

# IMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Organist: Karen Cain  
September 12, 2021

Pastor: Rev. Dana Schindler  
Sixteenth 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**

It is not the beauty of the building you should look at; it’s the construction of the foundation that will stand the test of time. David Allen Coe

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

**Sanctuary**

**# 2164 TFWS**

**Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary  
Pure and holy, tried and true  
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living  
Sanctuary for You (Repeat)**

**\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

We thank you, O Lord, that we are not alone. You watch over us, guide us, and lead us in your righteous pathways. When we stumble and fall, you lift us up and gently place us on that pathway again. When we doubt, you surround us with your mercy and peace, reassuring us of your presence through the love of others and of our savior Jesus Christ. Keep our hearts and minds open and ready to serve you, for we pray these things in Jesus’ name. AMEN.<sup>1</sup>

**\*OPENING HYMN**

**The Church’s One Foundation**

**# 386 TNCH (3 vs)**

**The church’s one foundation  
is Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
we are a new creation  
by water and the Word.  
From heav’n he came and taught us  
what perfect love can be;**

through life and death he sought us,  
and rose to set us free.

The church in ev'ry nation  
is one through all the earth;  
our charter of salvation,  
one God, one faith, one birth;  
one name together blessing,  
one holy food we share,  
to one hope ever pressing,  
at one in work and prayer.

Yet we on earth have union  
with God, the Three in One,  
and mystic, sweet communion  
with those whose rest is won.  
Oh, happy ones and holy!  
God, give us grace that we,  
like them, the meek and lowly,  
may live eternally.

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Gracious God, as we look into our hearts we see the evidence that convicts us. You have always been here for us, but we have not always been here for you. We have forgotten that you sent Christ to us, to be the cornerstone of our faith. Help us to remember. Help us to trust. Keep our eyes on Christ as we build on our faith. In Christ's holy name we pray. Amen.

### **WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

God has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

### **FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART** Founders' Day Skit

### **SCRIPTURE READINGS** Psalm 118:21-23

I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.  
The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.  
This is the LORD's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

### **Matthew 16:13-20**

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to

them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

## **SERMON**

### **The Cornerstone**

*Rev. Dana Schindler*

**Our scripture this morning speaks about our faith and the church universal using construction terms. When we begin the process of building a home or a building, we first lay a foundation upon which it will rest. We know the scripture story about the man who built his house upon the sand. There was no strong foundation, so with the first rain, the foundation washed away and the house was destroyed. The wise man built his house upon the rock and when the storms came, it stood strong.**

**After worship today, we will take a walk outside and look at the physical cornerstone of this church building. This will be a stone that will have the date that it was laid, when construction began. It will have been the first stone laid in the foundation. This is an important part of the history of Immanuel United Church of Christ.**

**The history of this church building is important, but not as important as the people who began the work to establish this church, this community of faith, in Hamel, Illinois.**

**But I want to take us back even further in history today.**

**The Psalm we read talks about the stone that was rejected, referring to the future Christ, who was rejected and killed, but became the cornerstone of our faith. Without Christ, there would have never been an Immanuel United Church of Christ. Perhaps if a faith community existed here at all, it would have been a synagogue, for without Jesus Christ, there would have been no Christians.**

**The true foundation, as our hymn tells us, is Jesus Christ, our Lord. That foundation will live on, no matter what happens to this physical building or the group of believers who come here to worship.**

**In our Matthew text, Jesus asks the disciples "who do people say I am?" Several answers were given. This is because people of that time believed him to be a prophet. Those who are Jewish still believe he was a prophet. Then Jesus asked the disciples, the people who knew him best, "Who do YOU say that I am?" When Simon answered that he was the Messiah, the Son of the living God, Jesus said yes, Simon, Son of Jonah, upon this rock I will build my church. Jesus then called Simon Simon Peter. Peter means Rock. Upon this rock, I will build my church and the gates of Hell will not prevail against it.**

**So far, the universal church has lasted over 2,000 years. It has lasted through wars, famine, disease and many other hardships.**

**Our building has lasted a long time. Our family of faith has lasted a long time. My prayer for us this day is that we will build upon the strong foundation that was built centuries ago with a rejected cornerstone in a building constructed less than 200 years ago.**

**Micah 6:8 tells us**

**He has told you, O mortal, what is good;  
and what does the LORD require of you  
but to do justice, and to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly with your God?**

**I pray that we will continue to build upon that foundation our founders gave us with stones of faith, words of truth, and acts of love and justice. Amen.**

### **PASTORAL PRAYER**

Gracious God, our world is so damaged and hurting that we hardly know where to begin. Yesterday we remembered those who died 20 years ago in a terrorist attack. We honor those innocents killed that day and the first responders who risked their lives to try to save as many as possible. Those who lived will never be the same physically or emotionally. We pray for them.

