



Urbandale
United
Church of
Christ
God is still speaking

“No matter who you are or where you are on life’s
journey, you are invited and welcome here.”

A Just Peace and Open and Affirming congregation

May 31, 2020

10:00 a.m.

PENTECOST SUNDAY

PRELUDE

WELCOME

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

- Worship Bulletin: If you can have multiple tabs or windows open on your device, you can pull up the bulletin for this service by going to urbucc.org,
- Prepare your worship space: Take a moment to set up your space for whatever helps you pray, meditate, or be mindful of God’s presence such as a candle, flower, cross, or Bible.
- Jot some things down: During the service you may want to note your particular prayer concerns and ways that you might serve others.
- Bible: Later in the service we will read from the Book of Acts, Chapter 2 so if you have a Bible handy you might want to get it and turn to that passage. We will be reading from the Inclusive Bible, so you can compare it with your translation.

GREETING

“Every bank that is touched by a river gives of itself to the water.” *Deep River*, by Howard Thurman. Like the bank to a river, every person who is touched by God is at least invited to surrender in some way to God’s purposes.

CALLING OUR ATTENTION TO THE PRESENCE OF GOD

Dear God, this morning we gather together virtually, but with actual and earnest hope. We hope and pray that our hearts and thoughts might be touched by your presence. May your loving presence be reflected in our visions, our dreams, and in the path before us.

SONG OF HOPE

“By This They Will Know”
Ken Hanson, soloist

Mark Allen
Arr. by Dennis Allen

TAKING STOCK OF OUR BLESSINGS AND RESOURCES

We invite you to think about how you might reveal the presence of God in the world by sharing the gifts and resources that you have at your disposal. You might jot down what you have that you can share with others. Even in this pandemic there is much that we can share simply from our homes: a phone call, email, card, placing a sign of hope in the window, or placing teddy bears in the windows for children to see as they walk by with their parents.

If you are financially able, there are numerous charities that can put your resources to work. Please also remember that the work and expenses of this church and the wider church continue. You may donate to our church online at urbucc.org and click “Donate Online.” In the same way, you may also consider donating to Disaster Relief and the UCC special offering known as “Strengthen the Church,” which supports new church starts, youth ministry, and congregational revitalization and leadership development. All of these funds are particularly important in these challenging times. For more information or to donate directly, go to ucc.org.

PRAYER OF GRATITUDE

Dear God, we give thanks to you for the gift of life and the many blessings you have bestowed upon us. In these challenging times, we are most thankful that you walk with us, sharing our joys, joining in our grief, and giving us hope by the promise of your abiding love and grace. Amen.

¹When the day of Pentecost arrived, they all met in one room. ²Suddenly they heard what sounded like a violent, rushing wind from heaven; the noise filled the entire house in which they were sitting. ³Something appeared to them that seemed like tongues of fire; these separated and came to rest on the head of each one. ⁴They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as she enabled them.

⁵Now there were devout people living in Jerusalem from every nation under heaven, ⁶and at this sound they all assembled. But they were bewildered to hear their native languages spoken. ⁷They were amazed and astonished: “Surely all of these people speaking are Galileans! ⁸How does it happen that each of us hears these words in our native tongue?”

¹²All were amazed and disturbed. They asked each other, “What does this mean?” ¹³But others said mockingly, “They’ve drunk too much new wine.”

¹⁴Then Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd “Women and men of Judea, and all you who live in Jerusalem! Listen to what I have to say! ¹⁵These people are not drunk as you think – it’s only nine o’clock in the morning! ¹⁶No, it’s what Joel the prophet spoke of:

¹⁷‘In the days to come –
it is our God who speaks –
I will pour out my Spirit
on all humankind.
Your daughters and sons will prophesy,
your young people will see visions,
and your elders will dream dreams.’”

MEDITATION

“Pentecost and the Pandemic”

David Sheridan

SONG

“We Are the Church” Richard Avery and Donald S. Marsh

PASTORAL PRAYER:

Dear God, Heavenly Creator, please hear our prayer. In the midst of this pandemic we have heavy hearts. We grieve the enormous loss of life and suffering caused by this virus. We grieve the separation from loved ones, the inability to share an embrace, the loss of important life events and experiences, the loss of jobs and other opportunities, and the resulting anxiety, fear, depression, hunger, and sometimes even violence.

O God, we pray that you embrace the families and friends of the many victims of this virus; and bring to all of us comfort, strength, and hope for the difficult days and months ahead.

While the virus does not discriminate, the poor and people of color are disproportionately victims. Moreover, in recent weeks, we have again and again been reminded of the ugly violent undercurrent of racism and racial injustice.

O God, please touch our hearts so that we may know that we are each, your child, valued, blessed, and loved. Help us to have the courage to proclaim that every child of yours is a neighbor to us, entitled to our love as well. Amen.

LORD’S PRAYER

Our Abba 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

BLESSING

Go now with hope born of faith in our loving God. As you are blessed by God, be a blessing to others. Amen.

POSTLUDE

URBANDALE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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www.urbucc.org

www.facebook.com/UrbandaleUCC

“We welcome into this community of faith, and affirm the participation in all aspects of church life, persons of every age, race, gender identity and expression, nationality, ability, and sexual orientation. We will continue our efforts toward inclusiveness, and stand against all forms of discrimination. We will empower ourselves, our children, and one another to be fully present in the world, living in Christ’s image and striving for justice and peace.”

Staff

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Church Office hours are Monday to Friday 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

*For pastoral care, please contact Rev. Amy Murray at
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