

FRIENDS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

An Open & Affirming Congregation



Moyers, Mike. *The Days Are Surely Coming*. 2012.

"An abstract depicting Advent prophecy fulfillment and promises kept. The ring with the blue pattern also alludes to a robe and crown for the coming Messiah."

Palm Sunday
March 28, 2021
11:00am
Online

WELCOME

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.

Palm/Passion Sunday

This Sunday begins Holy Week and our journey to the cross and beyond, to the new life of resurrection

Words in **BOLD** are yours to speak out loud

Quotes for Meditation:

“If we want to dialogue with the Scriptures, we must expose ourselves to the political, social, economic, cultural, and religious situations of the ancient world where the writings were born and where the people did not necessarily enjoy peace and justice.” — Hisako Kinukawa

“Remember finally, that the ashes that were on your forehead are created from the burnt palms of last Palm Sunday. New beginnings invariably come from old false things that are allowed to die.” — Richard Rohr

“No pain, no palm; no thorns, no throne; no gall, no glory; no cross, no crown.” — William Penn

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

WELCOME TO ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICE

Dan De Leon

PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

CALL TO WORSHIP

Maribel, Felipe, Alejandro, Ariana Hinojosa

*One: The nearness of God is an intimate encounter,
palpable and mysterious:*

**Many: Like hope, buzzing through a community.
Like tension, calling evil into question.
Like comfort, shared among the weeping.**

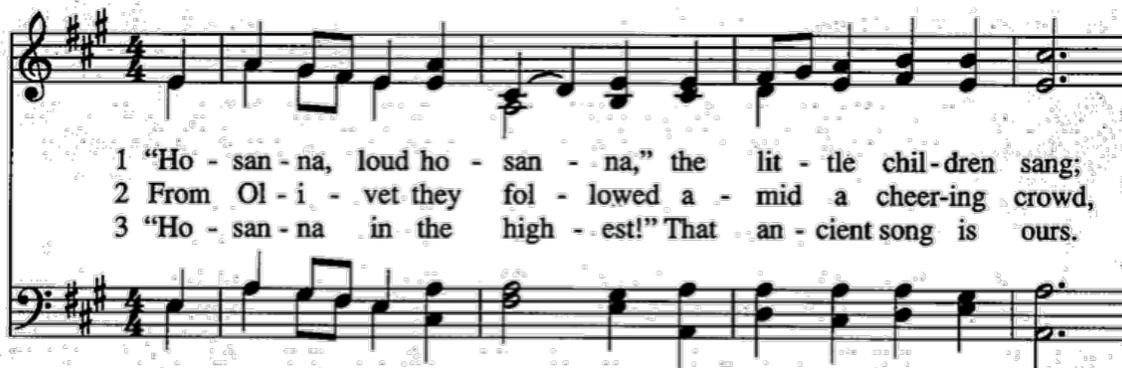
One: The nearness of God is a collective reality, material and spiritual:

**Many: Like community that harbors and holds.
Like resources shared and redistributed.
Like proclamations that move and inspire toward justice.**

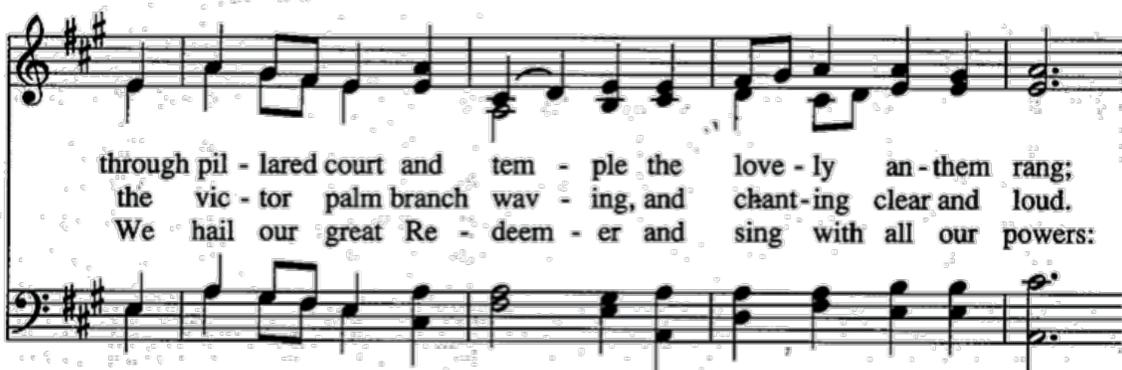
One: When God comes close, let the people be glad.

