

# IMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Organist: Karen Cain

Pastor: Rev. Dana Schindler

July 4, 2021

Sixth 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.

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### PRELUDE

*Karen Cain*

### POINT TO PONDER

“Love is that condition in which the happiness of another person is essential to your own.” — Robert A. Heinlein, Stranger in a Strange Land

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Those who love Christ will keep his word.

**All: Jesus said “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind;**

One: and your neighbor as yourself.”

**All: We come this day with open hearts, souls, and minds, ready to learn to love as Christ taught us. Amen!**

### \*PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Loving God, we come today seeking guidance. We pray that you will open our ears, hearts, and minds to truly hear your word. Help us to be the loving people you have commanded us to be. In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.

### \*OPENING HYMN

**O For a World**

**# 575 (NCH) 3 vs**

**O for a world where everyone  
respects each other's ways,  
where love is lived and all is done  
with justice and with praise.**

**We welcome one world family  
and struggle with each choice  
that opens us to unity  
and gives our vision voice.**

**O for a world preparing for  
God's glorious reign of peace,  
where time and tears will be no more,  
and all but love will cease.**

**FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART**

**I love you, you love me We're a happy family  
With a great big hug And a kiss from me to you  
Won't you say you love me too?**

You may recognize these as the words to the Barney song. We can always tell people that we love them, but how can we show them that we love them without words?

We could use sign language. Or we could do nice things. Parents like when you do chores without being asked. Or we could make them something or just do something nice. If we see someone who doesn't seem to have a friend, we could always smile at them or go over and talk to them. Today our scripture is about love and how our actions and speech need to match Jesus' command to love each other. Maybe the best way to start loving each other, is just to be nice: do nice things, say nice things, and think nice things. And for people you know, a hug and a kiss could be good ways to let them know you love them.

**PRAYER Thank you God, for always loving us. Help us to love each other too.  
Amen.**

**HYMN**

**The Gift of Love**

**# 526 (Chalice) 3 vs**

**Though I may speak with bravest fire,  
and have the gift to all inspire,  
and have not love, my words are vain,  
as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.**

**Though I may give all I possess,  
and striving so my love profess,  
but not be given by love within,  
the profit soon turns strangely thin.**

**Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control,  
our spirits long to be made whole.**

Let inward love guide every deed;  
by this we worship, and are freed.

**SCRIPTURE READING      1 Corinthians 13**

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

**SERMON**

**What's Love Got to Do With It?**

***Rev. Dana Schindler***

When I was a child, Dragnet was a popular tv show. If you remember black and white tv, you will remember it, I'm sure. Joe Friday, the policeman, would show up and ask what had happened, with his famous line: "Just the facts, Ma'am."

One of the facts that Jesus told his disciples was ***"By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."*** ***John 13:35***

There really is no wiggle room there. Just the fact.

Last week we talked about what Paul said to the church at Corinth about how to be members of their church and in today's scripture reading, he continues talking about church unity. Let's consider how we are doing with this demonstrating our love for one another.

Is our speech to and about each other loving? How do we speak TO each other? Are we ever dismissive or rude? Perhaps even more importantly, how do we speak ABOUT each other? We, as a church, adopted a Covenant of Conduct, to help us

remember how to treat each other as Jesus taught, to help us solve problems that arise. Are we using it? Do we talk to the people we have problems with? When we fail—and everyone fails at times—do we ask forgiveness? Do we change our behavior?

Does our understanding of our faith translate into loving relationships? Do we talk about loving each other while we are in church but say and act in ways that are anything BUT loving outside of church? Do we even wait until we get out the door to begin gossiping about each other or treating each other disrespectfully?

Do we substitute giving of time, talent, and treasure for love of God and each other?  
Do we give everything BUT love?

Are we patient? Are we kind? Are we envious or boastful or arrogant or rude? Do we insist on our own way? Are we irritable or resentful? Do we rejoice in the truth? Each of us is on a spiritual journey, examining our faith and our relationship with God. Our understandings are very different. Can we be patient with those who are just learning? Can we explain things we understand in a different way without being unkind? Can we accept people who are different in any way? Do we have to get our way in order to be nice? It is not an uncommon occurrence in churches to hear “If we don’t do (whatever I want to be done), I will leave and take my money with me/lots of people will leave.” Another one that is more common than it should be is “I’m not giving another penny as long as that pastor stays.” How loving is it to hold a church hostage to one’s personal desires? How does that honor God? How much better would it be if everyone sat down together and worked to solve whatever problems the church and it’s people have?

**It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.**

When we love each other, we are willing to help each other through hard times. We don’t have to agree and we certainly don’t have to accept bad behavior. But we are called to work together in unity. Loving relationships include setting boundaries. When someone is emotionally or physically abusive, we need to set boundaries and seek help if needed to resolve problems and maintain those boundaries. We have hope that God can work in the lives of others to cause change, but we also work to maintain safety and unity.

**When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways.**

This does not refer to someone’s age. When we are beginning our journey of faith, we get lots of things wrong, just like children. We begin to learn scripture at a very literal level and much of it doesn’t really make sense to us. As we study and experience God’s love for us in our daily lives, as we get to know God better, we grow and become

more mature in our faith. That is why learning about our faith should not end with confirmation, but continue our whole lives. If our Bible study ends when we are teenagers, we never truly mature in our faith. We never get to the deeper meanings of those Bible stories that hold great truth, but are not always factual. We don't have that interaction with our faith that helps us to understand how to love people we may not like or agree with.

