



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

November 1, 2020

10:00 a.m.

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST ALL SAINTS DAY

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,
- Today, we will be remembering and honoring some of the losses we have experienced in the past year, so if you want to include a reminder of what you have lost take a moment now to set that up in your space, in addition to whatever helps you pray, meditate, or be mindful of God’s presence. We will be ringing a bell to remember those from our congregation who have died, so if you want to find something to ring, you can do that. It may be that whatever device you are using can make a sound like a bell, or you can just ring your own doorbell when the time comes.
- 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 23**, 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

“Healthy children will not fear life if their elders have integrity enough not to fear death.”

Erik Erikson

CALLING OUR ATTENTION TO THE PRESENCE OF GOD

We are joined now by technology I cannot explain. It works for us, at least until it doesn’t. We see and hear what would otherwise be inaccessible to us. We are joined now by the Holy One who is in two places, or three or three hundred at the same time. This too, I cannot explain. It works for us, at least until it doesn’t. But if we find that our faith, our religion, no longer works for us, what do we do? Do we sit idly waiting for the signal to return? Do we press “Enter” or “Refresh” over and over expecting it to suddenly work? If the God we were expecting doesn’t show up, maybe we should change our expectations. Wherever you are, God is there too. Prepare to be amazed, for God, our God, comes.

TAKING STOCK OF OUR BLESSINGS AND RESOURCES

“Donate” tab at urbucc.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

Holy One, we are grateful to you for all of the memories that comfort us when we are feeling the ache of loss and the hollow void of absence. Beloved family members and dear friends, cherished pets and comfortable routines are sorely missed. We are grateful as well for the space of opportunity and the awkward excitement of new relationships. Teach us to re-direct our love and affection to those who need our presence here and now. Remind us that the gift of our life is not meant to be kept under wraps, but to be enjoyed by our community. Help us to overcome both our reluctance to be exposed and the difficulties of community in an age of COVID. We ask in the name of the one who has shown us how to love. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 23:1-12 (The Inclusive Bible)

¹Jesus told the crowds and the disciples, ²“The religious scholars and the Pharisees have succeeded Moses as teachers; ³therefore, perform every observance they tell you to. But don’t follow their example; even they don’t do what they say. ⁴They tie up heavy loads and lay them on others’ shoulders, while they themselves will not lift a finger to alleviate the burden.

⁵“All their works are performed to be seen. They widen their phylacteries and wear huge tassels. ⁶They are fond of places of honor at banquets and the front seats in synagogues. ⁷They love respectful greetings in public and being called ‘Rabbi.’

⁸“But as for you, avoid the title ‘Rabbi.’ For you have only one Teacher, and you are all sisters and brothers. ⁹And don’t call anyone on earth your ‘Mother’ or ‘Father.’ You have only one Parent – our loving God in heaven. ¹⁰Avoid being called leaders. You have only one leader – the Messiah.

¹¹“The greatest among you will be the one who serves the rest. ¹²Those who exalt themselves will be humbled, but those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

The titles used in verses 8-10 were familiar to the people to whom Matthew wrote. Rabbis were authorities on religious law, and while the word is often translated “teacher,” a different Greek word is paired with it in verse 8, the same word used in verse 10, kathegetes, which is better translated as guide or instructor, implying a skill or method is being taught as opposed to concepts or theory. This fits with Jesus’ penchant for emphasizing practicality in applying the law, underscores his point in verse 4, where the religious scholars and Pharisees make following the law burdensome.

MEDITATION

“Gatekeepers and Glory Seekers”

Pastor David Sickelka

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

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

COMMUNION PRAYER

REMEMBERING THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

Selma “Sonny” Duvick

Nancy Boyer

Barb O’Malia

Alma Simms

John Clark

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

PASTORAL PRAYER

Check or create your prayer list today. 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.

SONG

“The Lord’s Prayer”

Malotte

Dr. James Thompson, Vocalist

CLOSING HYMN

“For All the Saints”

Hymnal 299

Verses 1, 3 & 5

BLESSING

May you face your future with ears tuned to the distant song of triumph that only hope can hear. May your faith grow strong amid all of the challenges that come your way. May the saints that rest from their labors inspire you to be enthusiastic about yours. And may your alleluias ring loud and long with the joy of living in God’s grace. Amen.

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.

Amen.

“For All the Saints”

Hymnal 299

For all the saints who from their labors rest,
who to the world their steadfast faith confessed,
your name, O Jesus, be forever blessed!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Still may your people, faithful, true, and bold,
live as the saints who nobly fought of old,
and share with them a glorious crown of gold.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long,
steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
then hearts are brave again, and faith grows strong.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

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.*