Many: Blessed are those who perceive and rejoice!

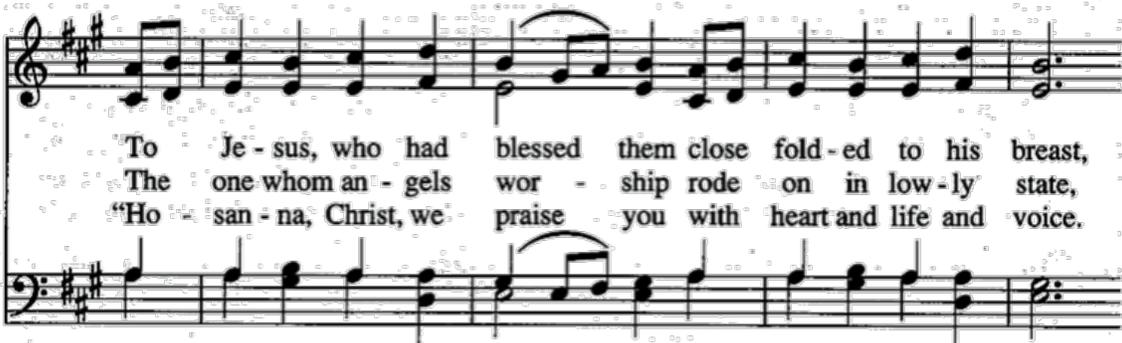
OPENING HYMN — "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna" - Tune: Ellacombe



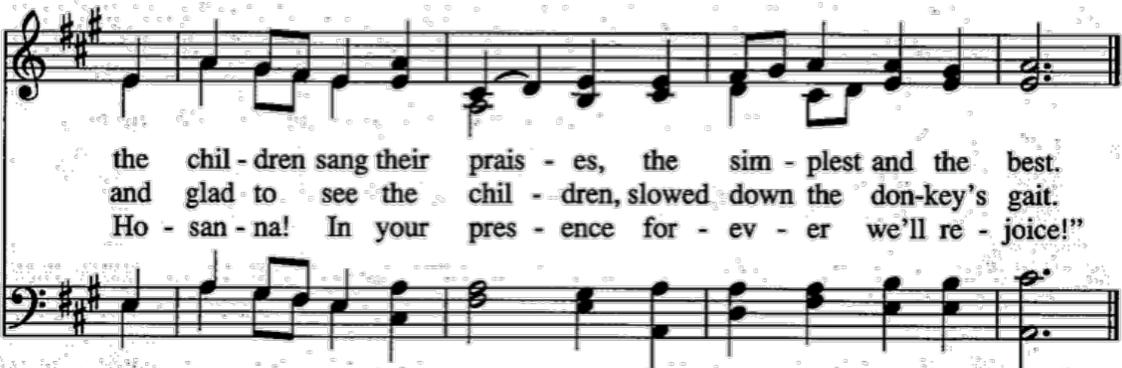
1 "Ho - san - na, loud ho - san - na," the lit - tle chil - dren sang;
2 From Ol - i - vet they fol - lowed a - mid a cheer - ing crowd,
3 "Ho - san - na in the high - est!" That an - cient song is ours.



through pil - lared court and tem - ple the love - ly an - them rang;
the vic - tor palm branch wav - ing, and chant - ing clear and loud.
We hail our great Re - deem - er and sing with all our powers:



To Je - sus, who had blessed them close fold - ed to his breast,
The one whom an - gels wor - ship rode on in low - ly state,
"Ho - san - na, Christ, we praise you with heart and life and voice.



the chil - dren sang their prais - es, the sim - plest and the best.
and glad to see the chil - dren, slowed down the don - key's gait.
Ho - san - na! In your pres - ence for - ev - er we'll re - joice!"

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Kenny Wiley

"This Little Light of Mine"

**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!)**

MISSION MOMENT

"One Great Hour of Sharing Video: More Than We Can Imagine"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Dan De Leon

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Dan De Leon

One: The Peace of Christ be with you all.

