



Friends Church

An Open & Affirming Congregation



Sacrifice of Job
William Blake

October 27, 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: Susan Fontaine & Diane Simpson
Greeters: Kathy Yeager & Martha Newsome and Doug Lewis

Next Sunday, Nov 2:
Lay Leaders: Linda Fitzwater
Communion Stewards: Carolyn Young
Greeters: Alex Cannon

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-Third 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

"Here's the deal. The human soul doesn't want to be advised or fixed or saved. It simply wants to be witnessed — to be seen, heard and companioned exactly as it is. When we make that kind of deep bow to the soul of a suffering person, our respect reinforces the soul's healing resources, the only resources that can help the sufferer make it through."

- Parker Palmer

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

WORDS OF WELCOME

Kyle Riley

PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Diane Simpson

One: In our grief, God never tells us to get over it.
She brings us to her bosom and sways us back and forth.

All: God's heart beats with ours!

One: God doesn't explain away our sorrow,
making our pain into a lesson or a cross to bear.

All: God weeps with us!

One: Hallelujah, God doesn't offer easy answers—

All: They are with us in the Mystery. She holds us in Her arms.

*OPENING HYMN - No. 553 There Is a Balm in Gilead

Balm in Gilead

*INVOCATION

Diane Simpson

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Dan De Leon

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

Kyle Riley

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (RESPONSIVE)

Kyle Riley

One: God of All People,

**All: We confess that we still turn to those with the most worldly power to lead us.
Forgive us for not turning to you.**

One: Forgive us for not remembering how your son Jesus
came to become last of all and servant of all.

**All: Forgive us for not learning the lesson to look to the children,
the weak, the disabled, the widows, the poor, the sex workers and tax collectors,
all those despised and rejected by society.**

One: Forgive us for our failure to remember how you died as a common criminal,
executed by the justice system of the dominant worldly power.

**All: Help us to hear the cries from the side of the road for healing and to answer
them.**

One: Guide us to listen to the voices of those we often leave out and forget.

**All: Remind us that we are leaving this earth for the next generations
and we must value their lives by caring for this earth.**

One: Forgive us and guide us into your way, your truth, and your life.

All: Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Kyle Riley

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Kyle Riley

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

***HYMN OF RESPONSE:** No. 499 Pues si vivimos (In All Our Living)

Pues si vivimos (Verse 1 in Spanish, then verses 1-2 in English)

PSALM READING

Psalm 34:1-8, NRSV

Diane Simpson

I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth.
My soul makes its boast in the Lord; let the humble hear and be glad.
O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together.
I sought the Lord, and he answered me, and delivered me from all my fears.
Look to him, and be radiant; so your faces shall never be ashamed.
This poor soul cried, and was heard by the Lord, and was saved from every trouble.
The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them.
O taste and see that the Lord is good; happy are those who take refuge in him.

SPECIAL MUSIC - Lobe, meine Seele, den Herrn - Max Rädlinger (David Manuel, tenor;
Wolfgang Verdegaal, baritone; Tom Vogel; bass)

Praise the Lord, O my soul; and let all that is within me praise his name.
Forget not all his good deeds, who satisfies your desires with good things.

HEBREW BIBLE READING

Job 42:1-6, 10-17, NRSV

Brooke Dooley

Then Job answered the Lord: "I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted. 'Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?' Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. 'Hear, and I will speak; I will question you, and you declare to me.' I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you; therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes."

And the Lord restored the fortunes of Job when he had prayed for his friends; and the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before. Then there came to him all his brothers and sisters and all who had known him before, and they ate bread with him in his house; they showed him sympathy and comforted him for all the evil that the Lord had brought upon him; and each of them gave him a piece of money and a gold ring. The Lord blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning; and he had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, a thousand yoke of oxen, and a thousand donkeys. He also had seven sons and three daughters. He named the first Jemimah, the second Keziah, and the third Keren-happuch. In all the land there were no women so beautiful as Job's daughters; and their father gave them an inheritance along with their brothers. After this Job lived one hundred and forty years, and saw his children, and his children's children, four generations. And Job died, old and full of days.

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

FAITH IN ACTION MOMENT

Brazos Interfaith Immigration Network

Linda Fitzwater

INVITATION TO SHARE

Diane Simpson

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 (RESPONSIVE)

Kyle Riley

God of the Oppressed, infuse ecosystems of care with your creative love and heal the soul-sickness of wealth hoarding. We dedicate our offerings to the interdependence of all beings, knowing that our flourishing is tied up in one another's. Bless and keep your beloveds as we work with you to bring about your kin-dom of mutual care. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Kyle Riley

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

Dan De Leon

*CLOSING HYMN - No. 478 I've Got Peace Like a River

Peace Like a River

*BENEDICTION

Brooke Dooley

POSTLUDE

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Instrumental Music:

Prelude: Venetian Boat Song - Felix Mendelssohn, Ruthie De Leon, piano
Offertory: Nocturne, Op. 42, No. 1 - Frédéric Chopin, Ruthie De Leon, piano
Postlude: “Sarabande” from “Pour le piano” - Claude Debussy, Ruthie De Leon, piano

Scriptures for the Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost, November 3, 2024: Psalm 146; Mark 12:28-34;
Ruth 1:1-18

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

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.

