

# IMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Organist: Karen Cain  
July 18, 2021  
"Extending God's love with the work of our hands and hearts..."

Pastor: Rev. Dana Schindler  
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

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**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.

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**PRELUDE**

*Karen Cain*

**POINT TO PONDER**

*"Good judgment comes from experience, and experience - well, that comes from poor judgment." — A.A.Milne*

*"Practice the pause. Pause before judging. Pause before assuming. Pause before accusing. Pause whenever you're about to react harshly and you'll avoid doing and saying things you'll later regret." — Lori Deschene*

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: The earth is the LORD's and all that is in it,  
the world, and those who live in it

**All: Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD?  
And who shall stand in his holy place?**

One: Those who have clean hands and pure hearts,  
who do not lift up their souls to what is false,  
and do not swear deceitfully.

**All: They will receive blessing from the LORD,  
and vindication from the God of their salvation. Amen.**

**\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

Loving God, we come this day, seeking love and understanding. Help us, we pray, to look at each one we meet as you look at us—with love and understanding. Open our ears, hearts, and minds to your love and wisdom this day. In the name of Christ, our Lord, we pray, Amen.

**\*OPENING HYMN**    **All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name # 304 NCH/ # 326 HFG 4 vs**

**All hail the power of Jesus' name!  
 Let angels prostrate fall.  
 Bring forth the royal diadem,  
 and crown him Lord of all.  
 Bring forth the royal diadem,  
 and crown him Lord of all!**

**O seed of Israel's chosen race  
 now ransomed from the fall,  
 hail him who saves you by his grace,  
 and crown him Lord of all.  
 Hail him who saves you by his grace,  
 and crown him Lord of all!**

**Let every tongue and every tribe  
 responsive to his call,  
 to him all majesty ascribe,  
 and crown him Lord of all.  
 To him all majesty ascribe,  
 and crown him Lord of all!**

**Oh, that with all the sacred throng  
 we at his feet may fall!  
 We'll join the everlasting song  
 and crown him Lord of all.  
 We'll join the everlasting song  
 and crown him Lord of all.**

**FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART**

Today we are going to be talking about judgment. Judgment means that we make a decision based on what we see and hear. If you see someone who is dirty and has on torn clothes, you might think they are poor. That might be true, but they might also have fallen off a bike and rolled down a hill over rocks. You'd really have to talk to them to find out whether one of those things is true, or if there is another reason why they are dirty and wearing torn clothes.

If you are at school and the teacher asks another student a question and they don't answer, what would you think? You might think they aren't very smart, but what if the problem is they can't hear? Or maybe they just need a few minutes to think about the question and come up with the answer.

I remember being in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade and I was making terrible grades in math. I didn't understand why I got failing grades on my tests when I understood the work and made A's on my homework. Finally, after one test, I went to the teacher and said "I know you said my answers weren't right, but I don't understand." He was a nice man and sat down with me and worked each problem step-by-step with me. And he got the same answers I did. Then HE was confused. He looked at his paper and my paper and then he saw the problem. He always wrote the problems on the board for us to copy. And I had copied the problems wrong. The problem was not that I couldn't do the work. The problem was that I needed glasses to see the board. He made a mistake in judgment and we both learned from it.

It's important for us to remember that when we see or hear something and make a judgment about it, we aren't always right, so it's a good thing for us to find out more information before we make up our minds about something or someone—so we can be sure that we are making a good judgment.

PRAYER: Help us Lord, to listen with our ears and hearts, so we make judgments that are true and fair. Amen.

**HYMN OF CONFESSION**    **"Help Us Accept Each Other"**    # 388 NCH 4 vs

**Help us accept each other  
as Christ accepted us;  
teach us as sister, brother,  
each person to embrace.  
Be present, God, among us,  
and bring us to believe  
we are ourselves accepted  
and meant to love and live.**

**Teach us, O Lord, your lessons,  
as in our daily life  
we struggle to be human  
and search for hope and faith.  
Teach us to care for people,  
for all, not just for some,  
to love them as we find them,  
or as they may become.**

**Let your acceptance change us,  
so that we may be moved  
in living situations  
to do the truth in love;**

**To practice your acceptance,  
until we know by heart  
the table of forgiveness  
and laughter's healing art.**

**God, for today's encounters  
with all who are in need,  
who hunger for acceptance,  
for righteousness and bread,  
Bring us new eyes for seeing,  
new hands for holding on:  
renew us with your Spirit;  
God! Free us, make us one!**

### **WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

God hears our confessions and knows our hearts. God grants us grace upon grace. Rejoice, we are forgiven. Amen.

