



FRIENDS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

An Open & Affirming Congregation



Romain, Bernard. *Unity in Peace*. Brussels, Belgium

April 11, 2021

11:00am

Online

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.

Eastertide

Easter is not just one day—it's a whole season. Throughout these 50 days, we celebrate and ponder the mystery of the resurrection and the promise of new life.

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

****You are invited to stand**

Psalm for Meditation: Psalm 18:1-6 (NRSV)

To the leader. A Psalm of David the servant of the Lord, who addressed the words of this song to the Lord on the day when the Lord delivered him from the hand of all his enemies, and from the hand of Saul. He said:

I love you, O Lord, my strength.

The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer,
my God, my rock in whom I take refuge,
my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

I call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised,
so I shall be saved from my enemies.

The cords of death encompassed me;
the torrents of perdition assailed me;
the cords of Sheol entangled me;
the snares of death confronted me.

In my distress I called upon the Lord;
to my God I cried for help.

From his temple he heard my voice,
and my cry to him reached his ears.

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

WELCOME TO ONLINE WORSHIP

Dan De Leon

PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF THE ALTER CANDLES

****CALL TO WORSHIP**

Tami Dudo

One: God has filled the earth with abundance.

**All: How precious the water! How holy the land!
How magnificent the creatures and creations!**

One: God blessed them to multiply that there would be enough:

**All: that none should go hungry, that all should be sheltered,
that no one should be abandoned to suffering.**

One: Though systems of evil distort this intention,

All: God will bring justice and restore right rhythms of life.

OPENING HYMN — This Is God's Wondrous World

Capo 1: (D) Eb (A7) Bb7 (D) Eb (G) Ab (D) Eb (A) Bb

1 This is God's won-drous world, and to my lis-t'ning ears
 2 This is God's won-drous world; the birds their car - ols raise,
 3 This is God's won-drous world; oh, let me ne'er for - get

(D) Eb (F#m) Gm (A7) Bb7 (D) Eb (A7) Bb7 (D) Eb

all na - ture sings, and round me rings the mu - sic of the spheres.
 the morn - ing light, the dark of night, de - clare their Mak - er's praise.
 that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ru - ler yet.

(A7) Bb7 (D) Eb (G) Ab (D) Eb (G) Ab (D) Eb

This is God's won-drous world; I rest me in the thought
 This is God's won-drous world; a wand-'rer I may roam.
 This is God's won-drous world; the bat - tle is not done.

(A7) Bb7 (D) Eb (F#m) Gm (A7) Bb7 (D) Eb (A7) Bb7 (D) Eb

of rocks and trees, of skies and seas, the won-ders God has wrought.
 What-e'er my lot, it mat-ters not, my heart is still at home.
 Je - sus who died shall be glo - ri - fied, and earth and heav'n be one.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Dan De Leon

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Trent Williams

PASSING OF THE PEACE Trent Williams

One: The peace of Christ be with you all.

Many: And also with you!

INTRODUCTION OF ACTING SENIOR PASTOR Dan De Leon, Christine Tata

ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVITATION TO SHARE Tami Dudo

Information will appear on the screen for how to text your offering or give online.

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

PRAYER OF DEDICATION Dan De Leon

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*unison*) Dan De Leon

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.

GOSPEL READING — Matthew 28:11-15 (CEB) Trent Williams

Now as the women were on their way, some of the guards came into the city and told the chief priests everything that had happened. They met with the elders and decided to give a large sum of money to the soldiers. They told them, "Say that Jesus' disciples came at night and stole his body while you were sleeping. And if the governor hears about this, we will take care of it with him so you will have nothing to worry about." So the soldiers took the money and did as they were told. And this report has spread throughout all Judea to this very day.

SPECIAL MUSIC — All Creatures of Our God and King - "Lasst uns Erfreuen," melody from *Geistliche Kirchengesäng* (Cologne 1623), adapted by Ralph Vaughan Williams, arranged by Richard Walters –
Patty Creel, *soprano*; and Cathy Hansen, *soprano*

Peter and John were going up to the temple at three o'clock in the afternoon, the established prayer time. Meanwhile, a man crippled since birth was being carried in. Every day, people would place him at the temple gate known as the Beautiful Gate so he could ask for money from those entering the temple. When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he began to ask them for a gift. Peter and John stared at him. Peter said, "Look at us!" So the man gazed at them, expecting to receive something from them. Peter said, "I don't have any money, but I will give you what I do have. In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, rise up and walk!" Then he grasped the man's right hand and raised him up. At once his feet and ankles became strong. Jumping up, he began to walk around. He entered the temple with them, walking, leaping, and praising God. All the people saw him walking and praising God. They recognized him as the same one who used to sit at the temple's Beautiful Gate asking for money. They were filled with amazement and surprise at what had happened to him.

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

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

THE MESSAGE

Dan De Leon

MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

INVITATION TO MEMBERSHIP AT FRIENDS CHURCH

Trent Williams

CLOSING HYMN — Yours Is the Glory, Resurrected One! - Tune: Judas Maccabeus

1 A toi la gloi - re, ô Res - sus - ci - té! A toi la vic - toi - re,
 1 Yours is the glo - ry, Res - ur - rect - ed One! End - less is the vic - tory
 2 See, it is Je - sus, Je - sus has ap - peared; do not doubt at all for
 3 Am I still fright - ened? One whom I a - dore, Je - sus, lives a - gain, gives

pour l'é - ter - ni - té! Bril - lant de lu - miè - re, l'ange est de - scen -
 you o'er death have won. An - gels clothed in ra - dian - ce rolled the stone a -
 noth - ing you will fear. Let the church with glad - ness hymns of tri - umph
 peace for - ev - er - more. Je - sus is my vic - tory, life and strength and

du, il rou - le la pier - re du tom - beau vain - cu.
 way; con - quered is the grave in which your bod - y lay.
 sing; tell it with - out ceas - ing: Death has lost its sting.
 Head; Je - sus is my glo - ry, noth - ing shall I dread.