BIIN TRUNK OR TREAT, OCT 30: Volunteer to host a car and pass out candy to BIIN families or join someone else’s car to pass out candy. Bring your kids to trick-or-treat too! You can sign up for a parking spot in the BIIN parking lot or connect to someone who is hosting a car to help pass out candy by contacting Dana Bearce at danabearce1@gmail.com.

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.

20/30 SOMETHINGS HOCUS POCUS DOUBLE FEATURE, OCT 31: The Friends 20/30 Somethings will be gathering at Caleb Klemt’s home next Thursday, Halloween night, at 6pm for a Hocus Pocus double feature. This spooky gathering will have snacks, refreshments, and a prize for best costume! Bring any goodies you’d like to share. Contact Pastor Brooke for more details: pastorbrooke@friends-ucc.org.

FIRST FRIDAY WITH FRIENDS, NOV 1: 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALL SAINTS DAY, NOV 3: Let us honor the Saints who have gone on before us. Friends Church celebrates All Saints Day by recognizing our deceased loved one. Please fill out the green form in your worship guide and leave it in the offering plate or email your submissions to office@friends-ucc.org to be sure that your Saint is included on All Saints Sunday (Nov. 3). You can also fill out this form at <https://bit.ly/FriendsSaints>. The names of those who have passed in the last year will be read aloud during the 9am and 11am service, and all names will be listed in the worship guides.

SAFETY & SECURITY UPDATE: Many thanks to our Deputy Moderator for Trustees Fran Duane, and Property Chair Steve Robinson, for their ongoing hard work to implement the recommendations of our safety & security team report. We are in the process of putting together a small ad hoc team to finalize the implementation of the remaining recommendations. We also wanted to let you know that 3 panic buttons which alert 911 have been installed in the narthex, pulpit, and office side door, and our greeters and staff will be made aware of how to use them. If you have any questions or concerns, reach out to Pastor Trent.

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.

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, 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 (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.

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/coffeeatfriends 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

SUNDAY MORNING CLASS: THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JAMES BALDWIN, NOV 3: At 10am on Sundays, Nov. 3, 10, and 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." The class is inspired by a recent book by Greg Garrett, *The Gospel According to James Baldwin: What America's Great Prophet Can Teach Us about Life, Love, and Identity*, and will draw from it and other sources by and about Baldwin to guide the presentations and our discussions. No prep or RSVP needed to attend. All are welcome.

SUPPORT THE FRIENDS YOUTH CROP HUNGER WALK TEAM, NOV 3: On Sunday, November 3 at 3pm, the Friends Church Youth Group will be walking in the annual CROP Hunger Walk, a global initiative to raise awareness and funds for our food insecure neighbors globally, and here in our community. A portion of the funds raised will be donated to the Brazos Church Pantry. There are a few ways you can support our team, you can join us for the walk at Veterans Park, or donate towards our team's goal. Contact Pastor Brooke for more details (pastorbrooke@friends-ucc.org), or check out the QR codes posted around the church!

INQUIRE + CONNECT, NOV 3: After the 11am service, at the Inquire Class you will learn about Friends—our history, our community, our opportunities for engagement—from church members and one of our pastors. The Inquire Class concludes with an invitation to participate in an optional follow-up Connect Class offered in the home of a church member. In the Connect Class you will learn more about the vision and mission of Friends Church, and how you can “connect” with our various opportunities for nurturing your spirituality, seeking social justice, and getting more involved in the life of our community of faith. For more information and to sign up for Inquire + Connect, contact Becky Burks at spirit_devlop@friends-ucc.org.

LUNCH GATHERING FOR ELECTION DAY, NOV 5: On Election Day, Nov. 5th, you are invited to the church at noon for a special time of prayer, readings, and fellowship to center us in God’s peace and goodness. Bring your lunch and anyone you know who might need this opportunity to engage with hospitable community on a particularly anxious day. All are welcome.

FOR THE DAY AFTER THE ELECTION, NOV 6: There is no telling what the election results will be, when we will know them, nor how things will transpire after Election Day. To provide centering and calmness in the midst of our anxiousness, on Wednesday, November 6th, the day after Election Day, the sanctuary will be open from 7am to 5pm for you to come and sit, pray and meditate, light a candle, and simply be still with the reminder that God is God, and all will be well. One of our pastors will be available throughout the day to visit, listen, and pray with you. All are welcome.

GUYZ BREAKFAST, NOV 9: Guyz Breakfast brings together fellowship, fun and great food. Join us at the church on the second Saturday of the month 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. Bring your favorite breakfast food or drink to share. Pancakes and coffee are provided.

NEW MEMBER SUNDAY, NOV 10: On November 10, we welcome our newest members into the life of Friends Congregational Church. If you are interested in joining Friends Church on New Member Sunday, please contact Senior Pastor Dan De Leon (pastor@friends-ucc.org), Executive Pastor Trent Williams (pastortrent@friends-ucc.org), or Associate Pastor Brooke Dooley (pastor-brooke@friends-ucc.org).

PREPARING WITH PURPOSE: AN ESTATE AND END OF LIFE PLANNING WORKSHOP, NOV 10: Join us on November 10th following the 11:00 worship service, where we will be joined by Carol Bertsch, a practicing elder law attorney, who will lead us through preparation of wills and other estate planning. Pastor Dan will also offer guidance in funeral planning and communicating final wishes. All are welcome, and lunch will be provided. Sign up here to let us know you’re coming: bit.ly/preparingwithpurpose.

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

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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.