



Friends Church
An Open & Affirming Congregation



Hannah at Prayer
Wilhelm Wachtel (1910-1942)

November 17, 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: Dinah Anderson & Jodie Robinson
Communion Stewards: Mary Johnson & Charity Stokes
Greeters: Kathy Yeager, Martha Newsome, Doug Lewis, & Stacy De Leon

Next Sunday, Nov 24:
Lay Leaders: Susan Fontaine & Kelly Wellman
Greeters: Lanette & Rick Schulte

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.

Twenty-Sixth 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.

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

Trent Williams

PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

***CALL TO WORSHIP (RESPONSIVE)**

Jodie Robinson

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**

Jodie Robinson

SERVICE OF DEDICATION FOR MARGOT GRACE BURLEY

The Welcome

Pastor: They were bringing children to Jesus that Jesus might touch them; and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it, Jesus was indignant, and said to them...

All: Let the children come to me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the realm of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the realm of God like a child shall not enter it.

Pastor: And Jesus took them in his arms and blessed them.

The Address

Questions for the Parents

Congregational Assent

Pastor: Jesus Christ offers us a simple invitation, one that all are invited to share: "Follow me." Do you, who witness and celebrate this dedication today, promise your love, support, and care to Margot Grace Burley, as she lives and grows in Christ, learning by your example how she might come to follow Jesus?

All: We promise our love, support and care.

Introduction of the Dedicated Child

****Song of Praise No. 759**

****Prayer for the Dedicated Child**

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Brooke Dooley

One: The peace of Christ be with you all.

Many: And also with you!

***HYMN OF RESPONSE:** No. 351 I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry *Boring Cry*

SCRIPTURE READING Hebrews 10:11-14, 19-25, NRSV Jodie Robinson

And every priest stands day after day at his service, offering again and again the same sacrifices that can never take away sins. But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, “he sat down at the right hand of God,” and since then has been waiting “until his enemies would be made a footstool for his feet.” For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.

Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

CHORAL ANTHEM - Steal Away - Traditional Spiritual, arranged by Moses Hogan (Tyler Baker-Wilkinson, baritone)

Steal away, steal away, steal away to Jesus! Steal away, steal away home, I ain't got long to stay here.

My Lord calls me, He calls me by the thunder; the trumpet sounds within-a-my soul, I ain't got long to stay here.

Steal away, steal away, steal away to Jesus! Steal away, steal away home, I ain't got long to stay here.

Green trees are bending, poor sinner stands a-trembling; the trumpet sounds within-a-my soul, I ain't got long to stay here.

Steal away, steal away, steal away to Jesus! Steal away, steal away home, I ain't got long to stay here.

My Lord calls me, He calls me by the lightning; the trumpet sounds within-a-my soul, I ain't got long to stay here.

Steal away, steal away home, I ain't got long to stay here.
Steal away, steal away.

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Samuel 1:4-20, NRSV

Kyle Riley

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!**

THE MESSAGE

Kyle Riley

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)**

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

Brooke Dooley, Trent Williams

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

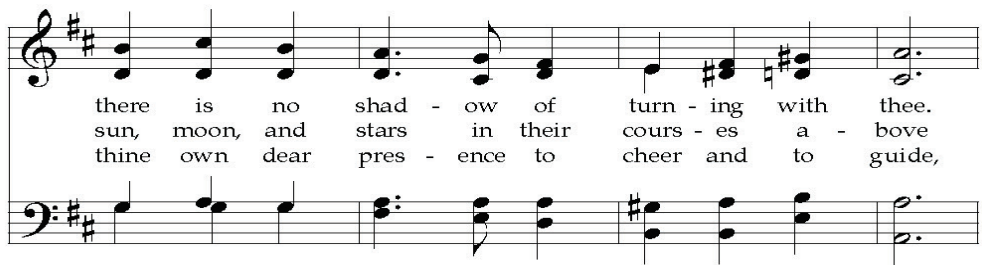
Brooke Dooley

*CLOSING HYMN - Great Is Thy Faithfulness

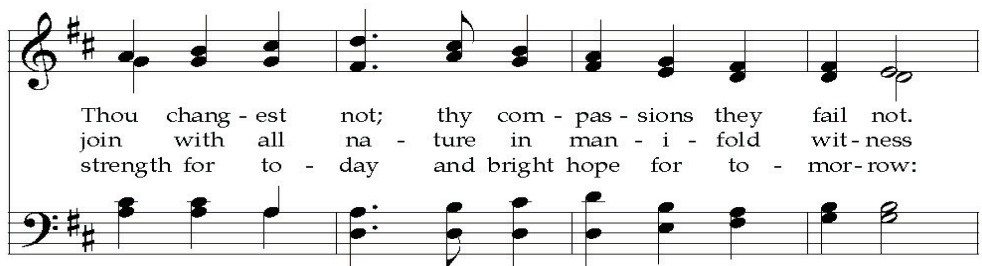
Faithfulness



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 베풀 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

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

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 with questions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MENTAL HEALTH WALKS WITH PASTOR BROOKE: Would you like an excuse to go outside each week and take in some nature, maybe vent a little bit, or have some company? Join Pastor Brooke on Tuesdays, 4:30pm at Wolf Pen Creek Park to walk the trails, breathe some fresh air, chat or take in the silence. However you choose to be, you are welcome. Contact Pastor Brooke for more information: pastorbrooke@friends-ucc.org

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. You can also sign up online here: 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 (Jeremy) if interested, or you might get approached after service.

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.

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.

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: "All I need is coffee; all we need are volunteers to make it!"

Sign up via sheet on kitchen counter, at bit.ly/friendschurchcoffee or email Jan at 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

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

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. All are welcome.

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.

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.