

IMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Organist: Karen Cain
June 20, 2021
"Extending God's love with the work of our hands and hearts..."

Pastor: Rev. Dana Schindler
Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

.....
GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

Welcome to worship today at Immanuel United Church of Christ in Hamel, IL, where our mission is "Extending God's love with the work of our hands and hearts..."

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We are pleased that you have chosen to worship with us today. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here! Please leave a comment to let us know you are here. Also note any joys and concerns you may have and feel free to greet each other in Christian love.

Music used is covered under our CCLI livestreaming license # 4012842.
Today for our service, you will need your worship guide, paper, and a pen.

PRELUDE

Karen Cain

POINT TO PONDER

*"Our most significant opportunities will be found in times of greatest difficulty."
Thomas S. Monson*

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: How wonderful it is when all people live together in unity!

**All: When waters are rough, we hold each other tightly.
When the sea begins to swallow us, we call on God.**

One: But we also need God and each other when there are no looming waves.

All: We can enjoy the shallow end and venture into deeper waters with trusted friends.

One: Let us delight in refreshing currents of community,

All: and work together to enjoy God's blessings.

***PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

Eternal God, like the sea, you are powerful and endless, yet soothing and constant. We pray that you will allow us feel your loving presence as we gather near your waters to wade in the possibilities of life that you offer us this and every day. Amen.

OPENING HYMN*Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer # 18 (NCH)**

**Guide me, O my great Redeemer,
 pilgrim through this barren land;
 I am weak, but you are mighty;
 hold me with your powerful hand.
 Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
 feed me till I want no more,
 feed me till I want no more.**

**Open now the crystal fountain,
 where the healing waters flow.
 Let the fire and cloudy pillar
 lead me all my journey through.
 Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
 ever be my strength and shield,
 ever be my strength and shield.**

**When I reach the River Jordan,
 bid my anxious fears subside.
 Death of death, and hell's destruction,
 land me safe on heaven's side.
 Songs of praises, songs of praises
 I will ever sing to you,
 I will ever sing to you.**

FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

Today we are going to be talking about storms. Are you afraid of storms? I grew up in an area that had lots of tornadoes. I remember one that happened on Thanksgiving Day. We had already eaten our big lunch and my parents and grandparents had gone to take naps. Even my brothers were taking naps. I was the only one awake. Because we lived in Alabama, the weather was not cold. All of a sudden I got a feeling that something was wrong. I looked out the window and saw that the wind had stopped blowing and the sky was an odd green color. Then before I knew it, the sky turned dark. I knew a tornado was coming. I'd seen it before. I ran to wake everyone up just as the wind started getting loud. It sounded like a train going over our house. The trees almost bent double in the hard winds. Limbs began to fly through the air and we all hid in the center of the house.

The storm didn't last long, and other than the tree limbs in the yard, there was no real damage that we could see. We were lucky that no one was injured in our community. There was some damage to buildings and some downed trees. My friend's barn was completely destroyed—it looked as if none of the boards had ever been nailed

together, it was just a pile of lumber. When my friend's family started cleaning up the barn, they found the center light bulb, still attached to the wiring, was still burning.

Storms can be really scary. They can make us afraid that we will be hurt or maybe even die. Or that someone we love might be hurt. It is normal to be afraid. But Jesus tells us that he is with us in the storms of our lives and that if we trust him and take care of ourselves, we don't have to be afraid. We can trust that he will take care of us.

PRAYER: Dear Lord, thank you for always being with us when things get scary. Help us to remember that we can trust you to tell us what to do to keep us safe. Amen.

HYMN

Be Still My Soul

488 (NCH)

**Be still, my soul: for God is on your side;
bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
Leave to your God to order and provide;
in every change God faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul: your best eternal friend
through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.**

**Be still, my soul: for God will undertake
to guide in future days as in the past.
Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake;
all now mysterious shall be clear at last.
Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know
how Jesus' power ruled them long ago.**

**Be still, my soul: the hour will soon be here
when we shall be with God whom we adore,
with disappointment, no grief nor fear,
sorrow replaced with joy forevermore.
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past,
all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 4:35–41

On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side." And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. He said to them, "Why are

you afraid? Have you still no faith?" And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

SERMON

The Storms of Our Lives

Rev. Dana Schindler

Jesus has just been teaching a large group of people through parables, including the parable of the mustard seed. Remember he had just told them they only needed faith the size of a mustard seed to move mountains. He had gotten into the boat so the people could hear him and to provide some space. Now he and the disciples are crossing to the other side. Jesus is tired and has laid down in the boat and gone to sleep. All is well.