Refrain

A toi la gloi - re, ô Res - sus - ci - té!
 Yours is the glo - ry, Res - ur - rect - ed One!

BENEDICTION

Dan De Leon

POSTLUDE

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Instrumental Music:

Prelude: "You Are the Rock of My Salvation" by Teresa Muller

Offertory: "Lord, You Are More Precious Than Silver" by Lynn DeShazo, arr. by Mark Hayes

Postlude: "The Solid Rock" by Wm. B. Bradbury, arr. by Bill Wolaver

Scriptures for April 11, 2021: Psalm 4; I John 3:1-7; John 21:20-25

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.

Inquiry Class #2: Join us for our second of two Inquiry Class sessions after worship this Sunday at 12:30pm on Zoom [here](#) [Meeting ID 890 2264 9597]. We will explore the ministries of Friends Church and learn about how you can be more involved. You don't have to have attended the first session to join us, just let us know you'll be coming by contacting Pastor Trent at pastortrent@friends-ucc.org.

OUTDOOR WORSHIP SERVICES AT FRIENDS CHURCH: As long as the Friends Church Decision Meter remains on "orange" or better, outdoor services will be offered on the first and third Sundays of the month at 11am. The next outdoor service will be on April 18.

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.

PARENTING SMALL GROUP: Calling all parents of young children and youth! The Parenting Small Group is meeting Sunday, April 18, at 12:30 p.m. At our first meeting last Sunday, we chose the book, [Parenting Forward: How to Raise Children with Justice, Mercy, and Kindness](#), as our focus of study. Please join us for study, conversation, and support. For more information, please contact Brian Gilson at gilson.brian@gmail.com.

DONATIONS & VOLUNTEERS WELCOME TO PROVIDE FOOD FOR UNHOUSED NEIGHBORS: When the pandemic began, those who were involved with our Pilgrims in the Park ministry helped move those of our unhoused friends into a local motel for shelter. Friends Church stepped up to provide weekly food. We are unsure how long this ministry will continue. Currently, we have six friends for whom we are providing meals. 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.

FRIENDS BOOK CLUB, Thursday, April 29, 6:30pm: The next Friends Book Club is *Thursday, April 29, at 6:30pm* by Zoom. Rev. Ron Petty will lead us in discussing the book, *Rabbi Jesus*, by Bruce Chilton. Please join us for a fun and informative discussion.

SOCIAL JUSTICE CLASS, 10:00AM SUNDAY: The Social Justice Class at Friends Church has concluded its special study and will resume meeting at the regular time of 10am. For more information, please contact Jackie (jackiejowomack@gmail.com).

MORNING MANNA 10AM SUNDAY: Join us for our adult Bible study on Sunday morning at 10:00am on Zoom, Please follow the link, below. We will gather to reconnect, check in with each other, and bring ideas for what we'll study over the coming weeks. All are welcome. If you have any questions, contact Pastor Trent. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82444908275?pwd=VUxnK0tYV2EzRzJhYkkveFo3NFFDdz09>.

CHURCH DIRECTORY ONLINE (ChMS): Need a Friends Church online directory? Download the free Church Office Online app and contact the Church office for the domain name and password. It's an easy way to have quick access to the names and contact info for Friends Church people, as well as birthdays and anniversaries! Don't see your info in the online directory? Give us your updated information: office@friends-ucc.org.

FRIENDS CHURCH CARES FUND (FCCF): Friends Church recently received a donation of \$10,000 for the purpose of helping those suffering financial hardships resulting from COVID-19 measures. Friends Church members needing financial assistance are encouraged to request one-time assistance for up to \$1,500 from the FCCF. The FCCF request form can be found on the church's website (www.friends-ucc.org) or by contacting Church Council Vice Moderator Cathy Hansen at vice-moderator@friends-ucc.org. Requests are kept in discretion between the requester and the Vice Moderator, Treasurer, and Senior Pastor.

FRIENDS CHURCH CRISIS FUND: While the FCCF is set aside exclusively to assist with COVID-19-related hardships, the Crisis Fund, established several years ago, is designated to help Friends Church members in financial need for any reason. Should the FCCF run out, our congregation has this fund to further help one another. To contribute to the Crisis Fund, contact Treasurer Theresa Walker at treasurer@friends-ucc.org. To request Crisis Fund assistance, contact the pastors at pastor@friends-ucc.org or pastortrent@friends-ucc.org. Requests remain confidential between the requester and members of Church Council.

STAY CONNECTED WITH WHAT'S HAPPENING AT FRIENDS!: Subscribe to This Week at Friends published every Friday to your email address, and the E-Connection Newsletter published monthly to your email address. You can sign up on our website: www.friends-ucc.org or email the church office: office@friends-ucc.org. Please add e-connection@friends-ucc.org and office@friends-ucc.org to you email address book to ensure delivery.

UPDATE CONTACT INFORMATION: If you are not currently receiving Church email correspondence, and would like to, please send a message to the Church office with your name and email address: office@friends-ucc.org, and add e-connection@friends-ucc.org and office@friends-ucc.org to you email address book to ensure delivery.

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*
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The Rev. Trent Williams, *Associate Pastor*
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