Many: And also with you!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVITATION TO SHARE

Maribel, Felipe, Alejandro, Ariana Hinojosa

Information will appear on the screen for how to text your offering or give online.

OFFERTORY

Secure online giving via Church Office Giving at bit.ly/givetofriends

GivePlus Text to 833-421-0009

Venmo to 979-446-5746 or @friendsucc

**DOXOLOGY No. 780

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God all creatures here below,
Praise God the source of all our gifts,
Praise Jesus Christ whose power uplifts. Amen.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*unison*)

Trent Williams

Liberating One, in your company, we feel the nearness of salvation. Ready us to see it through. Make us faithful before thrones and crosses and all common temptations. Give us courage and free our imagination. That the Kin-dom may come and your will be done. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*unison*), a version paraphrased by Sarah Dylan Breuer

Dan De Leon

Loving Creator we honor you, and we honor all that you have made. Renew the whole world in the image of your love. Give us what we need for today, and a hunger to see the whole world fed. Strengthen us for what lies ahead; heal us from the hurts of the past; give us courage to follow your call in this moment. For your love is the only power, the only home, the only honor we need, in this world and in the world to come. Amen.

Deuteronomy 16:1-3(CEB) and Psalm 103:15-18 (CEB)

Deuteronomy 16:1-3 (CEB)

Wait for the month of Abib, at which time you must perform the Passover for the Lord your God, because the Lord your God brought you out of Egypt at nighttime during the month of Abib. Offer a Passover sacrifice from the flock or herd to the Lord your God at the location the Lord selects for his name to reside. You must not eat anything containing yeast along with it. Instead, for seven days you must eat unleavened bread, bread symbolizing misery, along with it because you fled Egypt in a great hurry. Do this so you remember the day you fled Egypt for as long as you live.

Psalm 103:15-18 (CEB)

The days of a human life are like grass:

they bloom like a wildflower;

but when the wind blows through it, it's gone;

even the ground where it stood doesn't remember it.

But the Lord's faithful love is from forever ago to forever from now

for those who honor him.

And God's righteousness reaches to the grandchildren

of those who keep his covenant

and remember to keep his commands.

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

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

A MESSAGE

Lanette Schulte

CHORAL ANTHEM — When I Survey the Wondrous Cross - Music by Lowell Mason, arr. by Gilbert M. Martin

GOSPEL READING John 16:16-33 (NIV)

Dan De Leon

Jesus went on to say, "In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me."

At this, some of his disciples said to one another, "What does he mean by saying, 'In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me,' and 'Because I am going to the Father'?" They kept asking, "What does he mean by 'a little while'? We don't understand what he is saying."

Jesus saw that they wanted to ask him about this, so he said to them, "Are you asking one another what I meant when I said, 'In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me'? Very truly I tell you, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy. A woman giving birth to a child has pain because her time has come; but when her baby is born she forgets the anguish because of her joy that a child is born into the world. So with you: Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy. In that day you will no longer ask me anything. Very truly I tell you, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.

"Though I have been speaking figuratively, a time is coming when I will no longer use this kind of language but will tell you plainly about my Father. In that day you will ask in my name. I am not saying that I will ask the Father on your behalf. No, the Father himself loves you because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. I came from the Father and entered the world; now I am leaving the world and going back to the Father."

Then Jesus' disciples said, "Now you are speaking clearly and without figures of speech. Now we can see that you know all things and that you do not even need to have anyone ask you questions. This makes us believe that you came from God."

"Do you now believe?" Jesus replied. "A time is coming and in fact has come when you will be scattered, each to your own home. You will leave me all alone. Yet I am not alone, for my Father is with me.

