



Friends Church

An Open & Affirming Congregation



White Mustard Seeds
Edal Lefterov

June 16, 2024

11:00am

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: Ann Wild & Jodie Robinson
Communion Stewards: Carolyn Young & Charity Stokes
Greeters: Megan Aleva & Martha Newsome and Doug Lewis

Next Sunday, June 23
Lay Leaders: Becky Burks & Kathy Miller
Greeters: Eli Vasquez & Carol Wilson

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.

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

The season after Pentecost is also considered Ordinary Time. It indicates the parts of the liturgical year that are not included in the major seasons of the church calendar. Ordinary Time can be understood in terms of the living out of Christian faith and the meaning of Christ's resurrection in ordinary life. It may be referred to as the "green season," as green is the liturgical color for this period of time in the church year.

QUOTE FOR MEDITATION:

"They tried to bury us. They didn't know we were seeds."

Dinos Christianopoulos

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

WORDS OF WELCOME

Brooke Dooley

PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Jodie Robinson

One: All around us, God is looking for folks
who will join in serving others.

**All: It is as if God is planting seeds of compassion in us,
watching for them to bloom in our lives.**

One: In our midst, Jesus is walking among us,
tending our hearts, watering us with grace.

**All: It is as if Jesus is trusting that our souls
will grow big enough to welcome everyone.**

One: From morning to evening, the Spirit is at work,
gently tending this garden called life.

**All: It is as if the Spirit has found the perfect spots
to bring forth crops of justice and peace.**

***OPENING HYMN - #383** Come, Let Us Join with Faithful Souls

Tune: Azmon

***INVOCATION**

Jodie Robinson

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Sue Ambrus

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 (UNISON)

Brooke Dooley

**Almighty God, we confess the time we have turned from your ways
and listened to the false wisdom of the world.
We confess we have sought profits over people.
We have loved institutions over relationships.
We have held up ideals and principals from times long past
instead of understanding the newness of your creation.
We have failed to care for the earth you made for us,
and instead abused and misused the resources you entrusted to us.
Forgive us. Call us into your ways. Guide us to listen,
and to demand that our leaders turn back to your ways of justice and mercy,
care for the earth and for one another. In the name of Christ we pray. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Brooke Dooley

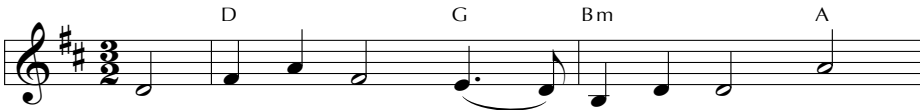
***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Brooke Dooley

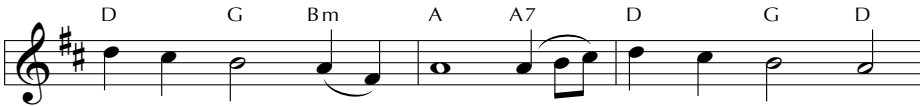
One: The peace of Christ be with you all.
Many: And also with you!

***HYMN OF RESPONSE - We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight**

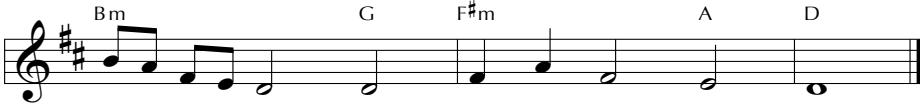
Tune: Dunlap's Creek



1 We walk by faith and not by sight; with
2 We may not touch your hands and side, nor
3 Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief; and
4 And when our life of faith is done, in



gra - cious words draw near, O Christ, who spoke as
fol - low where you trod; but in your prom - ise
may our faith a - bound to call on you when
realms of clear - er light may we be - hold you



none e'er spoke: "My peace be with you here."
we re - jice and cry, "My Lord and God!"
you are near and seek where you are found.
as you are, with full and end - less sight.

EPISTLE READING

2 Corinthians 5:6-10, 14-17, NRSV

Jodie Robinson

So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord— for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil. For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

CHORAL ANTHEM: If Ye Love Me - Thomas Tallis

If ye love me, keep my commandments, and I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another comforter, that he may bide with you forever, ev'n the spirit of truth.

