

# FRIENDS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost/Access Sunday  
October 13, 2024  
9:00am



*An Open & Affirming  
Congregation*

## 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

Brooke Dooley

## PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Anne Nichols

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** - No. 495 - Called as Partners in Christ's Service

*Beecher*

**\*INVOCATION**

Anne Nichols

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

Tami Dudo

*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**

Brooke Dooley

**One:** The peace of Christ be with you all.

**Many:** **And also with you.**

**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

## SILENT PRAYER & 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

## 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 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.**

## FAITH IN ACTION MOMENT

“Brazos Church Pantry”

Dan De Leon

## INVITATION TO SHARE

Anne Nichols

## 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)

Brooke Dooley

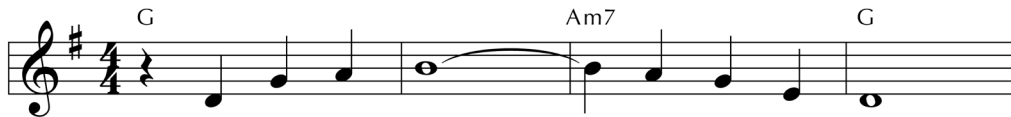
Giver of All Gifts, we know that we are called to give up what we have and follow you. We are called to live in such a way that everyone has enough. When we find ourselves with more than we need, call us to give. When we find ourselves with less than we need, nudge us to ask for help. And may our gifts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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Brooke Dooley

## \*CLOSING HYMN - Though I May Speak (The Gift of Love)

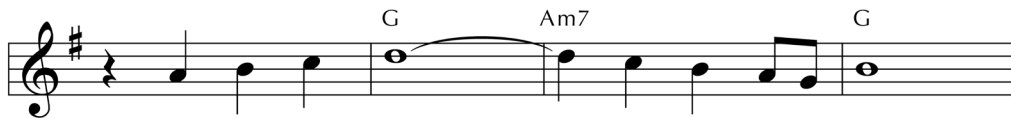
*Gift of Love*



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.

**POSTLUDE**

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*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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:worship@friends-ucc.org). You can also sign up online here: [bit.ly/FriendsGreeter](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://bit.ly/coffeeatfriends) or email Jan at [Fellowship@friends-ucc.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://Friends-ucc.org)) ▶ Get **Involved** ▶ **Volunteer** or email [office@friends-ucc.org](mailto: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 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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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.