



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

July 11, 2021

10:00 a.m.

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

*While the liturgical color for the Sundays after Pentecost is green,
we are using the Pride colors and themes until mid- July.*

PRELUDE

“Down to the River to Pray”

arr. Douglas E. Wagner
Mark Hayes

GREETING

“Power is of two kinds. One is obtained by the fear of punishment and the other by acts of love. Power based on love is a thousand times more effective and permanent than the one derived from fear of punishment.”

Mahatma Gandhi

❖ *This symbol invites the congregation to stand in body or spirit*
Bold type indicates a unison response

❖ CALL TO PRAYER AND PRAISE

ONE: Come, join your spirit with all of those who long for the love and grace of God to carry the world into a new age!

ALL: In this time of worship, we expect nothing less than a transformation of the powers and principalities, leading all to shalom.

ONE: Come, leave behind your fascination with that which chips away at life, leaving only a poor imitation of what God desires for you.

ALL: In the hearing of the Word, we find courage to live free, and the imagination to find the vision of a new community where love reigns.

ONE: Come, search your hearts and minds so that you may uncover the life that is really life and live into the most authentic “you” that God is bringing into being.

ALL: In the rejection of that which is false, we find the truth that sets us free! In embracing divine love, we heal ourselves and the world in which we live.

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Sailor Buddy”
Alex Kimzey, Vocalist

Alex Kimzey

TAKING STOCK OF OUR BLESSINGS AND RESOURCES

Where do you see God at work in the world? In those who speak the truth, even when it costs them everything? In those who dig through rubble when hope is nearly gone? In compassionate responses to immense disasters? How can you mirror that where you live?

Where do you see God at work in your own life? In a new vocation? In healing that defies prognosis? In kindness that is undeserved or that cannot be reciprocated? What difference does that make in your life?

If God is at work in so many places, why do we cling so tightly to our notions of “having,” “keeping,” and “saving.?” This is a good time for us to take stock of our circumstances. What ways are available to us that point to God and strengthen communities? Where do we fit into what God is doing?

Disaster relief: www.ucc.org.

Local church support: www.urbucc.org

Jot down what you have that you can share with others –

Think about how you can bring healing and new life to others by sharing the time and treasures at your disposal.

PRAYER OF GRATITUDE

Mighty God, whose power comes from love and whose realm gives birth to hope, we thank you for opening to us the irresistible force of grace. We thank you that time and experience renew our confidence in the ways of peace and the wisdom of justice. Keep us from falling for the deception of violent force and the fallacy of coercive aggression. Help us to recognize when our fears and our hatreds lead us down paths that can only end in suffering and death. May we turn to your wisdom to mine ancient truths for the tools that will help us navigate modern challenges. Thank you for calling us to be a peculiar people, who value community above comfort, truth above tranquility, and the way of love above the ways of the world. We ask in the name of the One who came that we might have life, and have it abundantly. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Mark 6:14-29 (The Inclusive Bible)

¹⁴Meanwhile Herod, the ruler of Judea, had heard about Jesus, whose reputation had become widespread. Some people were saying, “John the Baptizer has been raised from the dead, and that is why such miraculous powers are at work in him.” ¹⁵Others said, “He is Elijah”; still others, “He is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old.” ¹⁶When Herod heard of Jesus, he exclaimed, “John, whom I beheaded, has risen from the dead!”

¹⁷Now it was Herod who had ordered John arrested, chained and imprisoned on account of Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip, whom Herod had married. ¹⁸For John had told Herod, “It is against the law for you to have your brother’s wife.” ¹⁹As for Herodias, she was furious with John and wanted to kill him but was unable to do so. ²⁰Herod feared John, knowing him to be good and holy, and kept him in custody. When Herod heard John speak he was very much disturbed; yet he was moved by John’s words.

²¹Herodias had her chance one day when Herod on his birthday held a dinner for the court circle, military officers and leaders of Galilee. ²²When the daughter of Herodias came in and danced, this delighted Herod and the guests so much that he told the young woman, “Ask me anything you like and I will give it to you.” ²³And Herod swore an oath, “I will give you anything you ask, even half of my entire realm!”

²⁴She went out and said to her mother, “What should I ask for?”

Herodias replied, “The head of John the Baptizer.”

²⁵The woman hurried back to Herod and made her request: “I want you to give me the head of John the Baptizer on a platter.”

²⁶Herod was deeply distressed by this request, but remembering the oath he swore before the guests, he was reluctant to break his oath to her. ²⁷So Herod immediately sent one of the bodyguards with orders to bring John’s head. The guard beheaded John in prison, ²⁸then brought the head in on a platter and gave it to the young woman, who gave it to her mother.

²⁹When John’s disciples heard about this, they came and took the body away and laid it in a tomb.

The “Herod” of this story is Herod Antipas, Tetrarch of Galilee and Peraea. He was one of 4 sons of Herod the Great, who ruled Judea “by consent of Rome,” from 41 BCE to 4 BCE, first as Tetrarch, then as “King,” a title Herod Antipas desperately wanted for himself. His many efforts to impress Rome, perhaps including the beheading of John the Baptist, ultimately led to a war with another province, forcing Rome to intervene. Despite all his efforts, Antipas never gained the title he so deeply coveted. Perhaps Mark intended his readers to take note of that.

MEDITATION

“The Poverty of Power”

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

O God, our heavenly Father and Mother, may your name be sacred to us. May your realm become a reality for us. May your desires be fulfilled among us as they are in your courts. Give us today what we need for life. And forgive us for our wrongs as we forgive those who wrong us. Guide us in tempting situations and protect us from the power of evil. For the realm that is coming, the power that is growing, and the glory that is building, all belong to you forever. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

“God of Grace and God of Glory”

Hymnal 436
Verses 1, 2 & 5

BLESSING

And now may God’s power be poured out upon you, so that the world’s power might be revealed as bogus. May the wisdom and courage the Holy Spirit offers give you third and fourth and fifth ways, so that the polarities and dichotomies of our society might give way to love and grace. And may the truth of the Gospel fill you with a zeal for testifying to the transforming Way of Christ, so that each person you meet will know that they are a beloved child of a loving Creator. Amen.

POSTLUDE

“Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart”

Douglas E. Wagner

“God of Grace and God of Glory”

**Hymnal 436
Verses 1, 2 & 5**

God of grace and God of glory, on your people pour your power;
crown your ancient church's story; bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.

From the evils that surround us and assail the Savior's ways,
from the fears that long have bound us free our hearts for faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the living of these days,
for the living of these days.

Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore;
Let the search for your salvation be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving you whom we adore,
serving you whom we adore.

This Week at UCC

Sunday, July 11

10:00 am Worship
12:30 pm Matu Bethel Church
12:30 pm Light Mission Pentecostal Church

Monday, July 12

8:30 am Personnel Team
5:00 pm Interim Hiring Committee

Tuesday, July 13

5:30 pm Parenting Way

Wednesday, July 14

7:30 pm AA

Saturday, July 17

10:00 am Ordination of David Sheridan

Upcoming Sundays

Sunday, July 18

10:00 am Worship
12:30 pm Matu Bethel Church
12:30 pm Light Mission Pentecostal Church

Sunday, July 25

10:00 am Worship
12:30 pm Matu Bethel Church
12:30 pm Light Mission Pentecostal Church

Ordination of David Sheridan

Please join us for a special service on Saturday, July 17th to celebrate the ordination of David Sheridan. David and his family have been pillars of our congregation for decades, and we are deeply honored and incredibly excited to be able to host this event.

The service will begin at 10:00 a.m. and a reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall.

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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.