GOSPEL READING

Mark 4:26-34, NRSV

Brooke Dooley

He also said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come."

He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

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

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

THE MESSAGE

Brooke Dooley

MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

INVITATION TO SHARE

Jodie Robinson

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 (UNISON)**

Brooke Dooley

Holy God, magnificent, sustaining farmer of the future, receive these gifts, we pray.
Through our offering, help us know in some surprising way that you are bringing into
being something wonderful and new. Amen.

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Brooke Dooley

***CLOSING HYMN - #181** You Are Salt for the Earth, O People

Tune: Bring Forth

***BENEDICTION**

Brooke Dooley

POSTLUDE

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

Instrumental Music:

Prelude: Jesus Loves Me - William B. Bradbury, arranged by Joel Raney

Offertory: The Power of Your Love - Geoff Bullock, arranged by Jane Holstein

Communion: O Praise the Name (Anastasis) - Marty Sampson, Benjamin Hastings, and Dean Ussher;
arranged by Phillip Keveren

Postlude: To God Be the Glory - William H. Doane, arranged by Larry Shackley

Scriptures for the Fifth Sunday after Pentecost, June 23, 2024: I Samuel 17: (1a, 4-11, 19-23), 32-49; II Corinthians 6:1-13

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

O.W.L. SEXUALITY EDUCATION CLASSES INFORMATIONAL MEETING, JUNE 18 & 29: Our Whole Lives is a comprehensive and secular sexuality education program that centers scientifically accurate, inclusive, and age appropriate information taught by trained facilitators. Classes for 7th & 8th grade will begin in August and run through May 2025. Classes will be held at Friends Congregational Church and the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Brazos Valley. If you would like to learn more about the Brazos Valley OWL program, join us for our upcoming informational meetings on June 18 and June 29. Reach out to brazosvalleyowl@gmail.com for questions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

EARLY WORSHIP END FOR SUMMER, JUNE 30: The last 9am worship service for the summer is on June 30. The 9am service will resume on August 18.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE AND SHARE

SUPPORT OUR PODCAST: The “Friends Congregational Church Sermons” podcast is getting downloads across the country and even overseas! Each episode, featuring a sermon and introduced by a different church member, is an evangelism and outreach tool for all of us at Friends. Support the podcast by sharing it widely. So far the record number of downloads for an episode is 69. With your help we can hit at least 100 every week! You can also support the podcast by lending your voice to it. Contact A/V Tech Jeremy Dudo to record the intro for an episode: av@friends-ucc.org.

Be a Greeter and Communion Steward: To help in the 9am and 11am services, please contact Worship Committee Chair Ryan Womack: 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 year, including the June Mission Trip. Contact Pastor Brooke at pastor-brooke@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: Do you enjoy having coffee/hot beverages available at Sunday morning services? Signup via sheet on counter in kitchen, or Sign-up Genius (link provided in Friday church email) or by contacting [Fellowship@ friends-ucc.org](mailto:Fellowship@friends-ucc.org). Training available by request.

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

LINDA COATS BOOK CLUB, JUNE 27: For June, the book club will be reading Greg Boyle's Tattoos on the Heart. Join us for discussion at 6:30pm.

VBS REGISTRATION, JUNE 30: Please fill out registration by JUNE 30 if you intend for your K-5th grade child(ren) to attend VBS July 15-19th! Copy the link here: <https://forms.gle/WnLZ-1V7e4qVcRab8A>.

FAMILY PROMISE MEALS, JUNE 30: Family Promise of Bryan-College Station (FPBCS), a ministry of Friends Church since 2008, has as its mission "to help homeless children and their families achieve sustainable independence." Friends Church will be hosting one or two families at the Family Promise Center for a week starting Sunday, June 30th. You can be a part of this vital ministry. Options for helping: prepare a meal, provide breakfast & lunch food, or spend the night at the Family Promise Center. Learn more about Family Promise and sign up on Sunday morning in the fellowship area after worship. Direct questions or offers to volunteer to Mary Howell mhowell61@gmail.com or Sally Manthei manthei_sally@aol.com.

FAITHFUL FRIENDS GATHERING GROUNDS, JULY: Join folks in the sanctuary for fellowship, coffee, pastries, and nibbles before the 11 am services in July between 10:15am-10:45am.

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.