



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

May 2, 2021

10:00 a.m.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

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,
- 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. This morning, in addition to a candle or cross or Bible, an ivy plant or some other kind of vine will be particularly appropriate.
- 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 Cherry Coke, 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. If not, just grab a pad & pen/pencil.
- Later in the service we will read from the **Gospel of John, Chapter 15** 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. Also, if you make use of a prayer list, please make sure you have it handy.

GREETING

“Your experience of your deepest and truest self and your deepest experiences of God will prove one another right – and prove one another good.”

Richard Rohr

CALLING OUR ATTENTION TO THE PRESENCE OF GOD

What is it that connects us with God? Is it something “hard-wired” into our being or is it something that we need to learn? Do we pick it up from watching others, like we learn how to talk or is it unique to us in a way that makes it impossible to learn from another? Theologians and mystics have wrestled with these questions for millennia, and I don’t know that we will ever know for sure, but in my observation of human struggle and fulfillment, it seems plain that separation from the Divine Presence leaves our lives arid and unsatisfying. What helps you maintain that connection? What gets in the way? Can worshipping God facilitate the connection that enhances our existence?

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Swept Up”

Grant Boes

Grant Boes, Piano; Pat Boes, Bass; Jenny Keating, Drums; Jay Nugent, Trumpet

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.

Think about how you might foster connections that bring people closer to God and to their communities.

RECOGNITION OF GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR

Grant Boes (Shawl made by Bonita Wiley)

BLESSING: As you start your new journey, may you be blessed by this shawl. It is a symbol of God’s love and our love and we pray that it will comfort you as you make this transition. May you be blessed with all good things – finding new friends along the way. You will continue to be in our thoughts and prayers.

PRAYER OF GRATITUDE

Holy One, we give you thanks for the pulse of life that energizes our existence. We thank you for the exhilaration we feel when our gifts are tapped for your purposes and for the benefit of those around us. We are grateful for your presence and your prodding that spurs us to change how things are, making them more in line with your ends. Keep us connected to your Spirit and help us to be diligent in our pursuit of the fruits you intend us to produce, remembering that our paths may not unfold in ways that we expect. May we always be open to your leading, forgiving of others and of ourselves, and willing to learn from the challenges we face. May we never be afraid to offer what we have, who we are, and what we can do for the work of bringing hope and joy to the world. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

John 15:1-8 (The Inclusive Bible)

- ¹ “I am the true vine, and my Abba is the vine grower
- ² who cuts off every branch in me that doesn’t bear fruit, but prunes the fruitful ones to increase their yield.
- ³ You’ve been pruned already, thanks to the word that I have spoken to you.
- ⁴ Live on in me, as I do in you.
- Just as a branch cannot bear fruit of itself apart from the vine, neither can you bear fruit apart from me.
- ⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches.
- Those who live in me and I in them will bear abundant fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.
- ⁶ Those who don’t live in me are like withered, rejected branches, to be picked up and thrown on the fire and burned.
- ⁷ If you live on in me, and my words live on in you, ask whatever you want and it will be done for you.
- ⁸ My Abba will be glorified if you bear much fruit and thus prove to be my disciples.

While the English word “abide” has been all but eliminated from modern usage, (with the notable exception of the movie, “The Big Lebowski” in which “the dude abides”) we lack a suitable synonym that carries the full weight of the Greek word, meno. The editors of The Inclusive Bible use the words “live on,” but in the context above, we have to remember the connotation of being intimately connected to that which sustains us and gives meaning to life. Meno implies a sense of fellowship and unity of purpose that is hard to express in a single English word.

MEDITATION

“Bear Fruit!”

Pastor David Sickelka

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

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

COMMUNION PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

LORD’S PRAYER

SONG

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” Verses 2 & 3

Hymnal 43

BLESSING (a poem, *For Solitude*, in the book, *To Bless the Space Between Us*, by John O’Donohue)

- May you recognize in your life the presence, power, and light of your soul.
- May you realize that you are never alone, that your soul in its brightness and belonging connects you intimately with the rhythm of the universe.
- May you have respect for your individuality and difference.
- May you realize that the shape of your soul is unique, that you have a special destiny here, that behind the façade of your life there is something beautiful and eternal.
- May you learn to see yourself with the same delight, pride, and expectation with which God sees you in every moment.

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.

Amen.

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

Hymnal 43
Verses 2 & 3

Breathe, O breathe your loving Spirit into every troubled breast;
Let us all in you inherit, let us find your promise rest;
Take away our love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Come, almighty to deliver, let us all your life receive;
Suddenly return, and never, nevermore your temples leave.
You we would be always blessing, love you as your angels love,
Pray and praise for your unfailing, wounded arms outstretched above.

This Week at UCC

Sunday, May 2

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

Wednesday, May 5

7:00 pm Worship Team

Saturday, May 8

9:00 am Bowtie Boyz

Upcoming Sundays

Sunday, May 9

10:00 am Worship
10:30 am Fellowship Hour

Sunday, May 16

10:00 am Worship
10:30 am Fellowship Hour

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.

* * * * *

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

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, Office Coordinator..... staff@urbucc.org
Sadmira & Umihana Omerhodzic, Custodian sadmira.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

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.