

# FRIENDS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Second Sunday in Lent  
March 16, 2025  
9:00am



An Open & Affirming  
Congregation

## QUOTE FOR MEDITATION:

“You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you.”

–St. Augustine of Hippo

## CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

## WORDS OF WELCOME

Brooke Dooley

## PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Becky Burks

One: Children of God, when you are surrounded on every side by shadows that frighten and voices that deride and confuse, what do you say?

**All: God is our light and our salvation! Whom shall we fear?**

One: When threats bombard you from every corner, stealing the security and peace you long for, what do you say?

**All: God is the stronghold of our lives! Of whom shall we be afraid?**

One: When anxiety and loneliness overwhelm and you do not know who or what to trust any more, what do you say?

**All: Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!**

One: Because God knows our suffering. God makes a home among us, welcoming us to come home to God and one another.

**All: Come! Let us worship God who hides us in the day of trouble and conceals us together under the cover of the tent of Love.**

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

**\*OPENING HYMN** - No. 546 Jesus, Lover of My Soul

Martyn

**\*INVOCATION**

Becky Burks

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Brooke Dooley

One: The peace of Christ be with you all.

Many: **And also with you.**

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

Trent Williams

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

Sue Ambrus

*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.**

**GOSPEL READING**

Luke 13:31-35, NRSV

Trent Williams

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

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

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

**THE MESSAGE**

Trent Williams

## **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**

Brooke Dooley

## **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: United Church of Canada “A New Creed”**

Trent Williams

One: We are not alone, we live in God’s world.

All: **Who believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit**

**We trust in God: We are called to be the Church:**

**to celebrate God’s presence, to love and serve others,**

**to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified, and risen, our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.**

**We are not alone. Thanks be to God.**

## **INVITATION TO SHARE**

Becky Burks

## **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;**

**Praise God for all that love has done;**

**Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.**

## **\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Brooke Dooley

## **CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION**

Brooke Dooley

## 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.**

**\*CLOSING HYMN** - No. 471 What a Covenant (Leaning on the Everlasting Arms)

*Leaning*

**\*BENEDICTION**

Trent Williams

**\*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: My Jesus, I Love Thee - Adoniram J. Gordon, arranged by Martha Mier  
Offertory: Beneath the Cross of Jesus - Frederick Charles Maker  
Communion: Just As I Am - Arranged by Faye López  
Postlude: Lamb of God - Twila Paris, arranged by Lloyd Larson

Scriptures for the Third Sunday in Lent, March 23, 2025: Psalm 63:1-8; Isaiah 55:1-9; Luke 13:1-9

## 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

**FRIENDS YOUTH CONFIRMATION CLASS #2, MARCH 16:** The second confirmation class for the Youth Group will be this Sunday, March 16, 1:00-2:30pm. The confirmands will be reflecting on their recent visit to the Islamic Community of Bryan/College Station, as well as conversations they've had with their mentors. This week's class will focus on how we imagine God. These classes are open to all youth, whether or not they are part of the confirmation class. Reach out to Pastor Brooke for questions: [pastorbrooke@friends-ucc.org](mailto:pastorbrooke@friends-ucc.org).

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY FOR ENGLISH-ONLY SPEAKERS: "KNOW YOUR RIGHTS" TRAINING, MARCH 17:** On Monday, March 17, 6:30 - 7:30 pm at Friends: Know Your Rights Training for English-speakers to disseminate information to local employers. Sign up at <https://bit.ly/KnowYourRights17>.

The Migrant Justice Network supports the idea that educating immigrant workers and their employers about their rights is the best way we have to protect both and ensure they are all treated fairly. In this training, you will learn about the rights both employers and workers have in case ICE approaches their place of business. You'll be given packets of KYR information and a list of local businesses--hotels, restaurants and other small businesses--to visit and offer this information to the managers or employers. Contact us at [migrantjusticenetwork@gmail.com](mailto:migrantjusticenetwork@gmail.com) if you have questions or problems accessing the sign-up.

**LENTEN MEDITATION, MARCH 18:** On Tuesdays during Lent, you are invited to the Friends Church sanctuary to start your morning with centering meditation. At 7:30am on Tuesdays, Mar. 18th and 25th, April 1st, 8th and 15th, 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 Easter.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**WALL OF GIVING UPDATE:** Thank you to all the generous donors who supported the Youth Group's mission trip through the Wall of Giving fundraiser. Your contributions will make a lasting impact on the lives of our youth and the communities they will serve in Denver this summer.

**DEVOTIONAL BOOKS FOR LENT ARE HERE!:** Devotional books for lent are here! Lent begins Ash Wednesday, March 5th, 2024. Copies of the UCC's Lenten Daily Devotional booklet, INTO THE DEEP, are available for pickup in the Narthex; one per household, please. The electronic version (pdf) may be purchased individually at [thepilgrimpress.com](http://thepilgrimpress.com).

**MORNING MANNA CLASS: REVELATION AND RESISTANCE:** The Book of Revelation is often seen as frightening, strange, or just plain confusing. For some people, it's all about the end of the world and a story that condemns most of humanity to judgement. But Revelation really isn't about the end of the world--it's about living faithfully as God's people even when the world seems to be falling apart. Join us on Sundays during Lent at 10am for exploration of this powerful book. Contact Pastor Trent with any questions.

**RHAG MEETING:** If you would like to learn more about the Reproductive Health Access Group—or RHAG, email [justice-mission@friends-ucc.org](mailto:justice-mission@friends-ucc.org) or see Kristin Harper or Holly Scott. And if you'd like to join us in the work, mark your calendars for Sunday, March 30 at 2:00 pm in the double classroom and plan to attend our next meeting.

**FRIENDS WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** Join our Friends Church worship team! We are in need of additional folks to help on Sunday mornings to serve as greeters, lay leaders and communion stewards to make our worship services flow smoothly. Sign up with these links.  
9am Service [bit.ly/0900worship](https://bit.ly/0900worship)      11am Service [bit.ly/1100worship](https://bit.ly/1100worship)

**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. 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 [podcast@friends-ucc.org](mailto:podcast@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/friendschurchcoffee](http://bit.ly/friendschurchcoffee) 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

**LINDA COATS BOOK CLUB, MARCH 27:** Linda Coats Book Club will meet on Thursday, March 27th at 6:30pm. Our book will be Run by Ann Patchett. Contact Becky Burks at Spirit\_develop@friends-ucc.org for more details.

**FIRST FRIDAY WITH FRIENDS, APRIL 4:** First Friday with Friends is held in conjunction with Downtown Bryan's First Friday activities. We have a meet up at Blackwater Draw and always have a few people there for the 5:30-7:30 timeframe. Some folks stay at Blackwater all evening and others stop by on their way to or from dining and playing in downtown Bryan.

**WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY WITH WOMEN, APRIL 9:** Wonderful Wednesday with Women will meet on April 9 at 5pm at The Owl Pub & Grill at 315 S Main St. in Bryan. This is a casual, come-and-go event. All are welcome! Contact Stacy De Leon (stacybdeleon@gmail.com) for more information.

### 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.