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

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

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

A MESSAGE

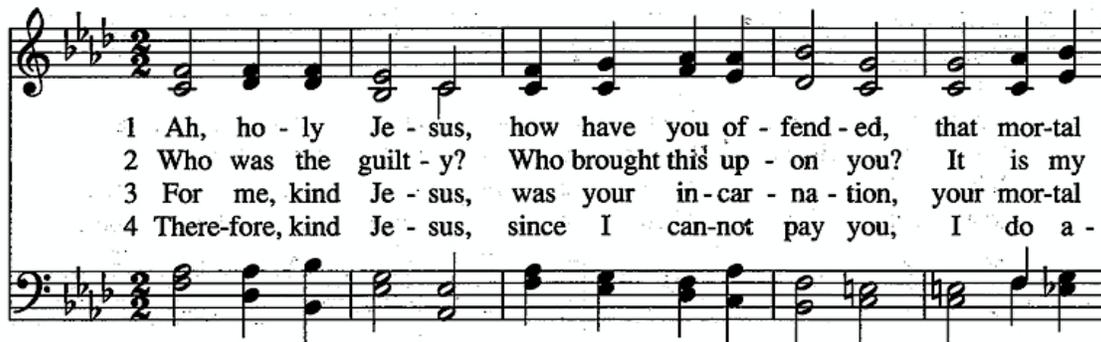
Charity Stokes

MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

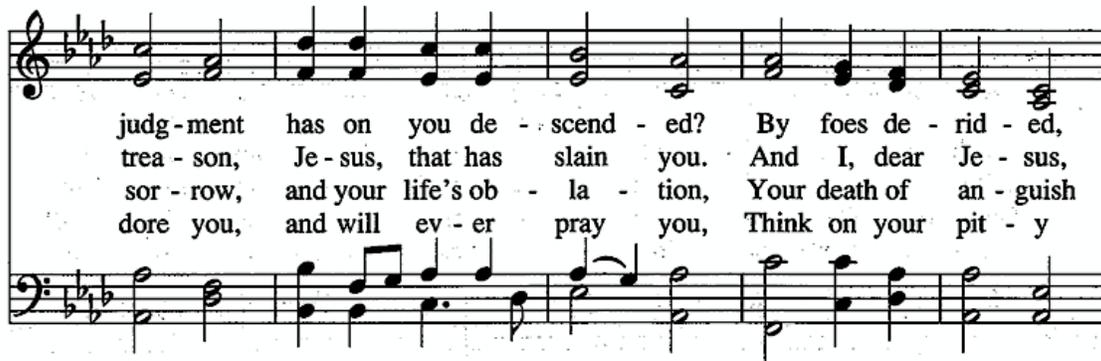
INVITATION TO MEMBERSHIP AT FRIENDS CHURCH

Trent Williams

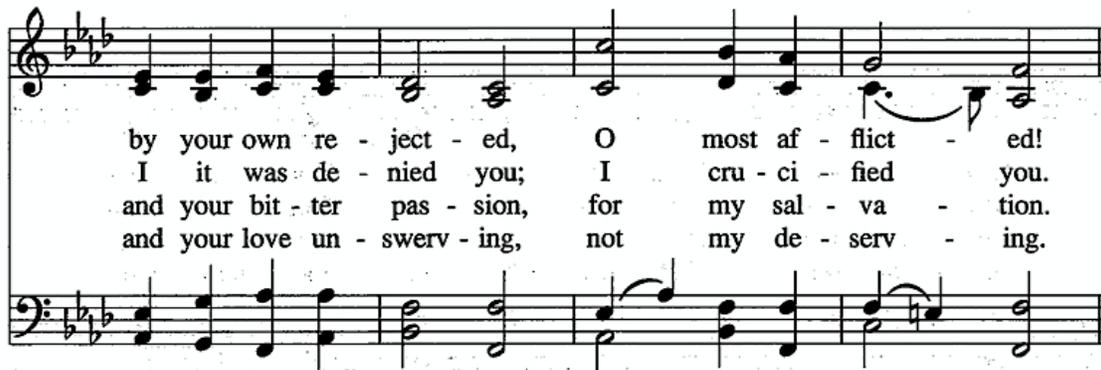
CLOSING HYMN — "Ah, Holy Jesus" - Tune: Herzliebster Jesu



1 Ah, ho - ly Je - sus, how have you of - fend - ed, that mor-tal
2 Who was the guilt - y? Who brought this up - on you? It is my
3 For me, kind Je - sus, was your in - car - na - tion, your mor-tal
4 There-fore, kind Je - sus, since I can-not pay you, I do a -



judg-ment has on you de - scend - ed? By foes de - rid - ed,
trea - son, Je - sus, that has slain you. And I, dear Je - sus,
sor - row, and your life's ob - la - tion, Your death of an - guish
dore you, and will ev - er pray you, Think on your pit - y



by your own re - ject - ed, O most af - flict - ed!
I it was de - nied you; I cru - ci - fied you.
and your bit - ter pas - sion, for my sal - va - tion.
and your love un - swerv - ing, not my de - serv - ing.

