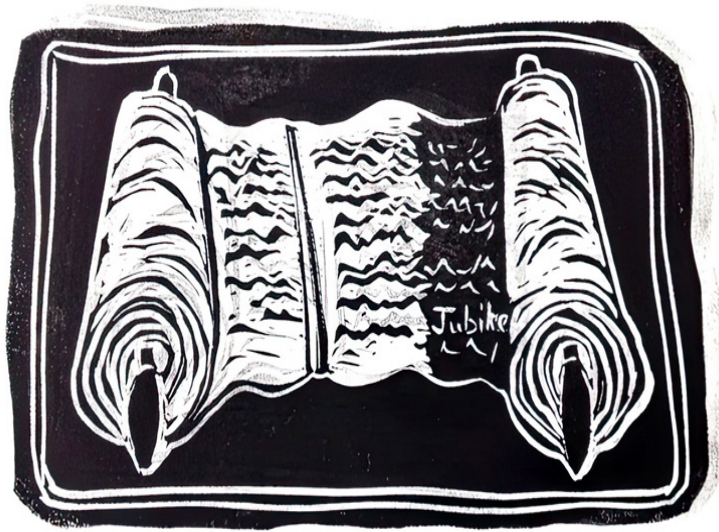




Friends Church
An Open & Affirming Congregation



Reading from the Torah
Cara B. Hochhalter (2019)

September 21, 2025
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.

LEADING IN TODAY'S SERVICE:

Lay Leaders: Becky Burks & Kathy Miller
Communion Stewards: Mary Johnson & Larry Dooley
Greeters: Carolyn Young and Kathy Yeager & Alex Cannon and Dwight Roblyer

Next Sunday, September 21:

Lay Leaders: Rick Smitherman & Jackie Womack
Greeters: ?? & Lanette Schulte and Rick Schulte

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.

COMMUNION ON REQUEST: While the sacrament of communion is observed in worship on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month at Friends, communion is available any Sunday on request. If you would like to receive communion on a 2nd, 4th, or 5th Sunday, please find one of our pastors to serve you at the conclusion of the worship service.

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

The season after Pentecost is also considered Ordinary Time. It indicates the parts of the liturgical year that are not included in the major seasons of the church calendar. Ordinary Time can be understood in terms of the living out of Christian faith and the meaning of Christ's resurrection in ordinary life. It may be referred to as the "green season," as green is the liturgical color for this period of time in the church year.

***NOTE:** The text for the hymns are in the back of the worship guide.

SCRIPTURE FOR MEDITATION: Philippians 2:1-5, NRSV

If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus.

QUOTE FOR MEDITATION:

"Anchor the eternity of love in your own soul and embed this planet with goodness. Lean toward the whispers of your own heart, discover the universal truth, and follow its dictates. Release the need to hate, to harbor division, and the enticement of revenge. Release all bitterness. Hold only love, only peace in your heart, knowing that the battle of good to overcome evil is already won."

—John Lewis

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

WORDS OF WELCOME

Brooke Dooley

PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

An asterisk indicates that the congregation is invited to stand in body or spirit.*

***CALL TO WORSHIP:** "Proclaiming Big Dreams," by Jann Aldredge-Clanton

Kathy Miller

One: Come, let us proclaim our faith in the Creator of all life,
the Solid Rock on whom we stand, the Spirit who stirs visions within us.

**All: Together we celebrate our faith and encourage one another
to keep our faith strong, steady, and growing.**

One: In this community we find faith to endure
struggles and sufferings, fears and frustrations.
We stand together on the Solid Rock, who gives us courage and strength.

**All: As partners with one another and with all who suffer,
we work to end abuses and injustices.
By faith we move forward together on our mission
of dismantling racism, patriarchy, misogyny, and sexism.**

One: Together we draw power from the Spirit,
who supports our justice call and takes down every wall.
On Her we can depend; Her grace and goodness never end.

