



FRIENDS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

An Open & Affirming Congregation



Isaiah's Vision of God on the Throne. 1220-1240. Stone Relief Sculpture. Cathédrale d'Amiens, Amiens, France.
Quatrefoil on the western exterior depicting Isaiah's vision of God on the throne surrounded by seraphim.

Trinity Sunday & Graduate Recognition Sunday

May 30, 2021

11:00am

Friends Congregational Church

WELCOME

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.

Trinity Sunday

On this first Sunday after Pentecost, we are invited to encounter the mystery of God as Three in One. Our Scriptures today remind us to remain confident in God's love and to be confident that we are heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ. With the church of all ages, we express our faith in the Divine, recognizing its Mystery with the awareness that words are not sufficient.

Words in **BOLD** are yours to speak out loud

**You are invited to stand

Psalm for Meditation: Psalm 89

I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever;

with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.

I declare that your steadfast love is established forever;

your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

Let the heavens praise your wonders, O Lord,

your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones.

For who in the skies can be compared to the Lord?

Who among the heavenly beings is like the Lord,

a God feared in the council of the holy ones,

great and awesome above all that are around him?

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Trent Williams

PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

**CALL TO WORSHIP

Brooke Dooley

Adapted from Psalm 89

One: Come: let us worship together.

**All: We declare that your steadfast love is established forever;
your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.**

One: We will tell of your steadfast love, O God, forever;

All: with our mouths we will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.

OPENING HYMN — Come Now, Almighty God

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Kaiji Cabrera

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Macy Fouch

Please remain in your seat for safety measures but pay special attention as a messaged is offered just for you.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Graduates: The peace of Christ be with you all.

Many: And also with you!

SCRIPTURE READING – Psalm 104

Ella Maxwell

From the book of the Prophet Isaiah 6:1-8

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Master sitting on a throne—high, exalted!—and the train of his robes filled the Temple. Angel-seraphs hovered above him, each with six wings. With two wings they covered their faces, with two their feet, and with two they flew. And they called back and forth one to the other,

Holy, Holy, Holy is God-of-the-Angel-Armies.

His bright glory fills the whole earth.

The foundations trembled at the sound of the angel voices, and then the whole house filled with smoke. I said,

“Doom! It’s Doomsday!

I’m as good as dead!

Every word I’ve ever spoken is tainted—

blasphemous even!

And the people I live with talk the same way,

using words that corrupt and desecrate.

And here I’ve looked God in the face!

The King! God-of-the-Angel-Armies!”

Then one of the angel-seraphs flew to me. He held a live coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. He touched my mouth with the coal and said,

“Look. This coal has touched your lips.

Gone your guilt,

your sins wiped out.”

And then I heard the voice of the Master:

“Whom shall I send?

Who will go for us?”

I spoke up,

“I’ll go.

Send me!”

VIRTUAL CHORAL ANTHEM — Holy, Holy, Holy! - Words by Reginald Heber, Music by John B. Dykes,
Setting by Joel Raney

SCRIPTURE READING – John 3:16

Rev. Dr. Christine Tata

The Scholars’ Translation, as found in The Five Gospels: The Search for the Authentic Words of Jesus, Robert Funk, ed.

This is how God loved the world: God gave up an only son, so that everyone who believes in him will not be lost but have real life.

THE MESSAGE

Rev. Dr. Christine Tata

MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

INVITATION TO SHARE & JOIN THE MOVEMENT

Robin Miller

OFFERTORY

*Secure online giving via Church Office Giving at bit.ly/givetofriends
GivePlus Text to 833-421-0009
Venmo to 979-446-5746 or @friendsucc*

DOXOLOGY

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Rev. Dr. Christine Tata

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*unison*)

Rev. Dr. Christine Tata

**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.**

CELEBRATION OF OUR GRADUATES

Friends Congregation

INTRODUCTION

SPECIAL MESSAGE

GIFTS & BLESSING THE GRADUATES

COMMUNITY LIFE THIS WEEK

CLOSING SONG — Creator God, Creating Still

BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Christine Tata

POSTLUDE

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Instrumental Music:

Prelude: Rejoice, the Lord is King (Inspired by Mozart's Symphony No. 41, "Jupiter") - John Darwall,
arranged by Phillip Keveren

Offertory: Borning Cry - arranged by Mark Albrecht

Postlude: Great Is Thy Faithfulness - Thomas O. Chisholm and William M. Runyan,
arranged by Melody Bober

Scriptures for Sunday, June 6: Psalm 138, II Corinthians 4:13-5:1, Mark 3:20-35

FIRST TIME AT FRIENDS? If you are visiting us today, please let us know. 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.

CHRIS HOFFMAN ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION!: On June 7, 2021, Chris Hoffman will have served for FIFTEEN years as Friend's Music Director. We want to celebrate this incredible milestone with a Friends reception. So set your calendar for **JUNE 20, 2021**. Following worship that day, we will have a reception, eat good food, share stories, and maybe even hear some great music. In anticipation of this event, we will be putting together a book for Chris of remembrances of what he has meant to each of us. If you have a story to tell or want to describe what Chris's leading our music program has meant to you, please consider sharing that with Maggie Gartner who is putting together a book of memories for Chris. **Deadline for submission is June 10**. Stories may be shared by email or snail mail, whichever is easiest for you. Maggie's contact information is maggigartner68@gmail.com (electronic) or 703 Willow Loop, College Station, TX 77845 (hard copy).

