

FRIENDS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
November 12, 2023
9:00am



*An Open & Affirming
Congregation*

PSALM FOR MEDITATION: Psalm 70, NRSV

Be pleased, O God, to deliver me. O Lord, make haste to help me!
Let those be put to shame and confusion who seek my life. Let those be turned back and brought to dishonor who desire to hurt me.
Let those who say, “Aha, Aha!” turn back because of their shame.
Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you. Let those who love your salvation say evermore, “God is great!”
But I am poor and needy; hasten to me, O God! You are my help and my deliverer; O Lord, do not delay!

QUOTE FOR MEDITATION:

“Wouldn’t it transform our relationships, our churches, our families, our nation, the world if we could see the potential in each person as a gift of God who has a role in the unfolding of God’s promises and plan in our midst?”

-Rev. Kate Huey

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

WORDS OF WELCOME

Brooke Dooley

PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Anne Nichols

One: We know not the day or the hour,

All: We know Christ is at work in our world and in us.

One: We know not when our own time will come,

All: We know Christ is at work in our world and in us.

One: The prophets have taught us to do justice,
practice kindness, and walk humbly with God,

All: We know Christ is at work in our world and in us.

One: Wisdom continues to teach us to listen, and learn, and live,

All: We know Christ is at work in our world and in us.

One: We join together to praise and worship our God,

All: For Christ is at work in our world and in us.

*OPENING SONG from Taizé - Come and Fill

♩ = 66 D Bm D A

Con - fi - te - mi - ni Do - mi - no quo - ni - am bo - nus.
Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a - lone, O Lord, are ho - ly.

The first system of the musical score is for the vocal line. It features a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 3/4 time signature. The tempo is marked as ♩ = 66. The music is divided into four measures, each with a chord symbol above it: D, Bm, D, and A. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words underlined. The notes are mostly quarter notes and eighth notes, with some beamed eighth notes. There are some ties and slurs over the notes.

Em C Em A D

Con - fi - te - mi - ni Do - mi - no, al - le - lu - ia!
Come and fill our hearts with your peace, al - le - lu - ia!

The second system of the musical score continues the vocal line. It features a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 3/4 time signature. The music is divided into five measures, each with a chord symbol above it: Em, C, Em, A, and D. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words underlined. The notes are mostly quarter notes and eighth notes, with some beamed eighth notes. There are some ties and slurs over the notes.

***INVOCATION**

Anne Nichols

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Brooke Dooley

One: The peace of Christ be with you all.

Many: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Brooke Dooley

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Sue Ambrus

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 NCH #524 "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.**

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 25:1-13, NRSV

Dan De Leon

"Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

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

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

THE MESSAGE

“Do You See What I See?”

Dan De Leon

SILENT REFLECTION & MEDITATION

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LIGHTING OF CANDLES FOR INTERCESSIONS

Brooke Dooley

INVITATION TO SHARE

Anne Nichols

OFFERTORY

Secure online giving via Church Office Giving at bit.ly/givetofriends
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 & THE LORD’S PRAYER**

Brooke Dooley

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 #25** O God, Our Help in Ages Past

Tune: St. Anne

***BENEDICTION**

Dan De Leon

POSTLUDE

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Instrumental Music:

- Prelude: I Need Thee Every Hour - Robert Lowry, arranged by Janet Vogt
Offertory: Fantasy on “Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior” - William H. Doane, arranged by
Gilbert M. Martin
Postlude: O God, Our Help in Ages Past - Attributed to William Croft, arranged by Lloyd Larson

GETTING CONNECTED AT FRIENDS

GET CONNECTED! On Fridays we email out a newsletter called “This Week at Friends” that shares important information and all of the activities and events going on at Friends. Subscribe by contacting office@friends-ucc.org.

COFFEE & KITCHEN HELP NEEDED: Volunteers are needed to prepare coffee before and to clean up the kitchen after Sunday services. A signup sheet is on the counter in the kitchen along with a description of duties. For more information contact fellowship@friends-ucc.org.

TRANSPORTATION HELP: We are putting together a Transportation Team to help church members who need assistance getting to church on Sunday. With enough help, this will be a once/quarter commitment. To join the team, send an email to Nurture@friends-ucc.org.

FELLOWSHIP VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES: The Fellowship Committee is seeking volunteers. Folks can choose a variety of ways to participate: help plan Fellowship events, volunteer day of events to set-up, serve, and clean-up, and to prepare/contribute food items. Sign up for one or multiple roles. Jan Paterson will be available in the narthex November 5 following 11 am worship to answer questions and sign-up volunteers for upcoming events (Friendsgiving Dinner, Christmas Cantata reception, and refreshments for Advent decorating workday). Volunteers can also contact fellowship@friends-ucc.org to volunteer.