**All: The desires of our hearts are placed by the Spirit.
She gives us all that we need to make our dreams reality.**

One: So let us claim and proclaim our big dreams,
moving forward with steadfast faith.

**All: We envision a world of loving kindness, justice, peace, and equity,
a world where people of all races, genders, and cultures
are free to become all we are created to be in the divine image.**

***OPENING HYMN** - This Is My Father's World

Terra Beata

***INVOCATION**

Lynette Ross

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Brooke Dooley

Children in the sanctuary are invited to come to the front. 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.**

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Amy Klinkovsky

One: The peace of Christ be with you all.
Many: And also with you!

***HYMN OF RESPONSE: O Young and Fearless Prophet**

HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 6:1-8, CEB

Kyle Walker

In the year of King Uzziah's death, I saw the Lord sitting on a high and exalted throne, the edges of his robe filling the temple. Winged creatures were stationed around him. Each had six wings: with two they veiled their faces, with two their feet, and with two they flew about. They shouted to each other, saying: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of heavenly forces! All the earth is filled with God's glory!" The doorframe shook at the sound of their shouting, and the house was filled with smoke. I said, "Mourn for me; I'm ruined! I'm a man with unclean lips, and I live among a people with unclean lips. Yet I've seen the king, the Lord of heavenly forces!" Then one of the winged creatures flew to me, holding a glowing coal that he had taken from the altar with tongs. 7 He touched my mouth and said, "See, this has touched your lips. Your guilt has departed, and your sin is removed." Then I heard the Lord's voice saying, "Whom should I send, and who will go for us?" I said, "I'm here; send me."

CHORAL ANTHEM - Elijah Rock - Traditional Spiritual, arranged by Moses Hogan

Oh Elijah. Elijah rock. Oh.

Come on, sister, help me to pray, tell me my Lord done pass dis way.

Elijah rock, shout, shout. Elijah rock, comin' up Lawdy. Elijah rock, shout, shout, Elijah rock, comin' up Lawd.

Satan ain't nothin' but a snake in the grass. He's a conjur. He's a liar. Hallelujah Lord.

If I could I surely would stand on the rock where Moses stood.

Hallelujah Jesus. I'm comin' up Lord.

INTRODUCTION OF GUEST PREACHER

Brooke Dooley

GOSPEL READING

Luke 4:16-26, NRSV

Jo Hudson

Then Jesus, in the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding region. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

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

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

THE MESSAGE

“The Gift of Disruption”

Jo Hudson

MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

SPECIAL VIDEO

INVITATION TO SHARE

Kathy Miller

OFFERTORY

Secure online giving via Realm Giving at bit.ly/givetofriendsucc
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 (UNISON)**

Trent Williams

God of Redemption, may your Spirit bring a revolution of relationship, a revolution of priorities, a revolution of heart. Turn our world upside down and free us all from the snares of evil that justify a world of wealth and poverty. By your grace, help us make it so. Amen.

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Dan De Leon, Darryl Kistler

***THE LORD’S PRAYER (UNISON)** (from *The New Zealand Prayer Book*) Brooke Dooley

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is Heaven:
The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
Your Heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on Earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and testing, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and for ever.
Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trent Williams

***CLOSING HYMN** - She Sets Us Free

Safety

***BENEDICTION**

Dan De Leon

***SUNG RESPONSE** - No. 181 You Are Salt for the Earth, O People (Verse 2 only)

Bring Forth

POSTLUDE

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Instrumental Music:

Prelude: Come, Christians, Join to Sing - Spanish Melody, arranged by Matt Limbaugh
Offertory: This Is My Father’s World - Franklin L. Sheppard, arranged by Martha Mier
Communion: Be Thou My Vision - Traditional Irish Hymn, arranged by Melody Bober;
His Eye Is on the Sparrow - Charles H. Gabriel, arranged by Melody Bober
Postlude: Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee - Ludwig van Beethoven, arranged by Joel Raney

Scriptures for The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 28, 2025: Psalm 146; Amos 6:1a, 4-7; 1 Timothy 6:6-19

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.

