



Friends Church

An Open & Affirming Congregation



Christ the Teacher
Robert R. Thurman

October 13, 2024

11:00am

Access Sunday

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: Anne Nichols & Becky Burks
Greeters: Carolyn Young

Next Sunday, Oct 20:
Lay Leaders: Dinah Anderson & Tyler Baker-Wilkinson
Communion Stewards: Charity Stokes
Greeters: Lanette and Rick Schulte & Stacy De Leon

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.

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost/Access Sunday

In the UCC calendar, the second Sunday in October is designated as Access Sunday, an annual celebration of the gifts persons with disabilities bring to the church, and the joys of being in an accessible community. It is also a time to remember and repent of the harm done to disabled people in religious spaces, and to call upon the whole church to recommit itself to access as a justice issue. Approximately 1 in 4 people in the United States live with some form of disability, and almost everyone else will develop one at some point in their life. As such, disability and accessibility are vitally important topics for us all, and for the church. Let us honor and celebrate disability wisdom, creativity, and brilliance. Let us expand our notions of God and theology and call one another into greater access for all.

SCRIPTURE FOR MEDITATION

I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed.

-Psalm 139:14-16, NRSV

QUOTE FOR MEDITATION

“The grace of God means something like: Here is your life. You might never have been, but you *are* because the party wouldn’t have been complete without you.”

—Frederick Buechner

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

WORDS OF WELCOME

Trent Williams

PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Becky Burks

One: Where are you on life’s journey?

All: We are finding our way to God.

One: In our worship, in our singing, in our praying...

All: We are finding our way to God.

One: In our homes, in our online presence, in our daily lives...

All: We are finding our way to God.

One: In all of our bodies, in all of our minds, in all of our experiences...

All: We are finding our way to God.

One: In all existence, in all of time, in the vastness of the cosmos...

All: God has found us, and invites us to this sacred time.

*OPENING HYMN - Let Us Build a House (All Are Welcome)

Two Oaks

Capo 3: (A7) (D) (A) (D) (G) (A) (Bm)
C7 F C F B^b C Dm

1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can
2 Let us build a house where proph - ets speak, and words are
3 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the
4 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and

(D) (A) (D) (Bm7) (Em) (A)
F C F Dm7 Gm C

safe - ly live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell
strong and true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek
wood and stone to heal and strength-en, serve and teach,
vi - sions heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed

(Em) (A7) (G) (D) (F#m) (Bm)
Gm C7 B^b F Am Dm

how hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
to dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
and live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
as words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and

(Em) (A) (D) (G)
Gm C F B^b

vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the
wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as
strang - er bear the im - age of God's face; let us
laugh - ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace; let this

(D) (G) (F#7) (Bm) (Em) (Bm)
F B^b A7 Dm Gm Dm

Refrain

love of Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
one we claim the faith of Je - sus:
bring an end to fear and dan - ger: all are wel - come;
house pro-claim from floor to raf - ter:

(F#m) (Em) (D) (Em) (A7) (D) (G) (D)
Am Gm F Gm C7 F B^b F

all are wel - come; all are wel - come in this place.

***INVOCATION**

Becky Burks

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Tami Dudo

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.**

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Brooke Dooley

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION/PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE
(UNISON)**

Brooke Dooley

**Lord God, I confess, I am aggravated at those who move slowly,
so invested in being first that I scorn those who are often stuck in last.
I confess, holding others to a different set of standards than I hold for myself.
I confess, I have scorned my kinfolk in Christ for the sake of my own comfort and ease,
dismissing those I find annoying, messy, or frustrating as unworthy of full participation
in shared life and relationships.
For all that I confess, forgive me, O God, and transform me by your boundless grace.
Transform my heart and actions, Holy One, that I may surrender the status afforded to
me for the sake of a more just and merciful way of being. Amen.**

WORDS OF GRACE/ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Brooke Dooley