CROCKETT ELEMENTARY BOOK FAIR: Last year we had a free Book Fair at Crockett Elementary School in Bryan, a school Friends Church is partners with. Each child received three books to keep. Even the teachers were able to pick two books for themselves. We are doing it again this spring, so it's time to collect books! You can donate books by placing them in the box outside the office, or you can donate gift cards or money, and we will buy books with your donations. If you have questions, please contact Jodie Robinson (jocelinbrune@gmail.com) or Pam Engler (pen-glertx@gmail.com). Thank you!

THEOLOGY ON TAP, 11/16: At 6pm on November 16th, Theology on Tap (T.o.T.) is held at KinderHill Brew Lab, 800 S. Bryan Ave. T.o.T.'s informal discussions bring our lives more in tune with God's will and way as we get to know each other better beyond church walls. 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. Non-alcoholic beverages are available, and minors are welcome, as are four-leggeds. Cheers, and amen!

FRIENDSGIVING 2023: Our Annual Friendsgiving Dinner will be held on Sunday, November 19 in the church sanctuary beginning with worship at 5:30 p.m. This year's dinner is a potluck and we need folks to sign up to bring turkey, ham, and all the side dishes. Please sign up using the sheets located on the serving buffets in the sanctuary starting November 5. There is also a need for volunteers to assist with clean-up following the dinner.

COMMUNITY GARDEN PLANNING INFORMATIONAL TODAY: We are putting together a team to discuss plans for a community garden on the Friends property. Whether you have experience with gardening, from raised bed to rain barrels, or have always wanted to learn, we'd love for you to join us in the double classroom today, after the 11am service for an informal gathering where we can share questions and ideas for this exciting ministry!

TRANS DAY OF REMEMBRANCE VIGIL: Pride Community Center invites all to remember the lives of those lost to anti-transgender violence and hate from this past year. The Transgender Day of Remembrance vigil will be held on November 20th, 2023 at Sue Haswell park, pavilion A at 6pm. Name readers and other volunteers are welcome. Sign up at <https://www.volunteersignup.org/KAJXL>

NEIGHBORS IN NEED RECAP: Thank you to all who contributed last month to the Neighbors in Need mission offering. We raised over \$625 which will go to supporting the Council for American Indian Ministry (caimucc.com) and projects focusing on environmental justice. Be on the lookout in December for The Christmas Fund, another opportunity to support the global ministry of the United Church of Christ.

GREETERS & COMMUNION STEWARDS NEEDED: Several of our regular volunteers for greeting and for setting up and serving communion in the 9am worship services are not available this scheduling cycle. If you can help with a 9am Sunday service or two in their absence, please contact Worship Committee Chair Ryan Womack: worship@friends-ucc.org.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED: Are you feeling called to teach our children or youth? We need one substitute teacher for Grades 3-5, two teachers for Grades 6-8, and one teacher for Grades 9-12. Right now, we have classes with at least one teacher for Grades K-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12 at 10am at Friends Church. We hope to start a class for our Pre K children, but we need volunteers to make this happen. One of our current Sunday School teachers would like to start the PreK class, but needs someone(s) to replace them in their current role. Contact Pastor Dan for more information: pastor@friends-ucc.org.

HELP OUR NEIGHBORS: In this season of Thanksgiving, please consider coming for an hour or more on Friday afternoon to Peace Lutheran Church parking lot any time between 2:30 and 6:00. We will be sorting and distributing produce and other food provided by the Brazos Valley Food Bank. Contact Anne Wehrly with questions awehrly@suddenlink.net or just show up and join our team and make some new friends.

FRIENDS CHURCH PODCAST: “Friends Congregational Church Sermons” has launched! Our weekly podcast featuring the messages from Sunday worship services is introduced by Friends Church members giving a brief testimony of what Friends Church means to them. To volunteer to introduce an episode, contact A/V Tech Jeremy Dudo at av@friends-ucc.org. Look for it on Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, Spotify, Amazon Music/Audible, iHeartRadio, PlayerFM, Listen Notes, Samsung, Podchaser, or Boomplay; and spread the word!

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT - DEC. 10: It's official! With 24 families participating in our poll for the most inclusive date, it has been determined that this year's children- & youth-led Christmas pageant will be on Dec. 10, the Second Sunday of Advent, in the 11am worship service. Parents, stay tuned for information on casting, scripts, and rehearsals.

Friends Church Staff

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