EVENTS THIS WEEK

20DDMF PROFIT SHARE AT KINDERHILL, SEPT 21: To wrap up the 20th anniversary festivities on Sunday afternoon, 9/21, grab some friends and join us at KinderHill Brew Lab, 505 W 31st St, Bryan. KinderHill is graciously donating 5% of their food and drink sales to the 20th Anniversary Dan De Leon Ministry Fund. Kitchen closes at 6:30pm, and KH closes at 7pm. All ages and four-legged family members welcome.

LINDA COATS BOOK CLUB, SEPT 25: Linda Coats Book Club will meet on Thursday, Sept 25th at 6:30pm. Our book will be 1984 by George Orwell. Contact Jodie Robinson (spirit_develop@friends-ucc.org) for more details.

SNACKS NEEDED FOR O.W.L. TRAINING, SEPT 26: The Brazos Valley O.W.L. (Our Whole Lives) group is holding a training September 26-28 to train our facilitators to teach K-1st grade, and 4th-6th grade classes. Our Whole Lives is a comprehensive sexuality education program developed by the UCC and the Unitarian Universalist Association. OWL empowers students with age-appropriate information related to human development, relationships, personal skills, sexual behavior, sexual health, society and culture. As a collaborative effort between Friends Church, and the UU Church of the BV, we look forward to this upcoming training, and hope you will support us by donating snacks to be available throughout that weekend. To donate, or for more information, reach out to Pastor Brooke: pastorbrooke@friends-ucc.org.

FAMILY PROMISE HOST WEEK, SEPT 28: Family Promise of Bryan-College Station a ministry of Friends Church since 2008, has as its mission “to help homeless children and their families achieve sustainable independence.” Friends Church will be hosting three families at the Family Promise Center for a week starting today. You can be a part of this vital ministry. Options for helping include preparing a meal or providing food from a grocery list. Learn more about Family Promise and sign up on Sunday morning in the fellowship area after worship starting September 21. Direct questions or offers to volunteer to Mary Howell mhowell61@gmail.com or Sally Manthei manthei_sally@aol.com.


JOYFUL NOISE REHEARSAL, SEPT 28: A Joyful Noise – Friends Children’s Choir (ages 5–12) will sing during the 11:00 a.m. service on Children’s Sabbath Sunday, October 19th. Practice will be Sunday mornings @ 10 am -- Sept. 28, Oct. 5, and Oct. 12. Please plan to arrive on time so we can make the most of our rehearsal and avoid conflicts with other church act.

*OPENING HYMN - This Is My Father's World

Terra Beata



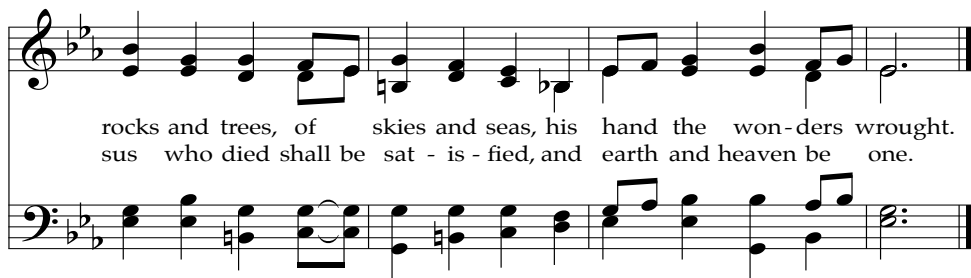
1 This is my Fa-ther's world, and to my lis - tening ears all
2 This is my Fa-ther's world. O, let me ne'er for - get that



na - ture sings, and round me rings the mu - sic of the spheres.
though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the rul - er yet.



This is my Fa-ther's world; I rest me in the thought of
This is my Fa-ther's world. The bat - tle is not done: Je -



rocks and trees, of skies and seas, his hand the won - ders wrought.
sus who died shall be sat - is - fied, and earth and heaven be one.

