

# FRIENDS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost  
November 17, 2024  
9:00am



*An Open & Affirming  
Congregation*

## **SCRIPTURE FOR MEDITATION:** Psalm 16: 9-11

Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices; my body also rests secure. For you do not give me up to Sheol, or let your faithful one see the Pit. You show me the path of life In your presence there is fullness of joy; in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

## **QUOTE FOR MEDITATION**

“Living Psalm 16,” written by Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia A. Thompson

Protect us O God, for it is in you we take refuge. It is you we trust all our days. You are our God; we have no good apart from you. The borders and boundaries we have set between us threatens to overtake us. Walls have turned to mountains of fear. Borders widen like chasms, preventing us from knowing one another. Differences are weapons used to hurt and harm those we should call siblings and neighbors.

## **CHIMING OF THE TRINITY**

## **WORDS OF WELCOME**

Dan De Leon

## **PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP (RESPONSIVE)**

Dinah Anderson

One: Our hearts praise the Cultivator of Life;

**All: our strength is rooted in the Ground of Being.**

One: Our voices rebuke those who oppress

**All: because we rejoice in the Ways of Love.**

One: God raises the oppressed from the dust;

**All: She plots a way towards justice and restoration—**

One: By loving the threatened among us the hardest,

**All: God guides us all towards our belovedness.**

One: For the order of the Cosmos belongs to Holy Wonder—

**All: She guards the souls of those who practice solidarity  
and shimmers in the stars stories of radical possibility.**

**\*OPENING HYMN - No. 284 Joys Are Flowing like a River (Blessed Quietness)**

*Blessed Quietness*

**\*INVOCATION**

Dinah Anderson

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Dan De Leon

One: The peace of Christ be with you all.

**Many: And also with you.**

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

Dan De Leon

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

Dan De Leon

*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.**

On the day when Elkanah sacrificed, he would give portions to his wife Peninnah and to all her sons and daughters; but to Hannah he gave a double portion, because he loved her, though the Lord had closed her womb. Her rival used to provoke her severely, to irritate her, because the Lord had closed her womb. So it went on year by year; as often as she went up to the house of the Lord, she used to provoke her. Therefore Hannah wept and would not eat. Her husband Elkanah said to her, "Hannah, why do you weep? Why do you not eat? Why is your heart sad? Am I not more to you than ten sons?"

After they had eaten and drunk at Shiloh, Hannah rose and presented herself before the Lord. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat beside the doorpost of the temple of the Lord. She was deeply distressed and prayed to the Lord, and wept bitterly. She made this vow: "O Lord of hosts, if only you will look on the misery of your servant, and remember me, and not forget your servant, but will give to your servant a male child, then I will set him before you as a nazirite until the day of his death. He shall drink neither wine nor intoxicants, and no razor shall touch his head." As she continued praying before the Lord, Eli observed her mouth. Hannah was praying silently; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard; therefore Eli thought she was drunk. So Eli said to her, "How long will you make a drunken spectacle of yourself? Put away your wine." But Hannah answered, "No, my lord, I am a woman deeply troubled; I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but I have been pouring out my soul before the Lord. Do not regard your servant as a worthless woman, for I have been speaking out of my great anxiety and vexation all this time." Then Eli answered, "Go in peace; the God of Israel grant the petition you have made to him." And she said, "Let your servant find favor in your sight." Then the woman went to her quarters, ate and drank with her husband, and her countenance was sad no longer. They rose early in the morning and worshiped before the Lord; then they went back to their house at Ramah. Elkanah knew his wife Hannah, and the Lord remembered her. In due time Hannah conceived and bore a son. She named him Samuel, for she said, "I have asked him of the Lord."

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

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

## **SILENT PRAYER & MEDITATION**

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

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LIGHTING OF CANDLES FOR INTERCESSIONS**

Dan De Leon

## **INVITATION TO SHARE**

Dinah Anderson

## **OFFERTORY**

Secure online giving via Realm Giving at [bit.ly/givetofriendsucc](https://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)**

Dan De Leon

Bless our gathered resources. Bless our belonging to one another. Bless the social order of the Kin-dom of God—where no person, creature, nor land know exploitation. And where reciprocity undergirds all of our living. May it be so. May it be so. May it be so.

## **CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION**

Dan De Leon

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Dan De Leon

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**

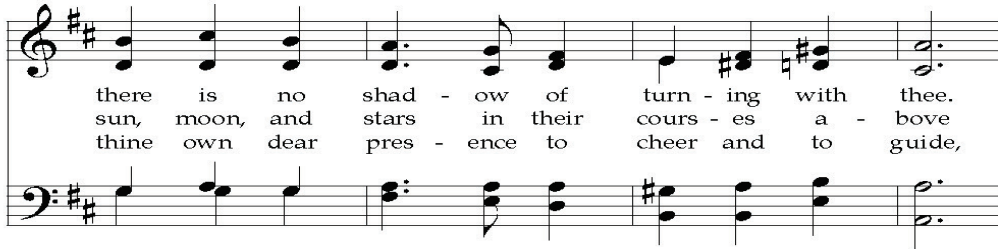
Dan De Leon

\*CLOSING HYMN - Great Is Thy Faithfulness

*Faithfulness*



1 \*Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther;  
2 Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring - time and har - vest,  
3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth,



there is no shad - ow of turn - ing with thee.  
sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove  
thine own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide,



Thou chang - est not; thy com - pas - sions they fail not.  
join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness  
strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row:



As thou hast been thou for - ev - er wilt be.  
to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.  
bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

