



Urbandale
United
Church of
Christ

God is still speaking

A Just Peace and Open and Affirming congregation

"No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are invited and welcome here."

September 20, 2020

10:00 a.m.

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST JUST PEACE SUNDAY

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.
- 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 get a pad of paper and pen/pencil.
- Later in the service we will read from the **Gospel of Matthew, Chapter 20**, 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

"At the heart of the Protestant faith is the conviction that there is nothing we contribute to our salvation but our sin, no merit we bring but Christ's, and nothing necessary for justification except faith alone." *Kevin DeYoung, American Reformed Evangelical theologian and author*

CALLING OUR ATTENTION TO THE PRESENCE OF GOD

Have you run out of things to do? Is idleness the enemy of your spirit? Is productivity consuming your thoughts and energy? How can we make best use of this time we have together, without enslaving ourselves to the idea of having to do something? Does God not pay us richly and sufficiently simply because we are? What if all we need to do in these moments is trust God – love God – worship God. Let go of any expectation of yourself, any need to be doing....anything at all. We are not in charge of what God does, nor are we responsible for our worth. It exists, in spite of all our efforts to earn it.

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Hymn of Promise"
Kris & Gary Thompson, Vocalists

Natalie Sleeth

TAKING STOCK OF OUR BLESSINGS AND RESOURCES

"Donate" tab at urbucc.org

The United Church of Christ is providing Disaster Relief funds to areas hard-hit by the storms of August 10. If you would like to know more, or contribute to the Disaster Relief fund, go to www.ucc.org.

Neighbors in Need Offering – help for our communities and our neighbors. Money from this fund is being used to enable our response to the COVID 19 Pandemic.

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

God of extravagant love and generous blessing, open us to all that you have given and the sufficiency of your grace. We too often confuse ease and comfort with evidence of your approval, instead of accepting the challenges in your call as signs of your confidence in our gifts and abilities. You do not call us to stand idly in the marketplace of your creation, so give us the courage to say “yes” when you employ us in the work of your Realm. Remind us, when we forget, that sometimes we are expected to do the hard work of seeking your presence and to bear the scorching heat of the world’s frustrated goals. Thank you for giving us what we need in these times, to point to the enduring promises in your Word that enable all of us to live in hope. And if we are tempted to complain that what we have is not enough, spur in us a generous spirit, so that our sharing with others may deepen our faith. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 20:1-16 (The Inclusive Bible)

¹“The kingdom of heaven is like the owner of an estate who went out at dawn to hire workers for the vineyard. ²After reaching an agreement with them for the usual daily wage, the owner sent them out to the vineyard.

³“About mid-morning, the owner came out and saw others standing around the marketplace without work, ⁴and said to them, ‘You go along to my vineyard and I will pay you whatever is fair.’ ⁵At that they left.

“Around noon and again in the mid-afternoon, the owner came out and did the same. ⁶Finally, going out late in the afternoon, the owner found still others standing around and said to them, ‘Why have you been standing here idle all day?’

⁷“‘No one has hired us,’ they replied.

“The owner said, ‘You go to my vineyard, too.’

⁸“When evening came, the owner said to the overseer, ‘Call the workers and give them their pay, but begin with the last group and end with the first.’ ⁹When those hired late in the afternoon came up, they received a full day’s pay, ¹⁰and when the first group appeared they assumed they would get more. Yet they all received the same daily wage.

¹¹Thereupon, they complained to the owner, ¹²“This last group did only an hour’s work, but you’ve put them on the same basis as those who worked a full day in the scorching heat.’

¹³“‘My friends,’ said the owner to those who voiced this complaint, ‘I do you no injustice. You agreed on the usual wage, didn’t you? ¹⁴Take your pay and go home. I intend to give this worker who was hired last the same pay as you. ¹⁵I’m free to do as I please with my money, aren’t I? Or are you envious because I am generous?’

¹⁶“Thus the last will be first and the first will be last.”

The editors of the Inclusive Bible use a made-up word, “kin-dom,” in place of Matthew’s “Kingdom of heaven.” It creates a difficulty when read aloud, because it sounds too much like “Kingdom,” and listeners will assume that is what was said. But the “Kingdom of Heaven” (“of God” in the other Gospels) is more than a geopolitical state or empire. It also referred to the values and culture of the people who lived there, as well as the systems and organization that made everything work. It might be more helpful to begin this parable with the words, “In the times and places where God’s ways are put into practice, it will be like the owner of an estate...” Does this clarify the meaning? Does it make it more confusing? How might you say it?

MEDITATION

“Whatever is Right”

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

“O Jesus, I Have Promised”

Hymnal 493

BLESSING

POSTLUDE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 and ever. Amen, Amen.

Forever and ever. Amen, Amen.

“O Jesus, I Have Promised”

Hymnal 493

O Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;
remain forever near me, my Savior and my Friend:
I shall not fear life's struggles if you are by my side,
nor wander from the pathway if you will be my guide.

O let me hear you speaking in accents clear and still,
above the storms of passion, the murmurs of selfwill!
O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control!
O speak, and make me listen, O guardian of my soul!

O Jesus, you have promised to all who follow you
that where you are in glory your servant shall be, too;
And, Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;
O give me grace to follow my Savior and my Friend!

URBANDALE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

3530 70th Street, Urbandale, IA 50322

Phone: 515-276-0625 ▪ Fax: 515-276-2451

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

The Rev. David P. Sickelka, Senior Pastor..... david.sickelka@urbucc.org
The Rev. Amy Murray, Ministry Program Coordinator amy.murray@urbucc.org
Steven Linn, Music Program Director steven.linn@urbucc.org
Bobby Stinnett, M.M., Organist,
Children/Youth Choirs and Handbell Director bobby.stinnett@urbucc.org
Sophiap Eng-Swanson, Office Coordinator staff@urbucc.org
Sadmire & Umihana Omerhodzic, Custodian sadmir.omerhodzic@urbucc.org

Ministry Leaders

Caregiving Ministries:

Caregivers, Homebound Rachel Siegel..... caregivers.1@urbucc.org
Care Connectors..... care.connectors@urbucc.org
Listening Room..... listening.room@urbucc.org
Prayer Circle prayer.circle@urbucc.org
Prayer Shawl Ministry prayer.shawls@urbucc.org

Leadership Team:

Moderator..... Jon Greising..... moderator@urbucc.org
Vice-Moderator..... Diane Dornburg..... vicemoderator@urbucc.org
Treasurer Jim Nervig treasurer@urbucc.org
Financial Secretary..... Steve Looney..... financial@urbucc.org
Recording Secretary..... Becky Swift..... uccrecorder@urbucc.org
Ad Ministry Liaison Adam Dirks ad.ministry@urbucc.org
Christian Growth Liaison Chris Jordan christian.growth@urbucc.org
Membership Team Carol Leadingham membership.team@urbucc.org
Small Groups Liaison Rachel Siegel..... small.groups@urbucc.org
Worship Team Patricia Goldberg..... worship.team@urbucc.org
At Large Members: Kathy Marean, Jennifer Gardner, Wesley Keeler

Other Contacts:

Building & Grounds..... B&G.team@urbucc.org
Social Media Team Sandy Gahn social.media@urbucc.org

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.