HYMN OF RESPONSE: O Young and Fearless Prophet

$\text{♩} = 60$

1. O young and fear-less Proph-et of an-cient Gal-i-
 2. O help us stand un-swerv-ing a- gainst war's blood- y
 3. Cre- ate in us the splen-dor that dawns when hearts are
 4. Stir up in us a pro- test a- gainst un- need- ed

lee: your life is still a sum- mons to
 way, where hate and lust and false- hood hold
 kind, that knows not race nor sta- tion as
 wealth, for some go starved and hun- gry who

serve hu- man- i- ty, to make our thoughts and
 back your ho- ly sway; for- bid false love of
 bound- 'ries of the mind; that learns to val- ue
 plead for work and health. Once more give us your

ac- tions less prone to please the crowd, to
 coun- try, that turns us from your call who
 beau- ty, in heart, or mind, or soul, and
 chal- lenge a- bove our nois- y day, and

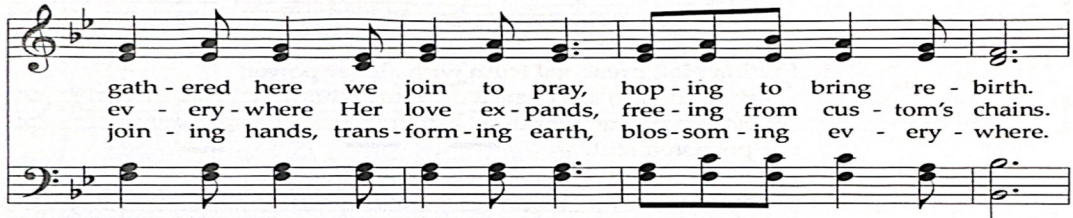
stand with hum- ble cour- age for truth with hearts un- bowed.
 lifts a- bove the na- tion the neigh- bor- hood of all.
 longs to see God's chil- dren as sa- cred, per- fect, whole.
 come to lead us for- ward a- long your ho- ly way.

*CLOSING HYMN - She Sets Us Free

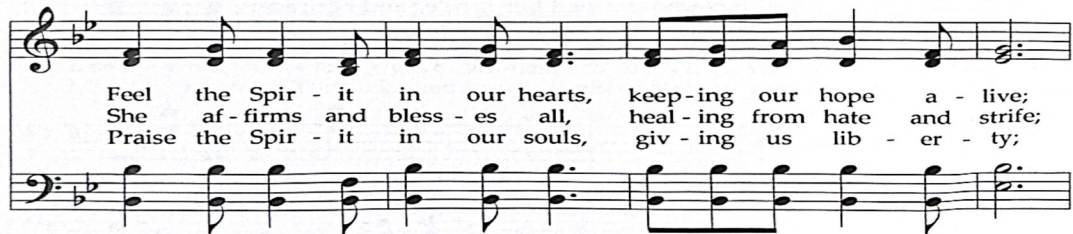
Safety



1. All are long - ing for the day when there is peace on earth;
 2. Day by day the Spir - it's hand touch - es our deep - est pain;
 3. Now we claim our sa - cred worth; now we can dream and dare,



gath - ered here we join to pray, hop - ing to bring re - birth.
 ev - ery - where Her love ex - pands, free - ing from cus - tom's chains.
 join - ing hands, trans - form - ing earth, blos - som - ing ev - ery - where.



Feel the Spir - it in our hearts, keep - ing our hope a - live;
 She af - firms and bless - es all, heal - ing from hate and strife;
 Praise the Spir - it in our souls, giv - ing us lib - er - ty;



with the pow - er She im - parts, we all can thrive.
 joined with Her we take down walls and bring new life.
 with Her truth the world is whole and all are free.



She sets us free! (sets us free!) She sets us free! (sets us free!)



1. Fol - low the Spir - it's call; She sets us free. 2. She sets us free!

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*)
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

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www.friends-ucc.org • Office Hours: Monday–Friday, 9:00–3:00
Pastor Dan's weekday off is Friday. Pastor Trent's weekday off is Monday.