So, what's love got to do with being a church member?

Love is what provides our unity. It's what binds us to God, Christ, the Holy Spirit, and each other. Love is what makes us a church. Our willingness to behave in loving ways is seen by everyone inside the walls of this building and outside in our community. It helps those on the outside to see inside. It helps to draw people to God.

I pray that each of us will seek to be a source of unity and love in our church family, even though the pastor and other members are not perfect, because neither are we. I pray that we will work hard to not be a source of gossip or dissension. And I pray that we will allow the love of God to dwell in us richly, that all may know that we are God's people. Amen.

### **PASTORAL PRAYER**

Loving God, sometimes we find it hard to love your other beloved children. Sometimes they are unkind, but just as often, we find it hard to love them simply because they look, act, or think differently. Sometimes it seems like we just can't help ourselves. Long-held biases and beliefs make it hard to see them for who they really are. Help us, Lord, to work harder to understand those we find hard to like. Help us to pray for help and to follow your guidance as we try to love. Help us to forgive when we don't think they deserve it. Enable us to set boundaries that are appropriate. And help us to speak words of kindness, healing and unity.

We pray this day for those listed on our prayer list and for those whose names and situations remain in our hearts. Hold each one close, provide the comfort and healing they need. We pray for all who are traveling, that their journeys may be safe. We pray for our church, it's leaders, it's members, it's friends, and it's pastor. Help each of us to understand our gifts and how we are to use them for the benefit of your kin-dom in the world. We pray for our country, which we love. Help us to work together as a country, so that all may truly be treated with liberty and justice. 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 we consider the great love God has shown us, let us give in love of our time, talents, and treasure for the ministries of our church in our community and our world. 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 give thanks for your many blessings, poured out in love. Bless these gifts we bring, also given in love, that they may be used to demonstrate your love for all people. Amen.

**CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION****COMMUNION HYMN            "Let Us Break Bread Together"            # 330 (NCH) 3 vs**

Let us break bread together on our knees;  
 let us break bread together on our knees.  
       When I fall on my knees,  
       with my face to the rising sun,  
       O God, have mercy on me.

Let us drink wine together on our knees;  
 let us drink wine together on our knees.  
       When I fall on my knees,  
       with my face to the rising sun,  
       O God, have mercy on me.

Let us praise God together on our knees;  
 let us praise God together on our knees.  
       When I fall on my knees,  
       with my face to the rising sun,  
       O God, have mercy on me.

**INVITATION**

This is the table of Jesus Christ, who welcomes us now. He invites us not because we are worthy, but because we are not. He invites us not because we are pure, but

because we are deeply scarred. He invites us in spite of our woundedness, in spite of our inability to forgive, even when we betray him through our words and deeds. He continues to invite us to come, so that he may heal our wounds and grant us grace upon grace. Come not because we deserve his grace, but because we all desperately need it. Come, for we are deeply loved, no matter who we are or where we are on life's journey, Christ waits for us here and now. Come.

### **PRAYER**

God be with us all, wherever we may be. Let us lift our hearts and give thanks to God. In love, God created this world and everything in it. God always has been and always will be with us in our wilderness experiences. God has always granted us grace upon grace. God came to us as a baby named Jesus, who healed the broken and the wounded, and challenged the authorities to embrace those who live in the shadows and at the margins. Jesus died on the cross and rose again, reminding us that life always overcomes death and that out of death new life emerges. For this O God, we are eternally grateful. We join all the saints who have come before to say the words of the ancient hymn:

### **Sanctus**

**Holy, holy, holy, God of love and majesty,  
the whole universe speaks of your glory,  
O God most high.**

**Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God.**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

### **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

We remember two of the disciples walking on the road to Emmaus and meeting a stranger. They invited him to walk with them and talked about the crucifixion. The stranger asked questions, the disciples were amazed he did not know about the crucifixion. As they walked, evening neared. They invited the stranger to stop and eat with them. As the stranger blessed and broke the bread, they recognized Jesus. May we, too, through sharing the bread, recognize the risen Christ in each one we meet. By this bread and this cup we proclaim:

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

### **PRAYER OF CONSECRATION**

Set your Holy Spirit, O God, upon this bread and this cup. Though we may be in separate places, grant that by this bread and cup we will be one body in Christ to support each other in this our time of trial and to proclaim hope through our ministries of healing and grace. Amen.

## **SHARING THE FEAST**

The body of Christ, broken for you.

The cup of the new covenant, poured out for you.

## **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

We give thanks to you, O God, for gathering us together at this table in this moment in time. Though separate, by your Holy Spirit and this bread and cup, we are bound as one body in Christ. We go forth from here strengthened in love and committed to bear witness to hope that never dies. May we tell the story of life that always overcomes death through our words and deeds. Amen.

**GOING FORTH TO SERVE** As we go forth to serve, please remember our opportunities this week. Join us for

**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.

**CHURCH COUNCIL** meets Wednesday at 7 pm.

**VISION TEAM** meets Thursday at 7 pm on Zoom.

**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)

## **JULY BIRTHDAYS**

2— Marianne M.

8— Michelle L.

20—Lillie H.

26—Bob R.

29—Nate A.

4— Mark B.

10—Emerson G.

22—Marianne S.

26—Alaina G.

29—Sheila A.

7— Mark K.

13—Jessica R.

25—Melainie W.

29—Leroy L.

**JULY ANNIVERSARIES**

15—Rev. Dana &amp; Dave S.

29—Rev. Allen &amp; Lynn R.

**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	Kyle T.	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**