

# IMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Organist: Karen Cain

Pastor: Rev. Dana Schindler

June 27, 2021

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

“Extending God’s love with the work of our hands and hearts...”

## 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...”

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

“The meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose of life is to give it away.”

Pablo Picasso

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Whoever you are, you are welcome here in the body of Christ.

**All: That is good news!**

One: We bring our gifts to praise God.

**All: We are happy to be together.**

One: Let us worship God in spirit and in truth. Amen

### \*PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Bountiful God, you have blessed us with so many gifts. In this time of worship, may we be open to receiving these gifts. Help us claim our gifts and use them to bring liberation and justice to a hurting world. May the transforming Spirit of joy and unity bind us together as your body, that we may be your hands, feet, and voice always. Amen.

### \*OPENING HYMN

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You“

# 4 (NCH) 3 vs

Joyful, joyful, we adore you,  
 God of glory, God of love;  
 Hearts unfold like flowers before you,  
 opening to the sun above.  
 Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,  
 drive the storms of doubt away;

**Giver of immortal gladness,  
fill us with the light of day.**

**All your works with joy surround you,  
earth and heaven reflect your rays,  
Stars and angels sing around you,  
center of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain,  
flowery meadow, flashing sea,  
Chanting bird and flowing fountain  
teach us what our praise should be.**

**You are giving and forgiving,  
ever blessing, ever blessed,  
Well-spring of the joy of living,  
ocean depth of happy rest!  
Loving Spirit, Father, Mother,  
all who love belong to you;  
Teach us how to love each other,  
by that love our joy renew.**

### **FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART**

Did you know that your body is made up of 206 bones and over 600 muscles, ligaments, joints, veins, arteries, organs, and fat. Our body is a complex system, and all of the parts have to work together to make it work. We need each individual part and we need it to work at its best.

Have you seen people do a three-legged race? Two people stand beside each other and tie the two legs in the middle together. Then they have to run to the finish line. The two legs tied together have to move at the same time, or they will fall. That means the two people have to talk to each other. They have to step out with the legs tied together at the same time and then the two legs not tied together. If one of them forgets, they fall. If one goes faster than the other, they fall. If one gets distracted by the noise, they fall. The only way to win or even finish the race, is to work together.

Our scripture lesson talks about everyone in the church working together like a body so we can do what God wants us to do. We make God happy when we work together to do good things. But sometimes, just like the families we were born into, we might have a disagreement, and we might not want to work together. But Paul tells us to keep working together, so that our family, our church, can be healthy and keep serving God.

**PRAYER:** Loving God, remind us to work together so that we our family and our church can be healthy. Amen.

**HYMN****“Forward Through the Ages”**

# 377 (NCH) 3

VS

**Forward through the ages, in unbroken line,  
 move the faithful spirits at the call divine;  
 Gifts in differing measure, hearts of one accord,  
 manifold the service, one the sure reward.  
 Forward through the ages, in unbroken line,  
 Move the faithful spirits at the call divine.**

**Wide grows God's dominion,  
 reign of love and peace;  
 for it we must labor, till all strivings cease.  
 Prophets have proclaimed it, teachers testified,  
 poets sung its glory, martyrs for it died.  
 Forward through the ages, in unbroken line,  
 Move the faithful spirits at the call divine.**

**Not alone we conquer, not alone we fall;  
 in each loss or triumph, lose or triumph all.  
 Bound by God's far purpose in one living whole,  
 move we on together to the shining goal.  
 Forward through the ages, in unbroken line,  
 Move the faithful spirits at the call divine.**

**SCRIPTURE READING      1 Corinthians 12:12-31a**

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body — Jews or Greeks, slaves or free — and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged

the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But strive for the greater gifts.

## **SERMON**

## **Membership has its Privileges**

***Rev. Dana Schindler***

Paul wrote two letters to the church at Corinth in response to letters from Corinth. This newly established church had problems. We aren't sure what their problems were since we don't have access to their letters, but they seem to have trouble getting along. This is hardly surprising, since some were life-long Jews who knew their history and the Torah. Others had worshipped Greek gods or had never worshipped any god before. They were from different places since Corinth was a seaport town. Some were quite wealthy and some were quite poor. They were a very diverse group.

Paul explains that they are to function like a body: they were all different and had different gifts, but they all needed to work together to make their body work. Even the simplest task takes many parts of the body working together to happen.

Are you a member of the church?

This is a simple, straightforward question. Yes or No. Are you?

