

FRIENDS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost
October 29, 2023
9:00am



*An Open & Affirming
Congregation*

QUOTE FOR MEDITATION:

Our emphasis on knowledge and belief over the past few hundred years has deceived us into thinking that true thoughts is what matters in the Christian faith. This couldn't be further from how the Bible talks about faith and, frankly, how it talks about truth. There are almost no places in the Bible where it endorses a view of truth as "believing the right doctrine."

-Jared Byas, Love Matters More: How Fighting to be Right Keeps Us from Loving Like Jesus

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

WORDS OF WELCOME

Brooke Dooley

PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Kathy Yeager

One: In mystery and material, God takes shape among us.

**All: In flesh that hungers, aches, and longs
in lands and people, tears and rage.**

One: God is not a distant concept, abstracted from our lives.

All: God is close, intimate, as present as our breath.

One: And yet, this Holy Mystery resists our rational constraints.

All: God is the questions with which we wrestle.

One: They are the strange and unexplainable.

All: God is an invitation toward the unknown.

Let Divine Imagination come and birth new paradigms of life.

***OPENING HYMN NO. 498** Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

Tune: Chereponi
(Verses 1-3, and 5)

***INVOCATION**

Kathy Yeager

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Kyle Riley

One: The peace of Christ be with you all.

Many: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Kyle Riley

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. 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 22:34-46, CEB

Nikki Stahl

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had left the Sadducees speechless, they met together. One of them, a legal expert, tested him. “Teacher, what is the greatest commandment in the Law?”

He replied, “You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: You must love your neighbor as you love yourself. All the Law and the Prophets depend on these two commands.”

Now as the Pharisees were gathering, Jesus asked them, “What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is he?”

“David’s son,” they replied.

He said, “Then how is it that David, inspired by the Holy Spirit, called him Lord when he said, The Lord said to my lord, ‘Sit at my right side until I turn your enemies into your footstool’? If David calls him Lord, how can he be David’s son?” Nobody was able to answer him. And from that day forward nobody dared to ask him anything.

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

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

THE MESSAGE

“Love Matters More”

Nikki Stahl

SILENT REFLECTION & MEDITATION

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LIGHTING CANDLES FOR INTERCESSIONS

Kyle Riley

INVITATION TO SHARE

Kathy Yeager

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & INVITATION TO JOIN FRIENDS CHURCH

Brooke Dooley, Kyle Riley

***CLOSING HYMN No. 499** Pues si vivimos (In All Our Living) Tune: Pues si vivimos
(Verses 1-2 in English)

***BENEDICTION**

Nikki Stahl

POSTLUDE

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Instrumental Music:

Prelude: He Leadeth Me - William B. Bradbury, arranged by Randall Hartsell

Offertory: Great Are You Lord - Jason Ingram, David Leonard, and Leslie Jordan;
 arranged by Phillip Keveren

Postlude: Leaning on the Everlasting Arms - Anthony J. Showalter, arranged by Marianne Kim

Scripture for Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost, November 5, 2023: Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37; 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13; Matthew 23:1-12

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.

FABULOUS AT ANY AGE POTLUCK & GAMES: We are all FABULOUS AT ANY AGE so let’s get together! This Sunday, join us after the 11:00 a.m. Worship Service for food and fun. Bring a dish to pass and your favorite game.

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.

CHILDCARE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Volunteers are needed in the childcare room when one of our paid workers is unavailable. Having two adults in the room is required for liability and safety reasons. Volunteers must have a background check, provided by and done through the church office. Volunteers will not be called upon frequently, nor will they be in charge; one of our highly skilled, paid workers will be the point person. Contact Jackie Womack at moderator@friends-ucc.org for more info.

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.

ALL SAINTS DAY: Let us honor the Saints who have gone on before us. Friends Church celebrates All Saints Day by recognizing our deceased loved one. Please fill out the purple form in your worship guide and leave it in the offering plate or email your submissions to office@friends-ucc.org to be sure that your Saint is included on All Saints Sunday (Nov. 5). You can also fill out this form at <https://tinyurl.com/nkj7znya>. The names of those who have passed in the last year will be read aloud during the 9am and 11am service, and all names will be listed in the worship guides.

TRUNK OR TREAT: Join us on Sunday evening, October 29, 5-7pm, for our third annual Trunk or Treat. A section of the parking lot will be reserved for you to park your car, set up a blanket or chairs, whatever works for you. The community is invited to come to Friends to Trunk or Treat from car to car. The last two years' events were a great time with lots of children and youth from the wider community at the event. Wear a costume, decorate your car or space, the sky's the limit! Also, there will be tables for pumpkin carving under the trees at the peace pole. Bring your pumpkins, paints and brushes, and carving tools. All are welcome. We hope to see you there.

2023 CROP HUNGER WALK: The Friends Church Youth Group is organizing a team for this year's CROP Hunger Walk, an annual nationwide movement to raise funds for our food insecure neighbors, and to walk three miles in solidarity with those who do so daily to access clean water. The youth group continues their tradition of walking together on Nov. 5, 3pm, at Veterans Park. Funds from the walk benefit Church World Services and the Brazos Church Pantry. To join our team or contribute towards our \$1500 goal, check out our team page: <https://tinyurl.com/2023FCCYouthCROPWalkTeam>

YOUTH GROUP LOOKING FOR EXTRA HELP: We are so grateful to all who have helped with youth gatherings this fall. Having support (and full bellies) is part of what makes our Youth shine. We are still looking for volunteers to help with remaining Youth Group events for the fall, including a lock-in (volunteers working in shifts), lessons, and a Christmas party. If you would like to join in on the Youth Group fun, provide food, or help keep Pastor Brooke upright during the lock-in, you can sign-up on these links. Thanks for supporting the Youth Group! Sign up to volunteer here: <https://tinyurl.com/fccyouthvolunteer>. Sign up to provide meals here: <https://tinyurl.com/fccyouthmeals>

INQUIRE + CONNECT: Are you wanting to learn more about Friends Church? Inquire + Connect is for you! Join us after the worship service on November 5th for the Inquire Class with lunch provided. At the Inquire Class you will learn about Friends—our history, our community, our opportunities for engagement—from church members and one of our pastors. The Inquire Class concludes with an invitation to participate in an optional follow-up Connect Class on November 12th, offered in the home of a church member. In the Connect Class you will learn more about the vision and mission of Friends Church, and how you can “connect” with our various opportunities for nurturing your spirituality, seeking social justice, and getting more involved in the life of our community of faith. For more information and to sign up for Inquire + Connect, email Spiritual Life Chair Becky Burks at spirit_develop@friends-ucc.org.

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS WITH WOMEN will gather on November 8 from 5:00 to 7:00 PM at Hotel McCoy (3702 State Highway 6 S, College Station, Texas, 77845). All are welcome at this informal, come-and-go activity where we enjoy getting to know one another in a relaxed, social environment.

YOUTH GROUP LOCK-IN: The Youth Group will be gathering at Friends Church at 6pm on Friday, November 10, after which we are LOCKING the doors. It's lock-in time! Games, snacks, movies and some good old fashion bonding time await our Youth. We'll wrap-up by 8am the next morning. We are needing volunteers to take shifts throughout the night to help out with the youth and make sure everyone stays safe. If you would like to join in on the fun, you can select one of the available slots on the following link. Reach out to Pastor Brooke for questions: pastorbrooke@friends-ucc.org. Sign-up: <https://ti-nyurl.com/fccyouthvolunteer>. Thank you for supporting our Youth!

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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The Rev. Dr. Dan De Leon (*he, him*)
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