SAVE THE DATE!: Friends Church is excited to celebrate our 25th anniversary of being a designated ONA, "Open and Affirming", congregation in the United Church of Christ. We were the first ONA UCC Church in Texas, and the 61st in the nation. We look forward to celebrating with you at a special PRIDE Cookout and Dance on **Saturday, June 26th, 6-9pm** and our ONA Anniversary Celebration on **Sunday, June 27th during both worship services**. (More details about ways to participate will be coming soon!)

IN-PERSON & VIRTUAL SERVICES AT FRIENDS CHURCH: As we remain vigilant—loving one another and our neighbors by adhering to safety protocols—the worship services at Friends Church will be offered in two formats from week to week: in-person and livestream. **In-person services will be offered in the sanctuary at 9am & 11am, and the 11am service also will be livestreamed on the [Friends Church website](#), [Facebook](#), and [YouTube](#)**. Due to safety protocols, *space is limited*. In-person services are offered on a first come first served basis and depend on the [Friends Church Decision Meter](#) being on "yellow" or better.

EXCITING SUNDAY SERVICE COMING UP!: Don't miss **New Member Sunday, June 6**. Please contact Pastor Trent at PastorTrent@friends-ucc.org if you're interested in joining the Friends Church family.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: Stay involved in our church community! Please join us for the Congregational Meeting **June 13** to vote for new leadership.

REJUVENATE THE PLAYGROUND – VOLUNTEER TODAY: We are seeking a few volunteers to form a committee to consider and plan a rejuvenation of the children's playground. The work would include planning any needed upgrades or changes in equipment and surface and establishing a budget. The budget would be included in our budget submission to the congregation for next year and if approved, next year would be the implementation phase. If you are interested in working on this committee, please email Susan Fontaine at svfontaine@gmail.com.

SHARE FOOD WITH OUR COMMUNITY ON FRIDAYS , 3 pm: Friends Church and our neighbor church Peace Lutheran are working together to feed hungry folks from our community every Friday. Volunteer to lend a helping hand by sharing an hour or more of your time between 3:00 and 6:30 pm and let Anne Wehrly at awehrly@suddenlink.net know when you're available to chip-in your time. Come to the Peace Lutheran parking lot where the distribution is happening, wear your mask, and prepare to make a tangible difference in the lives of those we are serving. Hope to see you there!

PROVIDE FOOD FOR UNHOUSED NEIGHBORS ON SATURDAYS: How it works: Each week, we pack a selection of groceries and pick up donations at the food pantry at Peace Lutheran Church, then deliver them on Saturday. Anyone is welcome and encouraged to go with us to deliver! The more people who go, the more comfortable our friends will be. How you can help: Food can be donated/delivered either to Charity Stokes or to Marisa Winking. Contact Charity at charityk.martin@gmail.com or 832-557-0085 for details. Please remember that our friends have limited fridge and room space to store food (mini-fridge) and only a microwave to heat food.

JOIN SOUL FRIENDS SMALL GROUPS: New small groups have begun, and there is still time to join one. Our small groups offer an opportunity for connection, building relationships, and deepening your spiritual growth. We currently have four groups available:

- Women's Group (for all women-identified persons)
- Men's Group (for all men-identified persons)
- Parent's Group
- LGBTQ+ Group

Contact Pastor Trent (pastortrent@friends-ucc.org) for more information. You can also indicate your interest here: bit.ly/soulfriendsgroups.

MENTAL HEALTH SUNDAY: We are pleased to lift up Mental Health Sunday, sponsored by The United Church of Christ Mental Health Network. This wing of the UCC works to reduce stigma and promote the inclusion of people with mental illnesses/brain disorders and their families in the life, leadership and work of congregations. We envision a future in which people with mental illnesses feel welcomed, supported, valued and included in their congregations. For more information, resources, and ideas about how congregations can become WISE* (*Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged), visit <https://www.mhn-ucc.org/>.

The people of Friends are always here to help: office@friends-ucc.org; revchristine@friends-ucc.org.

PLEASE JOIN US IN WELCOMING REV. DR. CHRISTINE TATA: Senior Pastor Relations is excited to introduce Rev. Dr. Christine Tata (pronounced Tāta) as the Acting Senior Pastor who will help shepherd our congregation with Pastor Trent during the two months Senior Pastor Dan De Leon is away on sabbatical. The Rev. Dr. Christine Tata is a United Church of Christ minister who has served congregations in Denver, Dallas, and California. Most recently, she has been preaching virtually, delivering online services for progressive congregations to help them create sacred virtual spaces to meet the challenges of this pandemic year. Experience more of Rev. Dr. Christine's ministry work on her YouTube channel, here: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIkt1JpNStdiYO3HmCkYDMA>.

FRIENDS COVID DECISION METER, YELLOW: With a consistent trajectory of lower positivity rates, less hospitalizations, etc. locally, the church's Decision Meter, which determines our safety measures and protocols related to the pandemic, has gone down to yellow, which allows for us to have group gatherings onsite outdoors at Friends Church. Click [here](#) for more information on how yellow and the other color levels affect personal safety protocols, drop-in visitors, staff, etc.

FRIENDS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Our Vision:

Rooted in the way of Christ, we strive to be a community of God's radical inclusion and extravagant welcome.

Our Mission:

United by the example of Jesus, we live faithfully, love limitlessly, and serve boldly.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Online at 11:00am

FRIENDS CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Dr. Dan De Leon, *Senior Pastor*

pastor@friends-ucc.org

The Rev. Trent Williams, *Associate Pastor*

pastortrent@friends-ucc.org

Chris Hoffman, *Director of Music Ministries*

choir@friends-ucc.org

Kathy Robbins, *Pianist*

pianist@friends-ucc.org

Kate Rabe, *Administrative Assistant*

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