We are members of a lot of things. I'm a member of this church. I'm also a member of this conference and this denomination. I'm a member of my family and my husband's family. I've been a member of a union, a member of Weight Watchers, a member of the Y, a member of a number of high school clubs.

Being a member means we have privileges. So what are the privileges of membership here? In some churches you have to be a member to receive communion, but not here. In some churches you have to be a member in order to get married, or to have your funeral here, or to have your child baptized. But in this church, that is not the case. You don't have to be a member to worship with us or to come to a church dinner. You don't even have to be a member for the pastor to come visit you in the hospital. Being a member doesn't mean you get a better parking space or that the pastor will remember your name any better. It also doesn't mean that what you would like to see happen actually will happen. It doesn't mean that if you have an idea, everyone else will want to do it or will agree that it should be done. Even if it's a good idea. And that's because we all need to work together to do what God wants us to do, even if it isn't

what we really wanted to do. We might have to make adjustments. We might even have to give up doing something the way we want to do it.

So, what does a member do that non-members don't?

We serve.

That's it.

As Picasso said, first we discover our gifts and then we give them away.

Being a church member means that we have the privilege of using the gifts God gave us, to serve others. A member is never too young or too old to use their gifts. Your gifts may be anything and you might have more than one. Once you figure out what your gift is, being a member means that you serve others by using your gift or gifts. And the more you give those gifts, the healthier the church becomes, because while you are giving your gifts, others are giving their gifts. And when everyone is busy serving others by giving their gifts, something amazing happens. We think more about each other and about God, and less about what we want. We learn to think about others, both inside the church walls and outside the church walls and we deepen our love for each other. And we can't wait to do our part. And when someone needs help, it doesn't even occur to us to think about how we'd rather not use our gifts or serve each other. We don't worry if they deserve our gifts. We are eager to serve because it helps us to love God and each other.

We become a loving functional body, in which everything works the way its supposed to. We find our place and discover our joy. We are all different. We think differently, we have different gifts and that is a wonderful thing. We need every person to use the gifts, the ideas that God has provided and we need to use them by listening to everyone and working together to serve God and each other. That is how our church body becomes and stays healthy.

I pray that each of us will promise to be a functioning member who gives, serves, evangelizes, and studies so that we can be a healthy part of our church body, that we may not just survive, but thrive together to help create God's kingdom here on earth.

Amen.

### **PASTORAL PRAYER**

Gracious God, we give thanks for the gifts you have given us, gifts to ensure our ability to thrive as your church in this place. Help us to not only recognize the gifts we have received, but to use them by serving each other and you. Remind us always that our membership in the body of Christ, your church, requires us to stay healthy, working together for the benefit of everyone—those present and those not present. We pray for the strength and willingness to work when we would rather provide an excuse. Remind us of the joy we feel when we work together to achieve your will for us.

We continue to bring before you the names and situations of people that are in need. We ask for your healing mercies. We pray for our church, its leaders, its people, and its

pastor. Make your presence and your will known to us. We pray for our country and its leaders. Help our leaders to make just decisions and help our people to end our divisiveness and work for justice that we may live in peace.

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**

What gifts do we have to offer? How can we serve God and others with those gifts? Please prayerfully consider what God has given to you and what you can do to help bring God's kingdom to this time and place. 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**

**Gracious God, we pray that you will bless these gifts of time, talent and treasure. Enable us to use them to build your kingdom of love here on earth. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.**

### **\*CLOSING HYMN**

**Blest Be the Tie that Binds**

**# 393 (NCH) 3 vs**

**Blessed be the tie that binds  
our hearts in Christian love;  
the sharing of a common life  
is like to that above.**

**We share each other's woes,  
Each other's burdens bear.  
And often for each other flows  
a sympathizing tear.**

**When we are called to part  
it gives us inward pain,**

**But we shall still be joined in heart,  
and hope to meet again.**

**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 let Pastor Dana know how you can help with this new program.

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](mailto:officeiucc@gomadison.com)

Pastor Dana: [pastoriucc@gomadison.com](mailto: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.	Harry S.	Lillie H.
Kathie R.	Martha K.	Carole G.
Tomiko J.	Wayne S.	Sherri R.

Rose O.	Roger W.	Kathleen L.
Michelle L.	Kristy K.	Dorothy D.
Jane B.	Mary Ann C.	Jake G.
Diane B.	Luella L.	Church Council
Rich	Huber Family	Our Church
Hitz Home workers and residents	Our country as we deal with pandemic	
Pastor Dana, as she leads		

### **BENEDICTION**

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

### **POSTLUDE**