



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

January 17, 2021

10:00 a.m.

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

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; words to The Prayer of Jesus and Closing Hymn will be on your screen as we go through the service.
- 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 asking you to jot some things down, which you may be able to do on the device you are using or find a pad and pen/pencil.
- Later in the service we will read from the **Gospel of John, Chapter 1**, 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

“Nothing in all the world is more dangerous than sincere ignorance and conscientious stupidity.”

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

CALLING OUR ATTENTION TO THE PRESENCE OF GOD

What is it that you find compelling about the life of faith? Does it make you feel good? Is it what you have always known and so seems just “right” somehow? Can you think of a time when your faith was challenged? Maybe you endured a significant loss or failure, or maybe what you always believed didn’t work for you anymore. What was that time like? How did you get through it? Did you find your faith diminished or strengthened as a result? We generally experience change and upheaval as chaotic, confusing, and exhausting, and so try desperately to avoid it, but what if that is the path to God? What if the thing we most dread is the very thing that drives us to seek God in new places, new relationships, new manifestations? I invite you now to embrace what challenges your faith, so that God may speak to you in new accents and appear in new guises.

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Cloud Forest”

Michael Bell

Jon Greising, Maeve Gresing and Jon Duvick

TAKING STOCK OF OUR BLESSINGS AND RESOURCES

“Donate” tab at urbucc.org,

On January 31, our congregation will undertake in earnest a conversation about our resources and blessings as we consider and vote on a budget for 2021. There is a lot we don’t know, and a lot that we hope to change, but we invite you to be part of those conversations.

The United Church of Christ provides Disaster Relief funds to areas hard-hit by the storms, fires, and other natural and human-caused disasters. If you would like to know more, or contribute to the Disaster Relief fund, go to www.ucc.org.

Jot down what you have that you can share with others - sidewalk messages, a sign in a window or yard, a card or letter, phone call or e-mail to someone who is having a hard time. Allow the Spirit to guide your thoughts.

Think about how you might be awash in God’s grace, by sharing what you have been blessed with.

PRAYER OF GRATITUDE

God of justice and compassion, whose desire for our wellbeing is made plain to us in the promise of shalom, we give thanks for all who have staked their lives on the unity of the human family. We thank you for those who never allowed their passion for justice to outweigh the law of love. We thank you for the witness of those whose commitment to equality left for us a legacy of peaceful protest, faithful prophecy, and persistent proclamation. We would follow their example and speak out for those whose voices are drowned out by the shouts and clamor of political posturing. We commit ourselves again to the principles of love and compassion, and resolve to be agents of change in the world. May we hold one another up and challenge one another to be our best selves, our most humane selves, our most hopeful selves. Fill us with your spirit of generosity and peace, so that others may find their strength. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

John 1:43-51 (The Inclusive Bible)

⁴³The next day, after Jesus had decided to leave for Galilee, he met Philip and said, "Follow me."

⁴⁴Philip came from Bethsaida, the same town as Andrew and Peter.

⁴⁵Philip sought out Nathanael and said to him, "We've found the One that Moses spoke of in the Law, the One about whom the prophets wrote: Jesus of Nazareth, son of Mary and Joseph."

⁴⁶"From Nazareth?" said Nathanael. "Can anything good come from Nazareth?"

"Come and see," replied Philip.

⁴⁷When Jesus saw Nathanael coming towards him, he remarked, "This is the real Israelite. There is no guile in him."

⁴⁸"How do you know me?" Nathanael asked him. Jesus answered, "Before Philip even went to call you, while you were sitting under the fig tree, I saw you."

⁴⁹"Rabbi," said Nathanael, "you're God's Own; you're the ruler of Israel!"

⁵⁰Jesus said, "Do you believe just because I told you I saw you under a fig tree? You'll see much greater things than that."

⁵¹Jesus went on to tell them, "The truth of the matter is, you will see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Chosen One."

For the second time in this chapter, new disciples are invited to "Come and see." The Greek word for "see" is not the usual word that is connected to sight. It is instead a word that has connotations of understanding deep in one's being, of knowing by experience or struggle. It implies that one must participate in a thing in order to really comprehend it. What difference do you find in knowing things in these ways? Are the realizations gained by this method more lasting and transformative?

MEDITATION

"Why Do You Believe?"

Pastor David Sickelka

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 Shall Overcome"

Hymnal 570

BLESSING

Turn from the virtual screen of faith that is only a representation of community, toward the hard reality of the world's needs. Be open to opportunities to speak and act for justice. Repair relationships, speak truth, demonstrate compassion and live by love. For we have been called to follow the One who refused to allow God to be an afterthought. And in our following, we find blessing and challenge. Amen.

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 and ever. Amen, Amen.

Forever and ever. Amen, Amen.

“We Shall Overcome”

**Hymnal 570
Verses 1, 2, 5 & 6**

We shall overcome, we shall overcome,
we shall overcome some day;
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,
we shall overcome some day.

We'll go hand in hand,
we'll go hand in hand,
we'll go hand in hand some day;
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,
we'll go hand in hand some day.

The truth shall make us free,
the truth shall make us free,
the truth shall make us free some day;
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,
the truth shall make us free some day.

We shall live in peace,
we shall live in peace,
we shall live in peace some day;
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,
we shall live in peace some day.

This Week at UCC

Sunday, January 17

10:00 am Worship
Special Music: Jon Greising and Jon Duvick
10:30 am Fellowship Hour

Wednesday, January 20

6:45 pm Confirmation Class

Saturday, January 23

9:00 am Bowtie Boyz

Upcoming Sundays

Sunday, January 17

10:00 am Worship
10:30 am Fellowship Hour
11:30 am PreK-5th Grade Sunday School

Sunday, January 31

10:00 am Worship
10:30 am Annual Congregation Budget Meeting

ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION, 2021

Mark your calendars for our congregational annual budget meeting **January 31st** immediately following worship via Zoom. We will be voting on the 2021 budget.

Please register in advance for the meeting: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0lc-yvqDkoH9zkFISH2SI6kVGGSc6V346C>. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Little Free Pantry

We need your help to restock the pantry. You are also invited to use it, and let people know about it. Please **DO NOT** leave donations of food or clothing outside the building when no one is present. Call or email the church office to arrange a drop off time.

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UCAN Clothing Closet

Donation Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays 9am-1pm; Saturdays 9-11am
Drop off location: 75th St & Douglas Ave (old Palmers Deli)

Right now we are in need of new women's and men's underwear along with the children's clothes. (No boys underwear currently needed).

Thx for contributing!
The folks at UCAN

URBANDALE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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“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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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.