All of a sudden, the wind picks up and the waves are about to swamp the boat. The disciples are terrified and wake Jesus, saying "don't you care that we are about to die?" Jesus speaks to the wind, saying "peace! Be still!" Immediately there is calm.

Why are you afraid? Jesus asks. "Have you no faith?"

Have you no faith?

You've just heard me talk about the mustard seed, and with me right here in the boat with you, you don't think that I care enough about you to save you from the storm. But he saw their fear, their human reaction to the storm.

I asked the younger people and now I'll ask you: Are you afraid of the storm?

If you are honest, even as an adult, we fear the storms of our lives. We may handle a little rain, wind, thunder and lightening without too much fear, but yes, we do experience fear.

Most of the storms of our lives do not involve rain, wind, thunder, and lightening. The storms we fear may have more to do with fear of not having enough. Pandemic has taught us that people had a severe fear of running out of toilet paper, soap and disinfectant wipes. Some of us have wondered if those people cleaned their homes or bodies before. Were those fears justified? No.

Many people fear changing times. Things that worked before don't seem to be working now. The fear of changing from "what we've always done" to what "we've never done before" can be so paralyzing that we, like the disciples, can only say "Lord, don't you care that we are perishing?"

The disciples did not have a great vision of what to do to solve their problem. They panicked. The disciples were ordinary people, just like us. How often do we see a

problem and think of a way to solve it and how often do we see a problem and wring our hands and clutch our pearls and say “Lord, don’t you care that we are perishing?”

Jesus asks “why are you afraid?” What is it about this situation that frightens you? When we face our own storms, it is good to ask ourselves what is it that frightens us? Have you ever started thinking through a problem by asking yourself “what is the worst thing that could happen?” Of course you have. We humans often go to the “worst case scenario.” I love the word “awfulizing.” It means that you take something bad and make it even worse. Humans are great at doing that. But once you’ve “awfulized” a problem to the extreme, you can actually see and hear what you’re doing and move to a more positive outlook so you can begin to work through your storm. Once we can name our fear, we can move on.

Jesus doesn’t shame the disciples or us when we panic and cry out for help. He simply reminds us that he is with us in the midst of the storm, that he will help us get through the storm, and that we can have assured faith in those facts. And once we have that assurance, then we will be able to hear him tell us how to manage our storm. He will send us people to help us. He will help us find the resources we need.

The promise has never been that there won’t be storms, just that we won’t have to go through them alone.

As we face the storms of our lives as individuals, families, and church, let us remind ourselves that Jesus has promised to be with us in the storm, to help us find the resources we need to get through the storm, and to help us use the bad things that happen to us for good.

One of my favorite verses is Jeremiah 29:11: For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. The Lord has a plan for us and while we can’t always see how its going to work out in our favor, it will. That’s something I can have faith in. I hope you can too. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER

Lord of the storm, let us feel your presence this day. Grant us calmness as we face uncertain futures. Help us to relinquish control and to place our trust totally in you. Remind us to continue to faithfully work for good. Help us to recall with gratitude the many blessings you have poured upon us. When the waves and torrents threaten us, let us again to turn to you, remembering your saving mercies and love. Give us courage to become disciples who can calm the seas of doubt and anger, bringing hope and peace. We thank you for the many ways in which you have healed us, and we ask for your healing in the lives and bodies of those we care about and those we do not know. For all the goodness you have poured on us, we offer prayers of gratitude and love. We give thanks this day for our fathers and all who have fulfilled the roles of

fathers. We pray for those men who would like to be fathers but have not had the opportunity to do so. We pray for those who have difficult relationships with their fathers that they may find healing. We pray for fathers who have lost their children, for whom this day is difficult rather than happy. Hold each one close to your heart, O God, that they may find peace. We pray for our community, our country and our world, that we may all find ways to provide justice for all that we might live in peace. Guide our leaders, that they may do what is right in your eyes And we pray for our church, its pastor, leaders and people, that we may all follow where Christ leads us. All these things we pray in the name of your son, Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray saying: 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, the power, the glory forever Amen.

