolfgang and Noah Verdegaal, violin)

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.”

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: “A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.”

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.” Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, “He will be called a Nazorean.”

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

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

THE MESSAGE

Dan De Leon

MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

INVITATION TO SHARE

David Manuel

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

Trent Williams

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Brooke Dooley, Trent Williams

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 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & INVITATION TO JOIN FRIENDS CHURCH Trent Williams

*CLOSING HYMN: NCH #154 Go Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain

Go tell it on the moun - tain, o - ver the hill and ev - ery - where.

Go tell it on the moun - tain, that Je - sus Christ is born!

Last time, end

1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when lo! a - bove the earth
3 Down in a low - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born,

Be - hold through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
Rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
And God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ-mas morn.

to Refrain

POSTLUDE

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Instrumental Music:

Prelude: Sonata 1 by J. S. Bach by Wolfgang Verdegaal, violin

Offertory: Let There Be Peace on Earth - Sy Miller and Jill Jackson, arranged by Dan Coates

Communion: Nocturne in B Major, Op. 32, No. 1 - Frédéric Chopin (Ruthie De Leon, piano)

Postlude: Angels From the Realms of Glory - Henry T. Smart, arranged by Victor Labenske

Scriptures for January 08, 2023:

GETTING CONNECTED AT FRIENDS

NEW MEMBER SUNDAY: January 29 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).

HOLIDAY BREAK: Sunday school for children and youth will take a break for the holidays. We won't meet from December 18th-January 1st, and classes will resume on January 8th. Merry Christmas, and we're looking forward to the new Sunday school year!

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.

JANUARY THEOLOGY ON TAP: The first Theology on Tap (T.o.T.) 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. We call it “Theology on Tap” because the 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. So, let’s support local business and gather for Friends Church’s next T.o.T., 1/19, at 6pm. Cheers and amen!

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, 2023, the Lincoln Center offers an informal study of Dr. King’s 1963 book, Strength to Love, 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.

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*)
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