



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

September 6, 2020

10:00 a.m.

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST COMMUNION SUNDAY

PRELUDE

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

- 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,
- If you want to take a moment to set up your space for whatever helps you pray, meditate, or be mindful of God’s presence, please do that. A candle or cross or Bible or whatever helps you. Also, minimize distractions, like phones or alarms.
- We will be taking communion during our service, so if you haven’t already, grab a piece of bread for each person watching, and something fruity to drink. Wine or grape juice are most often used but if all you have is Dr. Pepper, that’ll do.
- 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 you can grab a pad and pen or pencil.
- Later in the service we will read from the **Gospel of Matthew, Chapter 18**, 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

“Good work should be fundamentally understood as cooperation with God. It is rooted in the work God has already done and is now doing, in our neighborhoods and in the world and in the church, while also looking ahead to the eschatological transformation of the new heaven and the new earth.”

C. Christopher Smith and John Pattison

Slow Church – Cultivating Community in the Patient Way of Jesus.

CALLING OUR ATTENTION TO THE PRESENCE OF GOD

What does your labor look like in these days? Do you miss conversations around the water cooler or in the break room? Is the hardest work deciding how to work? Is your work finding work? How is God working in all of this, and can you join God in that work? By now, you probably have had your fill of puttering around the house, and none of your closets need to be organized...again. So what are you called to be and do in these days? And how will we hear that call, unless we pause, in attentiveness, and listen? Listen. Listen....

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Alleluia”
Jim Benda, Vocal Soloist

arr. G. O’Connor-Morris

TAKING STOCK OF OUR BLESSINGS AND RESOURCES

“Donate” tab at urbucc.org

Prior to COVID, when we were worshipping together in this room we invited folks to hold the offering plate for a moment and consider what they had to offer for the work of God’s realm. Printed in the bulletin was this invitation: *When the offering plate comes to you, we invite you to hold it for a moment and consider the many gifts that you can share. You may pray for a person or ministry; you may commit yourself to a specific act of compassion; or you may resolve to work on a relationship that is in need of repair. Allow the Spirit to guide your thoughts.*

Jesus said that if we had a gift to give and had an unresolved issue with someone, we should suspend our giving and repair the relationship. So maybe this is a good time to fix what is broken, not just around the house, but in your sphere of relationships.

Jot down what you have that you can share with others, sidewalk messages, a sign in a window, a card or letter or e-mail, fabric for masks or toilet paper of which you may have more than enough.

Think about how you might reveal the Presence of the Holy to the world through the sharing of your gifts and resources that you have at your disposal.

PRAYER OF GRATITUDE

What are you doing, God? What projects do you have on your workbench? Are you taking apart some things that aren’t working like they are supposed to? Maybe we can help with that. Maybe our voices will help people see how things are supposed to be so that we can stop resisting your efforts.

Are you designing something new that we have never imagined? Are you putting together people and assets for a new creation? How can we be a part of it?

Are you creating something just because it is in you and needs to come out? Something of great beauty and meaning? Will it lift us up and inspire us? Or will we be offended because it challenges us, as great art often does?

What are you doing, God? What is the work that you lay before us? Because if we don’t see it, can’t comprehend it or know its purpose, how can we help? And if we can’t help you in the work you are doing, why are we here? What are you doing, God? And how can we help?

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 18:15-20 (The Inclusive Bible)

¹⁵“If your sister or brother should commit some wrong against you, go and point out the error, but keep it between the two of you. If she or he listens to you, you have won a loved one back; ¹⁶if not, try again, but take one or two others with you, so that every case may stand on the word of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If your sister or brother refuses to listen to them, refer the matter to the church. If she or he ignores even the church, then treat that sister or brother as you would a Gentile or a tax collector.

¹⁸“The truth is, whatever you declare bound on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you declare loosed on earth will be loosed in heaven.

¹⁹“Again I tell you, if two of you on earth join in agreement to pray for anything whatsoever, it will be granted you by Abba God in heaven. ²⁰Where two or three gathered in my name, I am there in their midst.”

In rabbinic thought the primary sense of “binding” and “loosing” (vs. 18) had to do with what particular conduct was to be disallowed or allowed according to the Torah, the Law of God: the rabbi, on the basis of his expert knowledge, would determine whether one was or was not, in a particular case, acting in accord with God’s will. (Marguerite Shuster, Fuller Theological Seminary, writing in The Lectionary Commentary, edited by Roger E. Van Harn). There is some grammatical basis for understanding that the decisions reached on earth will reflect what has already been decided in heaven instead of influencing the outcome of what happens there.

MEDITATION

“Let it Go”

Pastor David Sickelka

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION

The sacraments unite us with believers in every time and place.

COMMUNION PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN

“Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation”

Hymnal 400

BLESSING

POSTLUDE

THE PRAYER OF JESUS

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 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.

“Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation”

Hymnal 400

Christ is made the sure foundation, Christ the head and cornerstone,
chosen of our God and precious, binding all the Church in one;
Holy Zion’s help forever, and our confidence alone.

To this temple, where we call you, come, O God of Hosts, today!
With your constant, loving kindness hear your people as they pray.
Give your fullest benediction: grace to follow Christ the way.

Here renew your servants’ vision, that by faith they may attain
peace and hope, renewed compassion, strength to comfort those in pain.
Tears and grief transformed to gladness in your everlasting reign.

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 Pastor Dave at 276-0625 (church office), 720-6389 (cell) or david.sickelka@urbucc.org. Pastor Dave is off on Mondays but will still respond to emergencies if you call or text.