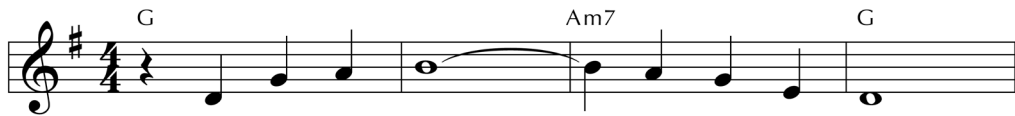
***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Brooke Dooley

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

***RESPONSIVE HYMN - Though I May Speak (The Gift of Love)**

Gift of Love



1 Though I may speak with brav - est fire,
2 Though I may give all I pos - sess,
3 Come, Spir - it, come, our hearts con - trol;



and have the gift to all in - spire,
and striv - ing so my love pro - fess,
our spir - its long to be made whole.



and have not love, my words are vain,
but not be given by love with - in,
Let in - ward love guide ev - ery deed;



as sound - ing brass, and hope - less gain.
the prof - it soon turns strange - ly thin.
by this we wor - ship, and are freed.

EPISTLE READING

Hebrews 4:12-16, NRSV

Becky Burks

Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account. Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

HANDBELL ANTHEM - Immortal, Invisible - Welsh melody, arranged by Dan R. Edwards

GOSPEL READING

Mark 10:17-31, CEB

Dan De Leon

As Jesus continued down the road, a man ran up, knelt before him, and asked, “Good Teacher, what must I do to obtain eternal life?”

Jesus replied, “Why do you call me good? No one is good except the one God. You know the commandments: Don’t commit murder. Don’t commit adultery. Don’t steal. Don’t give false testimony. Don’t cheat. Honor your father and mother.”

“Teacher,” he responded, “I’ve kept all of these things since I was a boy.”

Jesus looked at him carefully and loved him. He said, “You are lacking one thing. Go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor. Then you will have treasure in heaven. And come, follow me.” But the man was dismayed at this statement and went away saddened, because he had many possessions.

Looking around, Jesus said to his disciples, “It will be very hard for the wealthy to enter God’s kingdom!” His words startled the disciples, so Jesus told them again, “Children, it’s difficult to enter God’s kingdom! It’s easier for a camel to squeeze through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter God’s kingdom.”

They were shocked even more and said to each other, “Then who can be saved?”

Jesus looked at them carefully and said, “It’s impossible with human beings, but not with God. All things are possible for God.”

Peter said to him, “Look, we’ve left everything and followed you.”

Jesus said, “I assure you that anyone who has left house, brothers, sisters, mother, father, children, or farms because of me and because of the good news will receive one hundred times as much now in this life—houses, brothers, sisters, mothers, children, and farms (with harassment)—and in the coming age, eternal life. But many who are first will be last. And many who are last will be first.”

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

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

THE MESSAGE

“Wow!”

Dan De Leon

MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

FAITH IN ACTION MOMENT

“Brazos Church Pantry”

Becky Burks

INVITATION TO SHARE

Becky Burks

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**

Trent Williams

Giver of All Gifts, we know that we are called to give up what we have and follow you. We are called to live in such a way that everyone has enough. When we find ourselves with more than we need, call us to give. When we find ourselves with less than we need, nudge us to ask for help. And may our gifts of time, talent, treasure, and prayer be always used to care for your people. Amen.

***THE LORD’S PRAYER**

Trent Williams

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

Trent Williams

***CLOSING HYMN** - No. 495 - Called as Partners in Christ’s Service

Beecher

POSTLUDE

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

Instrumental Music:

Prelude: Be Thou My Vision - Traditional Irish Melody, arranged by Phillip Keveren
Offertory: On Eagle's Wings - Michael Joncas, arranged by Douglas E. Wagner
Postlude: God Will Take Care of You - W. Stillman Martin, arranged by Melody Bober

Elements of today's liturgy come from resources provided by these UCC Disabilities Ministries contributors: Rev. Jacob Nault and Rev. Laura Cannata (Call to Worship, Invocation); Maggie Guekguezian and Kim Williams (Prayer of Confession/Prayer for Transformation and New Life, Words of Grace/Assurance of Pardon); Stephanie Niemela (Invitation to Share); and Bekah Maren Anderson (Prayer of Dedication).

