



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*

July 26, 2020

10:00 a.m.

## EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

### PRELUDE

### INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

- You may wish to have the bulletin to follow along. You can pull up the bulletin for this service by going to [urbucc.org](http://urbucc.org)
- If you want to take a moment to prepare your space for whatever helps you pray, meditate, or be mindful of God’s presence, please do that. Perhaps it is a candle or a cross.
- We will be asking you to jot some things down, which you may be able to do on the device you are using to watch this or grab a pad and pen/pencil.
- Later in the service we will read from the **Gospel of Mathew 13:31-33, 44-52** so if you have a Bible, you might want to turn to that passage. We will be reading from the Inclusive Bible, so you can compare it with your translation.
- Today’s liturgy has been adapted and comes from Lavon Bayler, *Taught by Love, Year A* and *Worship Ways*

### GREETING

“Our duty is wakefulness, the fundamental condition of life itself. The unseen, the unheard, the untouchable is what weaves the fabric of our see-able universe together.” *And* “Beyond all reason is the mystery of love.”  
*Robin Craig Clark, The Garden, 21st century*

### CALLING OUR ATTENTION TO THE PRESENCE OF GOD

Meet us here, holy God, to search our hearts and strengthen our spirits. Plant your Word among us that it may spring up in nurturing, inviting ways for the sake of all your creatures. May we find in these moments of worship the assurance we need to live triumphantly in the face of loss, discouragement, and suffering. Lead us, by the teaching and example of Jesus Christ, to trust you and your will for us. We believe that whatever happens, you can bring some good from it. Show us, O God, the good you intend. AMEN

### SPECIAL MUSIC

“Still Beside You”  
Alex Kimzey, Vocalist

Desi Oakley

### TAKING STOCK OF OUR BLESSINGS AND RESOURCES

Urbandale UCC has a “Donate” tab at our website, [urbucc.org](http://urbucc.org) or you may wish to donate to the wider church and may wish to visit the church’s national website at [ucc.org](http://ucc.org).

Take a moment and write down what you have that you can share with others. Perhaps you may wish to show your support by donating blood, shopping at locally owned black businesses, reading and educating yourself on matters of white privilege and racism, continue reaching out to the vulnerable among us, letting others know you care. There are many ways we can continue to support one another. Think about how you might reveal the Presence of the Holy to the world through the sharing of your gifts and resources that God has so richly blessed you with.

## PRAYER OF GRATITUDE

Holy One, your word gives light and understanding to all; we open ourselves to you in prayer and find you already in our hearts, leading us in the way of justice, compassion, and peace; calling us to find you in our neighbors' need as well. We give thanks. We covenant again with you. Grow our gifts in your love. Bless our offerings, our hearts and our hopes in your love to make us worthy of your work for your Kin-dom in heaven and among us here, even now. Thank you for your steadfast words that there is nothing that can separate us from your love.  
AMEN

## SCRIPTURE

**Mathew 13:31-33, 44-52** (The Inclusive Bible)

<sup>31</sup>Jesus presented another parable to the crowds: "The kindom of heaven is like the mustard seed which a farmer sowed in the field. <sup>32</sup>It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is the biggest shrub of all--it becomes a tree so that the birds of the air come to perch in its branches."

<sup>33</sup>Jesus offered them still another parable: "The kindom of heaven is like the yeast a baker took and mixed in with three measures of flour until it was leavened all through."

<sup>44</sup>"The kindom of heaven is like a buried treasure found in the field. The ones who discovered it hid it again, and, rejoicing at the discovery, went and sold all their possessions and bought that field.

<sup>45</sup>"Or again, the kindom of heaven is like a merchant's search for fine pearls. <sup>46</sup>When one pearl of great value was found, the merchant went back and sold everything else and bought it.

<sup>47</sup>"Or again, the kindom of heaven is like a net thrown into the sea, which collected all kinds of fish. <sup>48</sup>When it was full, the fishers hauled it ashore. Then, sitting down, they collected the good ones in a basket and threw away those that were of no use. <sup>49</sup>This is how it will be at the end of time. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the just <sup>50</sup>and throw the wicked into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and the gnashing of teeth.

<sup>51</sup>"Have you understood all this?"

"Yes," they answered.

<sup>52</sup>To this Jesus replied, "Every religious scholar who has become a student of the kindom of heaven is like the head of the household who can bring from the storeroom both new and old."

## MEDITATION

"The Kin(g)dom of Heaven is..."

Rev. Amy Murray

## PASTORAL PRAYER

Take a moment now to check your own prayer list. Add the names that need to go on it, review the names of those for whom you have been praying. Has an answer or resolution come? If so, make gratitude known to others.

## LORD'S PRAYER

## CLOSING HYMN

"We Love Your Realm, O God"

Hymnal 312

## BLESSING

## POSTLUDE

## **THE 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.

## **“We Love Your Realm, O God”**

**Hymnal 312**

We love your realm, O God, all places where you reign.  
We recognize, with hope and joy, the world as your domain.

We love your church, O God, for Christ has given life  
To form communities of love that seek to heal our strife.

We recognize, with pain, that we have not achieved  
The faithfulness of our resolve when we at first believed.

Yet Christ, our friend and guide, continues to forgive,  
Delivering us from our mistakes, inviting us to live.

# URBANDALE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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[www.urbucc.org](http://www.urbucc.org)

[www.facebook.com/UrbandaleUCC](http://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

The Rev. David P. Sickelka, Senior Pastor ..... david.sickelka@urbucc.org  
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### **Other Contacts:**

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

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