BENEDICTION

Trent Williams

POSTLUDE

Hymns reprinted with permission — OneLicense #A-730489, CCLI #20046014

Instrumental Music:

Prelude: "Hosanna" by Victor Labenske

Offertory: "You Are My All in All" by Marilyn Ham

Postlude: "I Saw the Cross of Jesus" by Don Phillips

Scriptures for April 7, 2021: April 4: Isaiah 52:1-2; Acts 13:26-31; Mark 16:9-20

FIRST TIME AT FRIENDS? If you are visiting us today, please let us know. 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.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING, last opportunity!: One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is one of four special mission offerings of the United Church of Christ. This Lenten offering supports the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the United Church of Christ within Wider Church Ministries. This year, we will receive the OGHS mission offering on three Sundays: March 14, 21, and 28. You can give to OGHS any time by mailing your check to Friends Congregational Church with OGHS in the memo line to the church at 2200 Southwood Drive, College Station, TX 77845, or by giving online [here](#) and selecting Special Offerings from the FUND dropdown menu, and One Great Hour of Sharing from the SUB FUND dropdown menu.

CANCELLATIONS FOR THIS WEEK: Holy Week brings cancellations, but also awesome opportunities. The Wednesday evening service will not be offered. Instead, join us the next night, April 1, at 7:30pm for the virtual Maundy Thursday service. Also, the Noonday Check-in and Prayer Time will be offered on Monday only, not on Good Friday. Instead, join us in-person at Friends Church at noon on Good Friday, April 2, for a brief outdoor service (weather-permitting), followed by a walk-through of Mary Button's "Pandemic Hope" Stations of the Cross in the sanctuary, available to view until 3pm; AND catch the **virtual Good Friday Cantata at 7:30pm**, offered by our chancel choir and musicians, and conducted (and edited) by Director of Music Ministries Chris Hoffman.

VIRTUAL MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE, 7:30pm, Thursday, April 1: *Mandatum novum do vobis:* A new command I give you...that you love one another as I have loved you. It is from this command from Jesus to his disciples that Maundy Thursday is derived. On Thursday, April 1, Friends Church observes Maundy Thursday virtually with a special service at 7:30pm. United online despite physical isolation, we will remember the story of Jesus' final night with his disciples by observing the sacrament of Holy Communion and the ritualistic act of foot-washing (or hand-washing). The service will remember the Passover and Christ's last night with his disciples through Scripture readings that tell the story, offerings of music, and prayer. At the conclusion of the service, to commemorate Jesus' betrayal the sanctuary will be stripped.

GOOD FRIDAY STATIONS OF THE CROSS OUTDOOR SERVICE, 12pm Friday, April 2: Please join us in-person at Friends Church at noon on Good Friday, April 2, for a brief outdoor service (weather-permitting), followed by a walk-through of Mary Button's "Pandemic Hope" Stations of the Cross in the sanctuary, available to view until 3pm

GOOD FRIDAY CANTATA, 7:30pm Friday, April 2: Please join us online for this year's Good Friday Cantata. On April 2, 7:30 pm, the Friends Choir will be performing Hal Hopson's "Tenebrae: A Service of Darkness." The usual individual video screens of each singer singing from their home will be combined to create the virtual choir that you have heard this past year, and will be joined by organ, oboe, percussion, and readings from members of our church family. We hope you will join us.

OUTDOOR EASTER SERVICES, 9am & 11am, Sunday, April 4: On Easter Sunday, April 4, Friends Church offers two services at 9am and 11am. We are keeping an eye on the weather and hoping the rain will hold off for us to enjoy in-person services in front of the church building. Following the 11am service, there will be an egg hunt for children. Physical distancing and masks are required. Note: While our Easter celebration will be streamed live to bring our online congregation into fellowship with us, a pre-recorded Easter service will not be offered. Spread the word, bring your loved ones, and celebrate the Day of Resurrection at Friends Church or online Easter Sunday morning.