Instead of spending time trying to understand why terrorists would attack us, our government chose to wage war based on misinformation. Some of those in power knew the information was not true, others did not. We all bear responsibility to the war and the deaths that occurred over the last 20 years and the hatred toward people we don't know that we have allowed to fester.

Our country has fed on hatred for so long that those in power have chosen sides and fight each other as if they were sworn enemies. And those of us who are just average folks have also chosen sides. Often we can barely hold a civil conversation with each other. Forgive us Lord. Remind us of our call to love our neighbors and our enemies. Give us hearts for justice and help us to learn the ways of peace. Help us Lord, to work to cure the virus in our midst instead of fighting each other and allowing more and more to die needlessly.

We pray for our church, its leaders, and its pastor, that those in positions of power will hear your guidance and lead our people well and that our people will trust us enough to follow. Push each of out of our comfort zones so that we will follow Christ with confidence and humility.

We offer special prayers today for those people and situations on our prayer list, for our friends and families, for those who are ill in body, mind, or spirit, for those suffering loss of loved ones, loss of independence, loss of resources. And we pray for those affected by fires, floods, hurricanes, earthquakes, and gun violence. Give us, we pray, the willingness to do what we can to help all of those in need.

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 our response to today's message of strength and hope, of God's gifts to us, and the Good News of Christ's salvation, let us look within ourselves. Let us look at our many gifts of time, talents, and treasure, and give with grateful hearts. 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**

The Doxology

# 382 HFG

Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
 Praise God all creatures here below  
 Praise God above ye heavenly hosts  
 Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

### **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

We bring our gifts to you, O Lord. Bless them and use them and us to build upon the foundation you have provided. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

### **CLOSING HYMN**

Forward Through the Ages

377 TNCH (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.

Refrain:

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.

**Refrain:**

**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.**

**Refrain:**

**Forward through the ages, in unbroken line,  
Move the faithful spirits at the call divine.**

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

**FOUNDERS' DAY** We hope that all who are here with us in person today will stay after worship for a time of fellowship and a "Walk Through Our History."

**MAZZIO'S NIGHT** September 13<sup>th</sup> from 5-9 pm, sponsored by the Vision Team. Proceeds will be used for outreach projects. Come join us for a great supper!

**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.

VISION TEAM will meet Wednesday night at 7 pm.

**PPRC** will meet September 16<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm on Zoom.

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**UPCOMING ACTIVITIES****SEPTEMBER****ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS:**

**Sept. 19<sup>th</sup> Celebration of Marriages** of those married at Immanuel.

**FREE COMMUNITY CONCERT** featuring The Wild HouseKats will be held Saturday, September 25<sup>th</sup> from 6-8 pm here at the church, outside if weather permits. There will be hotdogs, corn on the cob, and drinks for sale/donation. If you would like to hear a sample of this group's music, you can check out their Facebook page. Vision Team is sponsoring this event for community outreach. We hope that everyone will come to this kickoff for our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration.

**Sept. 26<sup>th</sup> Stained Glass Windows Sunday.** After worship, we will have activities for all ages.

**OCTOBER**

**150<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION** will take place on Sunday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Conference Minister Rev. Shana Johnson will be preaching. Worship will be followed by a catered dinner. If you have not already sent in your RSVP please do so ASAP so we can adequately plan for our meal.

**QUARTERLY MEETING** October 10<sup>th</sup> following worship.

**LECLAIRE PARKFEST** October 17<sup>th</sup>. The Vision Team will have a dessert tent to raise funds for outreach.

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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**

- |                                    |                    |                 |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Canned Corn                        | Canned Green Beans | Pancake mix     |
| Syrup                              | Sugar              | Flour           |
| Chef Boyardee Ravioli              | Pie Filling        | Tomato Paste    |
| Bars of soaps                      | Shampoo            | Dish Detergent  |
| Rice                               | Coffee             | Evaporated Milk |
| Baked beans                        | Laundry detergent  |                 |
| empty egg cartons and plastic bags |                    |                 |

**CONCERNS**

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|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| 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.                             | Jane                            | Maurice M.      |
| Rich R.                              | Kyle T.                         | Wayne S.        |
| Karen's Mother                       | Karen's Brother-in law          | 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**

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|--------------|--|
| Ruth:        | <a href="mailto:officeiucc@gomadison.com">officeiucc@gomadison.com</a> |
| Pastor Dana: | <a href="mailto:pastoriucc@gomadison.com">pastoriucc@gomadison.com</a> |

**BENEDICTION**

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

**POSTLUDE**