GIVING OUR GIFTS

As the storms of life beset us, let us remember God's providential care for us. Let us give of our time, talent, and treasure as our hearts direct. Offerings may be placed in the offering plates outside the sanctuary or mailed to Immanuel United Church of Christ at 5838 Staunton Road, Edwardsville, IL 62025.

HYMN OF THANKS Take My Life, God, Let it Be # 448 (NCH)

Take my life, God, let it be consecrated faithfully

Take my moments and my days, let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Generous God, take our gifts, bless them, and use them to calm the storms of life. Help us to create life-giving streams in our communities. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

472 (NCH)

Precious Lord, take my hand

Lead me on, let me stand

I'm tired, I'm weak, I'm lone

Through the storm, through the night

Lead me on to the light

Take my hand precious Lord, lead me home

When my way grows drear precious Lord linger near

When my light is almost gone

Hear my cry, hear my call

Hold my hand lest I fall

Take my hand precious Lord, lead me home

**When the darkness appears and the night draws near
And the day is past and gone
At the river I stand
Guide my feet, hold my hand
Take my hand precious Lord, lead me home**

GOING FORTH TO SERVE

As we go forth to serve, please remember our opportunities this week. Join us for **LUNCH & BOOKS IN THE PARK** join us at church Tuesday at 10:30 am to make sandwiches, then on to the park to serve.

PRAYER GROUP Wednesday morning at 10:00 am on Zoom as we pray for the health of our church and our friends, family, and community. We hope to hear God's will for us in this time and place.

EDUCATION TEAM needs people to help get our new program off the ground in September. In order for this to be a success, we must start planning ASAP. Please join us Wednesday night at 7 on Zoom as we begin this important work.

The current plan (OTHER IDEAS ARE WELCOME!):

Two Sundays each month, following coffee fellowship, we will present a Bible story, followed by activities for children and discussion time for adults not involved with the children's activities.

One Sunday each month will be a mission/outreach activity chosen by church members. This could be anything to help the community or one of our missions we already support.

One Sunday each month will be a fellowship activity: game day, a movie with a message, etc.

Fifth Sundays could be a potluck, clean up day, etc.

REVITALIZATION TEAM will be discussing new ideas for outreach and mission. Please let Pastor Dana know if you are interested.

E-MAIL ADDRESSES

Ruth: officeiucc@gomadison.com
Pastor Dana: pastoriucc@gomadison.com

THE BREAD OF LIFE FOOD PANTRY in Hamel is open on Mondays from 9:00am till 10:30am. All who need assistance are welcome.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

Corn	Green Beans	Peas
Carrots	Chef Boyardee Ravioli	Pie Filling
Pasta sauce	BBQ Sauce	Chili
Mashed Potatoes	Baked Beans	Rice
Evaporated Milk	Coffee	Shampoo
Bars of soap	Dish Detergent	

CONCERNS

Maria S.

Kathie R.

Tomiko J.

Rose O.

Michelle L.

Jane B.

Diane B.

Rich

Hitz Home workers and residents

Pastor Dana, as she leads

Harry S.

Martha K.

Wayne S.

Roger W.

Kristy K.

Mary Ann C.

Luella L.

Huber Family

Our country as we deal with pandemic

Lillie H.

Carole G.

Sherri R.

Kathleen L.

Dorothy D.

Jake G.

Church Council

Our Church

BENEDICTION

In the storms of our lives, we are never left alone. Christ is always with us, supporting us and showing us the way through. May we always remember!

And now, until we meet again, may each one be held safely in the palm of God's hand. Amen.

POSTLUDE