



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

February 28, 2021

10:00 a.m.

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

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 Mark, Chapter 8**, 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

“Your soul is who you are in God and who God is in you. You can never really lose your soul; you can only fail to realize it, which is indeed the greatest of losses: to have it but not have it.”

Richard Rohr

CALLING OUR ATTENTION TO THE PRESENCE OF GOD

The Lenten Journey is both inward and outward. It is a deeply private and intimate journey of discovering who we really are, and what the voice of God is saying to us and to us alone. In that sense, it is a journey we must undertake on our own. At the same time, it has external ramifications that affect the people around us and the faith community – the Body of Christ – in times and places we cannot fathom, for each of us must allow God’s voice to transform us and propel us into the world and its relationships. I hope and pray that what we do in the next 30 minutes will help you on that journey. I think that the biggest challenge in this journey is setting aside that which holds us back - not getting distracted by the glittery baubles of wealth, power, privilege and popularity. So can we, for the time we have together, set aside all that we have built up around us to maintain the fiction of our selves, and risk being who God intends and desperately longs for us to be? Can we die to what is false in order to be at peace with what we know, deep down, to be true – that our existence is infused with the glory and gift and miracle of divine love? I think it is the only thing that really matters.

SONG OF HOPE

“Orpheus”
Alex Kimzey, Vocalist

S. Bareilles

TAKING STOCK OF OUR BLESSINGS AND RESOURCES

“Donate” tab at urbucc.org,

The United Church of Christ provides Disaster Relief funds to areas hard-hit by the storms, fires, and other natural and human-caused disasters. We are especially concerned about the folks in Texas these days. 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 - a sign in a window or yard, a card or letter, phone call or e-mail to someone who is having a hard time. Assistance to someone who needs to get the vaccine, errands run for those who are not able to get out.

Remember that homeless shelters and food pantries are still being used and need our contributions.

Think about how you might let go of some things so that what really matters is made plain for all to see.

PRAYER OF GRATITUDE

God of limitless creating and impish life lessons, help us to see the folly of our fears. We try to contain your grace in boxes of ritual and theology, while you dance in the shadows of mystery and cartwheel through our systematic explanations. We are anxious about the times in which we live, while you patiently remind us that it is for times like this that you give us faith. We complain that life is hard for us, and you thunder to remind us of the abundance of what you provide and how you expect us to live. Open us to what we have at our disposal and how it may be put to good use in demonstrating trust and generosity, compassion and creativity. Help us to cherish all of the people who share this time and place with us and help us to work joyfully to free their spirits and unlock the gifts that they bring. We thank you for revealing to us the deep mysteries of our faith, while holding some for the future, so that we may learn the joy of discovery long after we thought we knew it all. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Mark 8:31-38 (The Inclusive Bible)

³¹Then Jesus began to teach them (the disciples) that the Promised One had to suffer much, be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and religious scholars, be put to death, and rise again three days later. ³²Jesus said these things quite openly.

Peter then took him aside and began to take issue with him. ³³At this, Jesus turned around and, eyeing the disciples, reprimanded Peter: “Get out of my sight, you Satan! You are judging by human standards rather than by God’s!”

³⁴Jesus summoned the crowd and the disciples and said, “If you wish to come after me, you must deny your very self, take up your cross and follow in my footsteps. ³⁵If you would save your life, you’ll lose it, but if you lose your life for my sake, you’ll save it. ³⁶What would you gain if you were to win the whole world but lose your self in the process? ³⁷What can you offer in exchange for your soul? ³⁸Whoever in this faithless and corrupt generation is ashamed of me and my words will find, in turn, that the Promised One and the holy angels will be ashamed of that person, when all stand before our God in glory.”

In rapid succession in verses 35,36, and 37, the Greek word, pseuche, is translated in the Inclusive Bible as “life,” “self” and “soul.” Some of the difficulty lies in the depth of the meaning of the Greek. It is more than biological life, including the unique things about each of us – thoughts, values, abilities – that make us who we are. “Soul” is a good start, but too many of us think of that as being ephemeral and spiritual, whereas the meaning also has temporal and physical aspects. If this passage resonates with your life experience, what word would you use?

MEDITATION

“Winning Ways”

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

“Beneath the Cross of Jesus”

Hymnal 190

BLESSING

May you negotiate the week ahead immune to the follies that masquerade as virtue, and see the treasures that God lays out for you. May your words and actions be irradiated with the love and power of God. May the shadow of the cross not be a source of fear and dread, but a reminder of the faithfulness and ultimate miracle of love’s victory, so that you may go forth in joy. 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."

“Beneath the Cross of Jesus”

Hymnal 190

Verses 1 & 3

Beneath the cross of Jesus I gladly take my stand,
the shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land;
A home within the wilderness, a rest upon the way,
from the burning of the noontide heat, and the burden of the day.

I take, O cross, your shadow for my abiding place;
I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of Christ's face;
Content to let the world go by, to know no gain or loss,
my sinful self my only shame, my glory all the cross.

This Week at UUCC

Sunday, February 28

10:00 am Worship
10:30 am Fellowship Hour

Wednesday, March 3

7:00 pm Worship Team

Upcoming Sundays

Sunday, March 7

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

Sunday, March 14

10:00 am Worship
10:30 am Fellowship Hour



Preschool-5th Grade Sunday School March 7th & 21st, 11:30am

Please 'Zoom' in from the comfort of your own home to join Jill Hamilton and Pastor Amy as we begin the liturgical season of Lent from Illustrated Ministries. We will take some time to check in and engage the curriculum. Please reach out to Rev. Amy if you have any questions, amy.murray@urbucc.org. Please register and join us on the Zoom links below:

When: March 7, 2021 11:30 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

[https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJIsuCuqz4oGtxcBl5e2fjGRvgV2Zjpd9j9](https://zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tJIsuCuqz4oGtxcBl5e2fjGRvgV2Zjpd9j9)

When: March 21, 2021 11:30 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0sdOGGrqTouE9GTR4SQK-Z2nes3WqKLCdHq>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

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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

Drop off location: 75th St & Douglas Ave (old Palmers Deli)

The Clothing Closet is in need of children's clothing, new packages of medium size men's briefs and Size 5 diapers.

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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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.