HOLY WEEK & EASTER KITS: On March 27th, Friends Church volunteers delivered Holy Week & Easter kits to each local household in our church family. If you did not receive your kit, please let us know: worship@friends-ucc.org. In addition to a palm branch to wave in celebration of Palm Sunday today, your kit includes coloring pages and crafts to assemble for Holy Week; a copy of the third installment of Friends Church's new quarterly, "The Epistle;" a homemade bookmark; a purple votive candle holder and palm branch cross to make your own at-home worship space; a booklet of devotionals for each day in Holy Week; communion kits; and some fun recipes for an Easter brunch. These special kits are for our church family to be united wherever we are in our observance of Holy Week and our celebration of Easter Sunday.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION , 3pm Thursday, April 1 this week: The Food Bank is closed on Good Friday, April 2, the food distribution is changed to Thursday, April 1.

Friends Church and our neighbor church Peace Lutheran are working together to feed hungry folks from our community. Share an hour or more of your time between 3:00 and 6:30 pm. Let Anne Wehrly know when you would like to volunteer by emailing awehrly@suddenlink.net. Come to the Peace Lutheran parking lot where the distribution is happening. Wear your mask and prepare to make a tangible difference in the lives of those we are serving. Hope to see you there!

OUTDOOR WORSHIP SERVICES AT FRIENDS CHURCH: If the Friends Church Decision Meter remains on "orange" Moving forward, we hope to have outdoor services on the first and third Sundays of the month, including next Easter Sunday, April 4!

FRIENDS BOOK CLUB, Thursday, April 29, 6:30pm: The next Friends Book Club is *Thursday, April 29, at 6:30pm* by Zoom. Rev. Ron Petty will lead us in discussing the book, *Rabbi Jesus*, by Bruce Chilton. Please join us for a fun and informative discussion.

FRIENDS COVID DECISION METER, ORANGE: With a consistent trajectory of lower positivity rates, less hospitalizations, etc. locally, the church's Decision Meter, which determines our safety measures and protocols related to the pandemic, has gone down to orange, which allows for us to have group gatherings onsite outdoors at Friends Church. We plan to have an outdoor worship service on March 7 at 9am. Here's hoping we stay on orange and the weather is awesome on March 7. Click [here](#) for more information on how orange and the other color levels affect personal safety protocols, drop-in visitors, staff, etc.

UCC SOUTH CENTRAL CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Journey Through Lent With the Coalition!: Many of us are wondering how we can observe Lent this year: many of feel that Lent 2020 never ended, and after a year of restrictions and sacrifice we've had enough of "giving up." But Lent is also about giving to: works of love are an ancient spiritual practice during Lent. And so is prayer.

Every weekday morning during Lent and Easter the ONA family will continue to offer a contemplative service of Taizé Morning Prayer at 9 and 11 am (EST) in the Coalition's Zoom Chapel—Monday through Friday. We'll also gather at 10 pm (EST) Sunday for Compline—an ancient experience of prayer, silence and song at the close of day. Each service is about 20 minutes and draws from ancient Christian practices of daily prayer, although in inclusive, non-binary language. Morning Prayer and Compline are sometimes posted on Facebook, but you can always join us on [Zoom](#) at zoom.us/j/5556624822.

SOUL FRIENDS SMALL GROUPS: In this new year, we are excited to launch a new semester of Soul Friends small groups. We have several options for deepening connection and spiritual growth in 2021, and we hope you'll take advantage of them. Sign-ups are available [here](https://bit.ly/3pBVFmQ) (<https://bit.ly/3pBVFmQ>) for our ongoing small groups, and we will also be offering occasional opportunities for gathering via a monthly book club, contemplative prayer times, and a special Lenten study that is upcoming. Contact Pastor Trent or Jodie Robinson, Spiritual Life chair, with any questions.

COMMUNICATIONS TEAM SEEKS PART-TIME VOLUNTEERS: Friends Church is growing and so is our need to communicate more sophisticated messages on social media, YouTube, and our website. We are looking for people to help with videography/photography to document events and create content for social media, help with creating and editing an announcement reel for the pastoral team, people to schedule events on Facebook and schedule content to social media, and video archivists to edit portions of the online service and make them available to other churches and viewers. Email Anna at evangelism@friends-ucc.org for more information.

SOCIAL JUSTICE CLASS, 10:00AM SUNDAY: The Social Justice Class at Friends Church has concluded its special study and will resume meeting at the regular time of 10am. For more information, please contact Jackie (jackiejowomack@gmail.com).