Scriptures for the Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost/Children's Sabbath Sunday, October 20, 2024:

Deuteronomy 30:9-14; Luke 10:25-37

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

WORSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING, OCT 16: The small but mighty Worship Committee invites you to join us for our next meeting on Wednesday, October 16, 6:15pm in the church office. We will be planning services and celebrations for All Saints Day, Friendsgiving, Advent, and Christmas. Join our collaborative behind-the-scenes efforts, and contact Worship Committee Chair Charity Stokes for more info: worship@friends-ucc.org.

FABULOUS AT ANY AGE - MISSION WACO SOCIAL ENTERPRISE TOUR, OCT 17: Fabulous at Any Age will be touring Mission Waco on Thursday, October 17. We will leave from the church at 8:00 a.m. and return by 3:00 p.m. Sign up with QR code below.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

FRIENDS GREETERS NEEDED: Join our Friends Church greeter team! We are in need of additional folks to help welcome people on Sunday mornings and make our worship services flow smoothly. If you are interested in learning more, reach out to Worship Committee chair Charity Stokes at worship@friends-ucc.org. You can also sign up online here: bit.ly/FriendsGreeter.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED: We have all the Sunday school classes covered but are still looking for volunteers who could be called when teachers are out of town to be substitutes. Please let Pastor Dan or Abby Burley, Christian_ed@friends-ucc.org, know if we can add you to our list.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE AND SHARE

SUPPORT OUR PODCAST: Help us spread the good word! Share this week's sermon with those you love with our "Friends Congregational Church Sermons" podcast, available wherever you can find podcasts! Easily access and publicize our mission to follow the model of Jesus: to live faithfully, love limitlessly, and serve boldly. With over 100 episodes published (since Advent of last year) we've expanded (since Eastertide this year) our efforts to include the wider library of sermons offered before this podcast kicked off. We would love to have your support by either showing this podcast to friends and loved ones, and/or contributing your voice to introduce an episode. Volunteers can reach out to av@friends-ucc.org (Jeremy) if interested, or you might get approached after service. Recording takes less than 10 minutes and is almost entirely scripted.

Be a Greeter and Communion Steward: To help in the 9am and 11am services, please contact Worship Committee Chair Charity Stokes: worship@friends-ucc.org.

Youth Group Looking for Extra Help: We are still looking for volunteers to help with the Youth Group events for the new school year. Contact Pastor Brooke at pastorbrooke@friend-ucc.org.

Sunday School Teachers Needed: Are you feeling called to teach our children or youth? Contact Pastor Dan for more information: pastor@friends-ucc.org.

Coffee Crew/Kitchen Angel: "All I need is coffee; all we need are volunteers to make it!"

Sign up via sheet on kitchen counter, at bit.ly/coffeeatfriends or email Jan at Fellowship@friends-ucc.org

Be a Curbside Steward: Recycling occurs once every two weeks early on Fridays and trash pick-up is weekly, early on Mondays. Bins need to be placed at the curb the afternoon or evening before the scheduled pick up day and returned to the side of the church after pick-up. Contact Property@Friends-ucc.org

Serve the Community: Help out at the Brazos Church Food Pantry, the Friday food distribution at Peace Lutheran, or Brazos Interfaith Immigration Network (BIIN) as an English or citizenship class tutor. And more! Visit the Friends Church website (Friends-ucc.org) ▶ Get **Involved** ▶ **Volunteer** or email office@friends-ucc.org for more information or to volunteer.

SAVE THE DATE

YOUTH/CHILDREN PUMPKIN PARTY, OCT 27: Children & youth- join us in the sanctuary on October 27th from 5-7pm for a pumpkin painting & carving party! BYOP (bring your own pumpkin) & painting/carving supplies will be provided

LINDA COATS BOOK CLUB, OCT 31: For October, join the book club for the last meeting of the year. We will be reading Anthony Ray Hinton's *The Sun Does Shine*. Join us for discussion at 6:30pm.

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

2200 Southwood Drive College Station, Texas 77845
979-693-7021 • office@friends-ucc.org
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.