### **SCRIPTURE READING      **Matthew 7:1-5****

“Do not judge, so that you may not be judged. For with the judgment you make you will be judged, and the measure you give will be the measure you get. Why do you see the speck in your neighbor’s eye, but do not notice the log in your own eye? Or how can you say to your neighbor, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ while the log is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your neighbor’s eye.

### **SERMON**

#### **“Here Comes the Judge”**

*Rev. Dana Schindler*

I hope you wore steel-toed shoes today because this sermon may stomp on your toes. If it does, just remember that it’s been stomping on mine since Monday.

Are you a judgmental person? Do you ever look at someone’s haircut and wonder if they did it themselves because it’s so awful? Or look at someone’s outfit and wonder if they got dressed in the dark?

I will confess that I am not a morning person, but most of my life’s jobs required me to be at work before 7 am. It is also hard for me to buy shoes that fit well, so if I find a pair I really like, I will buy a pair in every color. I have arrived at work with two shoes that are the same style but different colors, because I did, in fact, get dressed in the dark.

Have you ever asked someone a question and received what you thought to be a less than thoughtful answer? The first reaction might be they “might not be too bright,” but perhaps the other person misunderstood the question. Perhaps they have a hearing

problem, or a dead battery in their hearing aid. Perhaps they need to have the question repeated. Maybe it just takes them a little longer to process the information. Or maybe they had earbuds in and really did not hear you at all.

In our scripture today, we are advised not to judge others. We are not to say someone is wrong or what they are doing is bad, because we might not know the whole story. Not every situation is so cut and dried that there is only one acceptable answer or one acceptable way to behave.

We are told not to judge others when we are not perfect. We are called to take care of our own sins and not to worry about what other people are doing, especially when what we are doing is worse than what they are doing. Our judgment may be far worse than whatever “bad” thing the other person is doing. When we judge others, we usually do not know all of the information. We don’t know their life, how they feel, what their problems are. We are called to take care of our own problems and leave the judgment of others to God.

Stealing is wrong. If a teenager takes your car to take a joy ride, they should be arrested, charged, and punished. But what if that same teenager takes your car to take their friend to the hospital because the friend might die before the ambulance gets there? Should they be arrested, charged, and punished? Should the parent who steals bread to feed their children receive the same punishment as someone who steals a TV?

I’m reminded of all of the times in the Bible when Jesus meets a person with a problem, who has committed some sin. And it always says that Jesus looked at them and had compassion.

Let me say that again: Jesus looked at them and had compassion.

How much better would our world be if we looked at each other with compassion instead of judgment?

We judge others and others judge us. Isn’t it a terrible feeling when we feel that people think we aren’t “good enough” for whatever reason? We aren’t pretty enough, or smart enough, or nice enough, or holy enough. We don’t do things perfectly, but others think we should. Heaven help us if we make a mistake! Some people will never let us forget it. They will bring up every mistake we have ever made—even if they weren’t really mistakes or didn’t really even matter.

Many of us are so used to being judged harshly for things beyond our control and that don’t even matter, by people who don’t understand, that we even start joining in by saying things about ourselves that are overly harsh and not even true. And the cycle continues.

Let's stop the judging. Let's work to make the world a kinder, more compassionate place. Let's stop all of that negative talk about others and ourselves. And let's look at others and ourselves with the same compassion that Christ grants us. Let's make our homes, our church, our community, and our world, a more loving place to be. Then God's kingdom can truly come. Amen.

### **PASTORAL PRAYER**

Gracious God, we give thanks that you see our failures and have compassion. We pray that you will grant us that same vision and compassion toward others. Help us to extend that vision and compassion to ourselves as well. Remind us that we can always change and do better than we have done in the past. And help us to love others enough to accept them and work them for your glory.