Refrain

Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Great is thy faith-ful-ness!  
오 신 실 하 신 주 오 신 실 하 신 주

Morn - ing by morn - ing, new mer - cies I see.  
날 마 다 자 비 를 배 푸 시 며

All I have need - ed thy hand hath pro - vid - ed.  
일 용 할 모 든 것 내 려 주 시 니

Great is thy faith - ful - ness, Lord un - to me!  
오 신 실 하 신 주 나 의 구 주

## BENEDICTION

Kyle Riley

## POSTLUDE

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### *Instrumental Music:*

Prelude: It Is Well With My Soul - Philip P. Bliss, arranged by Martha Mier

Offertory: I Need Thee Every Hour (Inspired by Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 3, Third Movement "Waltz") - Robert Lowry, arranged by Phillip Keveren

Communion: Great Is Thy Faithfulness - William M. Runyan, arranged by Larry Shackleton

Postlude: And Can It Be - Thomas Campbell, arranged by Joshua Evanovich

Scriptures for the Reign of Christ Sunday, November 24, 2024: John 18:33-37; Colossians 1:11-20

## 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](mailto:office@friends-ucc.org).

## EVENTS THIS WEEK

**SUNDAY MORNING CLASS: THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JAMES BALDWIN, NOV 17:** In the double classroom, Pastor Dan is teaching a class on James Baldwin, the civil rights activist and writer whose novels, plays, and essays, according to the Poetry Foundation, “explored the psychological implications of racism for both the oppressed and the oppressor.” No prep or RSVP needed to attend. All are welcome.

**ASSEMBLING THANKFULNESS BAGS FOR CROCKETT, NOV 17:** Help is needed to assemble Thankfulness Treat Bags for the staff at Crockett Elementary School. Come to the double classroom across from the church office following the 11:00 worship service on Sunday, November 17 to assist in putting these bags together. It will only take a short time!

**ANGEL TREE SIGNUPS, NOV 17:** The Justice and Mission committee has been in touch with the Brazos County Child Welfare Board to find 65 children for Friends folk to sponsor. These are all children and youth who are in foster care or receiving other support services through Children’s Protective Services. You may choose your sponsored child in person on Sunday after worship starting Nov. 17th and every Sunday through Dec. 1. Sign up virtually on the Friends website by using Sign up Genius which goes LIVE on Nov. 24th. We will also be accepting food and gas cards for our pastors to distribute to those in need in our community. Gift cards can be mailed to the church or put in the Gift Card box that will appear under the Christmas trees in the narthex on Dec. 1. Contact [awehrly@suddenlink.net](mailto:awehrly@suddenlink.net) with questions.

## 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](mailto:worship@friends-ucc.org). You can also sign up online here: [bit.ly/FriendsGreeter](https://bit.ly/FriendsGreeter).

## 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. We would love to have your support. Volunteers can reach out to [podcast@friends-ucc.org](mailto:podcast@friends-ucc.org) (Jeremy) if interested, or you might get approached after service.

## SAVE THE DATE

**FRIENDSGIVING, NOV 24:** Please sign up to volunteer for various pre-event tasks as well as day-of duties and to indicate what type of food you are contributing to dinner. Signup sheets are on the buffet in the sanctuary.

**CHRISTMAS PAGEANT SIGNUP, NOV 24:** The Christmas Pageant is Coming, Dec. 15 in the 11:00 am Service! December is just around the corner and we've already started planning the Friends' Christmas Pageant. Please let us know we can count on your child/youth for the Christmas Pageant by completing this survey by Nov. 24: <https://tinyurl.com/2024Pageant>.

**ADVENT MEDITATION, NOV 26:** On Tuesdays during Advent, you are invited to the Friends Church sanctuary to start your morning with centering meditation. At 7:30am on Tuesdays, Nov. 26, Dec. 3, 10, & 17, we gather for a brief introduction, followed by silent meditation, and follow-up conversation as time permits. Start to finish, this lasts between 35 and 45 minutes, hopefully allowing for those of us with work, school, and other obligations to get where we need to be on time. We are excited about this series of morning meditations that will bring us together in self- and community-preparation for the coming of Emanuel, God-With-Us, on Christmas.

**HELP PREP THE CHURCH FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS, NOV 30:** It's almost time to hang the greens, put up the purple, and deck the halls! On Saturday November 30, at 10am, the Worship Committee invites you to help set up and decorate the sanctuary and narthex for Advent and Christmas. We are changing the banners, hanging wreaths, setting up the angel trees, and putting out the Advent candles. Chris Hoffman will crank out carols on the piano to put us in the spirit as we work and enjoy holiday treats. RSVP to help by emailing [worship@friends-ucc.org](mailto:worship@friends-ucc.org).

### Friends Church Staff

#### Senior Pastor

The Rev. Dr. Dan De Leon (*he, him*)  
[pastor@friends-ucc.org](mailto:pastor@friends-ucc.org)

#### Director of Music Ministries

Chris Hoffman (*he, him*)  
[choir@friends-ucc.org](mailto:choir@friends-ucc.org)

#### Executive Pastor

The Rev. Trent Williams (*he, him*)  
[pastortrent@friends-ucc.org](mailto:pastortrent@friends-ucc.org)

#### Associate Pastor to Youth & Young Adults

The Rev. Brooke Dooley (*she, her, they, them*)  
[pastorbrooke@friends-ucc.org](mailto:pastorbrooke@friends-ucc.org)

#### Administrative Assistant

Michael Rangel (*he, him*)  
[office@friends-ucc.org](mailto:office@friends-ucc.org)

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[www.friends-ucc.org](http://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.