



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 24, 2020

10:00 a.m.

## SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

### PRELUDE

### INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

- If you can have multiple tabs or window open on your device, 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 a candle, cross, Bible or whatever helps you.
- 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 John, Chapter 17 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

“The connections we make in the course of a life--maybe that's what heaven is.”

*Fred Rogers, 20th century*

### CALLING OUR ATTENTION TO THE PRESENCE OF GOD

There are many ways we are making meaning of this time. Some refer to it as the “Great Pause,” a time of reflection and redefining our what is most important. Others do not have this privilege as they struggle to make ends meet and buy necessities. Some of us have to work yet struggle with concerns for our own safety and safety of others. We struggle with social distancing, we long for gatherings with friends and family. What is right for me? What am I comfortable with at this time as more businesses are opening up? What sustains you during this time? How has your spirit responded to these changes? How has the Holy One come to you? Invite the Spirit in, still your fears, take a deep breath and simply come as you are because no matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey you are God’s beloved and welcome here.

### SONG OF HOPE

“To Everything There Is A Season”  
Gary Thompson, Soloist

Ed Harris

### TAKING STOCK OF OUR BLESSINGS AND RESOURCES

“Donate” tab at [urbucc.org](http://urbucc.org)

The United Church of Christ is sending Disaster Relief funds to hard-hit New York in order to help with burial costs for the poor. With the number of deaths due to Covid-19, the normal ways of covering these expenses are being overwhelmed. If you would like to know more, or contribute to the Disaster Relief fund, go to [www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org).

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

Compassionate God, full of unconditional love and deep yearning for all your children, open us to experience all you are. In our desire to know we recognize all that we are missing including human touch and being together. We ache for our own needs and those of others. You have blessed us with abundance...abundance of resources, love and hope. We are blessed to be a blessing and called to share. You love us so much and challenge us to leave our comfort zones and follow you. Help us to be grateful and to trust in these times of uncertainty and not fall prey to message of fear and scarcity. Remind us of your steadfast love and presence as we continue this journey together. As the Body of Christ, we are empowered by the Holy Spirit to be Christ's witnesses. Each of us has our own story of what Jesus' life means for us. Through our life-stories we can convey hope to the hopeless, joy to the downtrodden, and peace where there is turmoil. Let us share the Good News of Christ, that we "may all be one." Amen.

SCRIPTURE: John 17: 1-11

The Inclusive Bible

<sup>1</sup>After Jesus said this, he looked up to heaven and said,  
"Abba, the hour has come!  
Glorify your Only Begotten  
that I may glorify you,  
<sup>2</sup>through the authority you've given me over all humankind,  
by bestowing eternal life on all those you gave me.  
<sup>3</sup>And this is eternal life:  
to know you, the only true God,  
and the one you have sent,  
Jesus, the Messiah.  
<sup>4</sup>I have given you glory on earth  
by finishing the work you gave me to do.  
<sup>5</sup>Now, Abba, glorify me with your own glory,  
the glory I had with you before the world began.  
<sup>6</sup>I have manifested your Name  
to those you gave me from your word.  
<sup>7</sup>Now they know that everything you've entrusted to me  
does indeed come from you.  
<sup>8</sup>I entrusted to them  
the message you entrusted to me,  
and they received it.  
They know that I really came from you;  
they believe it was you who sent me.  
<sup>9</sup>And it's for them that I pray-  
not for the world,  
but for these you've given me-  
for they are really yours,  
<sup>10</sup>just as all that belongs to me is yours,  
and all that belongs to you is mine.  
It is in them  
that I have been glorified.  
<sup>11</sup>I am in the world no more,  
but while I am coming to you,  
they are still in the world.  
Abba, holy God,  
protect those whom you have given me  
with your Name-  
the Name that you gave me-  
that they may be one,  
even as we are one.

MEDITATION

“All in this Together”

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

SONG

“Go, My Children, with My Blessing”

Hymnal 82

BLESSING

Go forth from this place, empowered by Christ’s love and as a witness embodying God’s radical welcome. May the love of the faithful Creator, the peace of the wounded Healer, and the joy of the challenging Spirit, the hope of the 3-in-1 surround and encourage you today and forever more. Amen

POSTLUDE

# URBANDALE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

[www.facebook.com/UrbandaleUCC](https://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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## **Ministry Leaders**

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### **Leadership Team:**

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At Large Members: Kathy Marean, Jennifer Gardner, Wesley Keeler

### **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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