

An Open & Affirming Congregation



Easter Morning Frank Wesley

April 20, 2025 11:00am Easter 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: David Manuel

Communion Stewards: Mary Johnson & Charity Stokes Greeters: Kathy Yeager and Fran Duane & Alex Cannon

Next Sunday, April 27:

Lay Leaders:

Greeters: Dwight Roblyer

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.

Easter Sunday

Easter Sunday celebrates the resurrection of Christ and marks the beginning of the 50 days of the season of Easter, also called Eastertide.

QUOTE FOR MEDITATION:

Anxiety and fear are what we know best...but the proclamation of Easter Day is that all is well. And as a Christian, I say this not with the easy optimism of one who has never known a time when all was not well but as one who has faced the Cross in all its obscenity as well as in all its glory, who has known one way or another what it is like to live separated from God. In the end, his will, not ours, is done. Love is the victor. Death is not the end. The end is life. His life and our lives through him, in him. Existence has greater depths of beauty, mystery, and benediction than the wildest visionary has ever dared to dream. Christ our Lord has risen.

-Frederick Buechner, The Magnificent Defeat

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

WORDS OF WELCOME

Dan De Leon

David Manuel

Prelude, Redressing of the Altar, & Lighting of the Altar Candles

*Call to Worship

One: Today is the day mystery unfolds.

All: We glimpse it at the dawning of light.
One: We yearn to hear our Lord calling us:

All: sister, brother, sibling.

One: Today we recall again God's trustworthy promise:

All: The tomb is empty!
The Lord is risen!

The enemy of death is destroyed!

One: We delight, saying: alleluia! All: We wonder, singing: alleluia!

We are witnesses shouting: alleluia!

*Opening Hymn - No. 233 Christ the Lord is Risen Today

Easter Hymn

*Invocation David Manuel

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

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.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: from A Song of Faith, the United Church of Canada

Trent Williams

This Easter day, we rejoice that death is not the last word. God raised Jesus from death, turning sorrow into joy, despair into hope.

We sing of Jesus raised from the dead. We sing hallelujah. The Risen Christ lives today, present to us and the source of our hope.

We sing of a church seeking to continue the story of Jesus by embodying Christ's presence in the world.

We are called together by Christ as a community of broken but hopeful believers, loving what he loved, living what he taught, striving to be faithful servants of God in our time and place, even as we look in hope for a new heaven and a new earth.

*Passing of the Peace

Trent Williams

One: The peace of Christ be with you all.

Many: And also with you!

***Hymn of Response:** No. 242 The Strife Is O'er

Victory

For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating; for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight. I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and delight in my people; no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it, or the cry of distress. No more shall there be in it an infant that lives but a few days, or an old person who does not live out a lifetime; for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth, and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed. They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands. They shall not labor in vain, or bear children for calamity; for they shall be offspring blessed by the Lord— and their descendants as well. Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear. The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw like the ox; but the serpent—its food shall be dust! They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, says the Lord.

CHORAL ANTHEM: Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee - Ludwig van Beethoven, arranged by Harry Simeone

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love; hearts unfold like flowers before Thee, opening to the sun above. Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the dark of doubt away; giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

Joyful, we adore Thee, Lord of love and glory; hearts unfold like flowers before Thee. All Thy works with joy surround Thee, Earth and Heaven reflect Thy rays, stars and angels sing around Thee, center of unbroken praise. Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea.

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee, O Lord of love.

Drive clouds of dark and doubt away. Fill us with love and light the way. Praise the Lord of love, praise the Lord above. Praise, praise ye!

Mortals, join the happy chorus which the morning stars began; Father love is reigning over us, brother love binds man to man. Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife. Joyful music leads us Sunward in the song of life, in the triumph song of life.

Sing, sing, sing His praises ever, joyful, joyful, we adore Thee, stars and angels sing before Thee, God of glory, Lord of love.

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again." Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

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

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

The Message Trent Williams

MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

Invitation to Share

David Manuel

OFFERTORY

Secure online giving via Realm Giving at bit.ly/givetofriendsucc Venmo to 979-307-8860 or @friendsucc

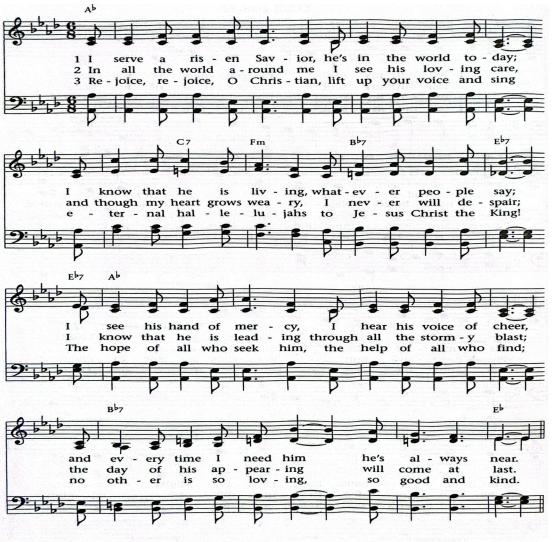
*Doxology

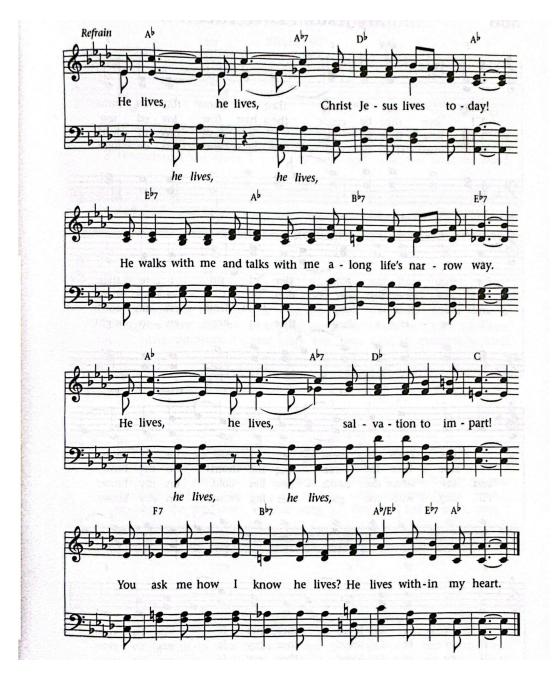
Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures here below: alleluia, alleluia! Praise God the source of all our gifts, Praise Jesus Christ whose power uplifits, Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit, Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Mysterious One, we are in awe of all the ways your Love revives. Where evil has made its mark, may these gifts and offerings be blessed to your work of creating, restoring, and healing. Make us faithful as Jesus was faithful, resisting all forces of death and destruction and trusting in the power of your presence to lead us into new life together. Amen.

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Dan De Leon, Brooke Dooley

He Lives Ackley





No. 236 Halleluja Halleluja



*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.

*CLOSING HYMN - In Christ Alone





*BENEDICTION Trent Williams

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

Bring Forth

POSTLUDE

Hymns reprinted with permission — One License #A-730489, CCLl #20046014 Instrumental Music:

Prelude: Christ the Lord Is Risen Today - Arranged by Sharon Elery Rogers

Offertory: Thine Is the Glory - George Frideric Handel, arranged by Joel Raney (Handbell Choir)

Postlude: Hallelujah Chorus (from Messiah) - George Frideric Handel

Scriptures for The Second Sunday of Easter, April 27, 2025: John 20:26-29; Revelation 1:4-8; Acts 5:27-32

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)
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Executive Pastor
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