



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 24, 2021

10:00 a.m.

## THIRD 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](http://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 Mark, 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

“I have noticed even people who claim everything is predestined, and that we can do nothing to change it, look before they cross the road.”

*Stephen Hawking*

### CALLING OUR ATTENTION TO THE PRESENCE OF GOD

As we share this experience of worship together, hearing the same message and seeing the same sights, what impact do you think it will have on how you live and who you are? Or do you expect that when our time together has ended, everything will simply go on as it always has? If we claim to experience God’s presence in worship, shouldn’t we expect to be changed? Shouldn’t a God who brought the worlds into being, who set the Hebrews free, who plants visions and cultivates dreams, make some kind of impression on us? Or do we like a God who is predictable and consistent and...impotent? Today we encounter a Jesus who is driven, compelled and called to announce, “Now is the time!” So now is the time for us to open ourselves to the Realm-of-God-come-near. Be careful what you do next, for if God is in our midst, we will never be the same again.

### SONG OF PRAISE

“Be Thou My Vision”  
Ann Nugent, Vocalist

Traditional Irish Melody  
arr. Richard Walters

### TAKING STOCK OF OUR BLESSINGS AND RESOURCES

“Donate” tab at [urbucc.org](http://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](http://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 a reflection of God’s Realm by sharing what you have with others.

## PRAYER OF GRATITUDE

God of gifts and graces, who aligns the needs of the world with the blessings prolific among us, we give thanks for all who have become aware of their calling in the community of faith. We thank you for those who can make a square cut on a 2x4 and for those who can bake a delicious loaf of bread. We thank you for those who do ordinary work with a mindfulness of your extraordinary blessing. We thank you that some have answered the call to ministry and some have answered the call to teach and some have answered the call to heal. We thank you that even now, vaccines are being administered to the vulnerable and to the frontline workers. We are grateful that when we get wrapped up in our losses, when grief is all we can see, when isolation makes us want to scream just so someone hears our voice, you call from among us those who remind us that all will be well and all will be well, and all manner of things will be well. Amen.

## SCRIPTURE

**Mark 1:14-20** (The Inclusive Bible)

<sup>14</sup>After John's arrest, Jesus appeared in Galilee proclaiming the Good News of God:

<sup>15</sup>"This is the time of fulfillment. The reign of God is at hand! Change your hearts and minds, and believe this Good News!"

<sup>16</sup>While walking by the Sea of Galilee, Jesus saw the brothers Simon and Andrew casting their nets into the sea, since they fished by trade. <sup>17</sup>Jesus said to them, "Follow me; I will make you fishers of humankind." <sup>18</sup>They immediately abandoned their nets and followed Jesus.

<sup>19</sup>Proceeding a little further along, Jesus saw the brothers James and John Bar-Zebedee. They too were in their boat, putting their nets in order. <sup>20</sup>Immediately Jesus called them, and they left their father Zebedee standing in the boat with the hired help, and went off in the company of Jesus.

*The Inclusive Bible uses the phrase, "Change your hearts and minds" where many translations use the word, "repent." The Greek word in this instance is metanoia, which does contain the root for "change" (like metamorphosis) and the word for "thinking and being" (like paranoia). In many religious circles, the word "repent!" as an imperative has acquired a very narrow meaning having to do with guilt and shame and tearful apologies. There is nothing in this passage to suggest that this is what Jesus had in mind.*

## MEDITATION

"The Time Has Come!"

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

"You Walk Along Our Shoreline"

Hymnal 504

## BLESSING

If you are unable to allow God to work the transformation of renewal in your life, you will be stuck in the morass of meaninglessness. But if you can be open to change, if you can envision a life that has the fullness of life, if you can be in the world but not of it, you will have tasted the new wine of the age to come! May you know that blessing and challenge in your life, now and always. Amen

## POSTLUDE

## THE PRAYER OF JESUS

Our \*Abba 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.

*\*Abba* is the ancient Aramaic word that Jesus preferred to refer to God. It is most often translated as "Father."

## **“You Walk Along Our Shoreline”**

**Hymnal 504**

You walk along our shoreline where land meets unknown sea.  
We hear your voice of power, “Now come and follow me.  
And if you still will follow through storm and wave and shoal,  
Then I will make you fishers, but of the human soul.”

You call us, Christ, to gather the people of the earth.  
We cannot fish for only those lives we think have worth.  
We spread your net of gospel across the water’s face,  
Our boat a common shelter for all found by your grace.

We cast our net, O Jesus; we seek your promised reign;  
We work for love and justice; we learn to hope through pain.  
You call on us to gather God’s daughters and God’s sons,  
To let your judgement heal us so that all may be one.

## This Week at UCC

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### **Sunday, January 24**

10:00 am Worship  
Special Music: Ann Nugent  
10:30 am Budget Informational Meeting  
11:30 am PreK-5<sup>th</sup> Grade Sunday School

## Upcoming Sundays

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### **Sunday, January 31**

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

### **Sunday, February 7**

10:00 am Worship: Communion  
10:30 am Fellowship Hour

### ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION, 2021

Mark your calendars for our congregational annual budget meeting **January 31<sup>st</sup>** 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: 75<sup>th</sup> 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

3530 70<sup>th</sup> Street, Urbandale, IA 50322  
[www.urbucc.org](http://www.urbucc.org)

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

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,  
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Sophiap Eng, Office Coordinator..... staff@urbucc.org  
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## **Ministry Leaders**

### **Caregiving Ministries:**

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Listening Room..... listening.room@urbucc.org  
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Prayer Shawl Ministry ..... prayer.shawls@urbucc.org

### **Leadership Team:**

Moderator..... Jon Greising ..... moderator@urbucc.org  
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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

*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.*