MORNING MANNA 10AM SUNDAY: Join us for our adult Bible study on Sunday morning at 10:00am on Zoom, Please follow the link, below. We will gather to reconnect, check in with each other, and bring ideas for what we'll study over the coming weeks. All are welcome. If you have any questions, contact Pastor Trent. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82444908275?pwd=VUxnK0tYV2EzRzJhYkkveFo3NFFDdz09>.

ONLINE GATHERING INFORMATION: We will be offering Noonday Check-In & Prayer Times on Monday and Friday, and on Wednesday evening, we will offer a Prayer & Communion Service at 6:30pm. And, as always, the Sunday morning service can be accessed on Facebook live (Friends Congregational Church – UCC) or through the website's streaming service: <https://www.friends-ucc.org/watch-live> or on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxFF8YZUJhOxEodyuN4E2rA>. Mark your calendar, we'll see you online.

TUTORIAL FOR USING ZOOM: Zoom is new for many of us, and we might be having a difficult time getting started using it. Here is a helpful YouTube tutorial to walk you through using Zoom: <https://youtu.be/9isp3qPeQ0E>. Please share this tutorial with anyone having difficulty joining us for our online gatherings.

CHURCH DIRECTORY ONLINE (ChMS): Need a Friends Church online directory? Download the free Church Office Online app and contact the Church office for the domain name and password. It's an easy way to have quick access to the names and contact info for Friends Church people, as well as birthdays and anniversaries! Don't see your info in the online directory? Give us your updated information: office@friends-ucc.org.

FRIENDS CHURCH CARES FUND (FCCF): Friends Church recently received a donation of \$10,000 for the purpose of helping those suffering financial hardships resulting from COVID-19 measures. Friends Church members needing financial assistance are encouraged to request one-time assistance for up to \$1,500 from the FCCF. The FCCF request form can be found on the church's website (www.friends-ucc.org) or by contacting Church Council Vice Moderator Cathy Hansen at vice-moderator@friends-ucc.org. Requests are kept in discretion between the requester and the Vice Moderator, Treasurer, and Senior Pastor.

FRIENDS CHURCH CRISIS FUND: While the FCCF is set aside exclusively to assist with COVID-19-related hardships, the Crisis Fund, established several years ago, is designated to help Friends Church members in financial need for any reason. Should the FCCF run out, our congregation has this fund to further help one another. To contribute to the Crisis Fund, contact Treasurer Theresa Walker at treasurer@friends-ucc.org. To request Crisis Fund assistance, contact the pastors at pastor@friends-ucc.org or pastortrent@friends-ucc.org. Requests remain confidential between the requester and members of Church Council.

STAY CONNECTED WITH WHAT'S HAPPENING AT FRIENDS!: Subscribe to This Week at Friends published every Friday to your email address, and the E-Connection Newsletter published monthly to your email address. You can sign up on our website: www.friends-ucc.org or email the church office: office@friends-ucc.org. Please add e-connection@friends-ucc.org and office@friends-ucc.org to you email address book to ensure delivery.

UPDATE CONTACT INFORMATION: If you are not currently receiving Church email correspondence, and would like to, please send a message to the Church office with your name and email address: office@friends-ucc.org, and add e-connection@friends-ucc.org and office@friends-ucc.org to you email address book to ensure delivery.

FRIENDS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Our Vision:

Rooted in the way of Christ, we strive to be a community of God's radical inclusion and extravagant welcome.

Our Mission:

United by the example of Jesus, we live faithfully, love limitlessly, and serve boldly.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Online at 11:00am

FRIENDS CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Dr. Dan De Leon, *Senior Pastor*
pastor@friends-ucc.org

The Rev. Trent Williams, *Associate Pastor*
pastortrent@friends-ucc.org

Chris Hoffman, *Director of Music Ministries*
choir@friends-ucc.org

Kathy Robbins, *Pianist*
pianist@friends-ucc.org

Kate Rabe, *Administrative Assistant*
office@friends-ucc.org

2200 Southwood Drive
College Station, Texas 77845
979-693-7021

Office Hours: 9:00am—1:00pm, M—F
office@friends-ucc.org
www.friends-ucc.org

