

## Outline

Message, United Church of Broomfield

Rev. Cal Kemper - July 24, 2022

Psalms 19:14 May the words of my mouth and the meditations of all our hearts be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, our Rock and our Redeemer.

-God's friendliness. "What a 'friend' we have in Jesus.

-God is our friend, too. Many refer to God as "The Friend." Worldwide, Spiritual Seekers state that in public they refer to God as Lord, but in their intimate whispers they call on God as "The Friend"

-I want to share a message in a song. It is the best way to "feel" God's friendship with us if we listen to the lyrics and imagine that it is God who is Singing to US! Not one human friend singing to another. [PLAY SONG: You've Got A Friend]

-(after song) The Friend is not just a metaphor, God would speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend.

- What does other Scripture say about the Friend of God? The phrase "Friend of God" is found in James 2:23, "And the Scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness"—and he was called 'a friend' of God."

-God loved Abraham: but he was not the only friend of God in the Bible *as* whoever served God and believed, were granted God's blessings of love and prosperity. Obviously, Jesus was more than a friend as the Son of God and being divine himself.

-From this morning's Scripture: "Suppose one of you has a friend, and he goes to him at midnight and says, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread.'" Then, his friend finally decided to give him what he needed. A gift that St. Francis mentioned.

-St. Francis of Assisi: "How to be a true Friend"

"Lord, make me an instrument of your peace;

where there is hatred, let me sow love;

when there is injury, pardon;

where there is doubt, faith;

where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness, light;

and where there is sadness, joy.

Grant that I may not so much seek

to be consoled as to console;

to be understood, as to understand,

to be loved as to love;  
for it is in giving that we receive,  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
and it is in dying [to ourselves] that we are born to eternal life.”

- Since God is now seen also in this community of persons, human friendship is an act whereby we especially imitate God, a relationship in which we are conformed to God’s likeness by learning to love as God loves. Through our friendships with other people, we can become friends with the God who is friendship itself.

- The Delights of God’s Friendship: Genesis 18 brings out the delight of true friendship with God, as compared with simply feeling that presence occasionally in prayer. This friendship means being so intimately in touch with God that you never even need to ask for The Love to show you God’s will.

- You were made for friendship with God. God does not just want us to know about him; God wants us to know him — and to experience his friendship. Jonathan Edwards urges us to “Let it be [our] first love to enter into an everlasting friendship with Christ that never shall be broken.” The gospel calls us to trust Jesus as our Savior, and value him as our Treasure. *It also calls us to enjoy him as our friend.*

-God Gladly Calls Us Friends

Jesus gathered his disciples one last time, on the night before his death, to prepare them for the next day and beyond. In the midst of this sacred evening he said, “No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you” ([John 15:15](#)). To be called Jesus’s servant is an immeasurable privilege. Yet Jesus confers a greater honor. He brings us even closer. He calls us friends.

-We have heard of God’s Love and Friendship with us. We have heard Jesus call his Disciples “friends” – Is it so hard to understand that God’s Jesus and Jesus Christ want our friendship along with our worship?

-However you experience God and The Trinity, we turn our hearts and minds in gratefulness toward an absolute truth: No matter who you are and wherever you are on life’s journey, You’ve Got a Friend!

-May God bless these words to our understanding.