We pray this day for those people and situations on our prayer list and for those in our hearts. Grant each person and situation the healing needed so that wholeness may be achieved. We pray for those who are traveling, that they may be safe. We pray for our church, it's leaders, and it's pastor. We pray that you will show us the things we should do to help us survive and thrive, that we may be not only a blessing to ourselves, but to our community as well. We pray for our community, country, and world, that we may learn the things that make for peace and work tirelessly to achieve that goal.

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**

Let us continue our worship through the giving of our time, talent, and treasure, giving as God leads us. These gifts will be used to support our ministries in our church and our community. 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**

**God of Grace, we give our gifts in thanksgiving of all we have received from you. Bless these gifts and use them for the glory of your kingdom here among us. Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN****I Am Yours, O Lord****# 455 NCH/HFG 3 vs**

I am your, O Lord, I have heard your voice,  
 And it told your love to me;  
 But I long to rise in the arms of faith,  
 drawn to you eternally.

**Refrain:**

Draw me nearer, nearer, blessed lord,  
 to the cross where you have died;  
 Draw me nearer, nearer, nearer blessed Lord,  
 To your precious, bleeding side.

Consecrate me now to your holy work,  
 by the power of grace divine;  
 Let my soul look up with a steadfast hope;  
 Let your will be done, not mine.

**Refrain:**

Draw me nearer, nearer, blessed lord,  
 to the cross where you have died;  
 Draw me nearer, nearer, nearer blessed Lord,  
 To your precious, bleeding side.

There are depths of love that I cannot know  
 till I cross the narrow sea;  
 There are heights of joy that I may not reach  
 till I rest eternally.

**Refrain:**

Draw me nearer, nearer, blessed lord,  
 to the cross where you have died;  
 Draw me nearer, nearer, nearer blessed Lord,  
 To your precious, bleeding side.

**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.

**FAITHQUEST 2.0** planning team will meet on Thursday, July 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm on Zoom. We will choose our first two Bible stories and activities for the month of September. Those who would like to volunteer to help with activities for September should attend

so they understand what their responsibilities will be. Our goal is that everyone has a good learning experience and that everyone takes part so that responsibilities are shared. This is an all-hands-on-deck program.

**REVITALIZATION TEAM** will be discussing new ideas for outreach and mission.

Please let Pastor Dana know if you are interested.

**QUARTERLY MEETING** will take place today on Zoom at 10:30 this morning.

Invitations went out last night. If you have not received an invitation, please text or call me. If you have trouble signing in, please text/call me.

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### **UPCOMING ACTIVITIES**

**OSTENDORF-HARBISON WEDDING** July 24 at 2:30 pm

**FAITHQUEST 2.0** meets July 29<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm on Zoom.

**SUPPER CLUB** will meet August 7<sup>th</sup> at Diamond Mineral Springs in Grantfork @ 5 pm.

Sign up in the Narthex or call Kathie R.

**CHURCH ENGAGEMENT CONFERENCE** August 11<sup>th</sup> at 10 am-3:30 pm at church. All church leaders urged to attend, all members welcome.

**VISION TEAM** meets August 19<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm on Zoom.

**APPLE BUTTER** September 25<sup>th</sup>. See Julie G. to sign up.

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**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**

Pancake mix	Syrup	Sugar
Flour	Pie filling	Mashed potato mix
Tomato paste	Baked beans	Chef Boyardee Ravioli
Evaporated milk	Coffee	Bars of soap
Shampoo	Dish detergent	Laundry detergent
Empty egg cartons		

### **CONCERNS**

Maria S.	Harry S.	Lillie H.
Kathie R.	Martha K.	Carole G.
Tomiko J.	Sherri R.	Sherri's Sister
Rose O.	Roger W.	Kathleen L.
Michelle L.	Kristy K.	Dorothy D.
Jane B.	Mary Ann C.	Jake G.
Diane B.	Luella L.	Maurice M.
Rich R.	Kyle T.	Wayne S.
Our Church	Our Church Council	
Hitz Home workers and residents	Our country as we deal with pandemic	
Disaster Victims	Pastor Dana, as she leads	

**E-MAIL ADDRESSES**

Ruth: [officeiucc@gomadison.com](mailto:officeiucc@gomadison.com)  
Pastor Dana: [pastoriucc@gomadison.com](mailto:pastoriucc@gomadison.com)

**BENEDICTION**

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

**POSTLUDE**