

# IMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Organist: Karen Cain  
October 3, 2021

Pastor: Rev. Dana Schindler  
Nineteenth 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 are here to help us celebrate on this special day in the life of our church family: it is our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration!! We have many special guests with us in person and online today, including Rev. Shana Johnson, our conference minister, who will be bringing our message today.

.....  
For those who are worshipping online with us, 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 communion elements, paper, and a pen.

\*\*\*\*\*

**PRELUDE**

***Karen Cain***

**POINT TO PONDER**

*“There are only two lasting bequests we can hope to give our children.  
One of these is roots, the other, wings.” -- Johann Wolfgang von Goethe*

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: We gather today as the people of God, as a community of Christ’s followers.

***Many: We gather to share Word and sacrament, to discern the ways of faithful service.***

One: Where in the world shall we serve our God?

***Many: At home and school and business place – in this community and throughout every land.***

One: How in the world shall we serve our God?

***Many: By working toward justice where there is oppression, by offering comfort where there is pain, by sharing love where there is hatred.***

One: Why in the world shall we serve our God?

***Many: Because the Spirit beckons us, because Jesus calls us to enact our faith. Let us now worship the one who calls us!***

*by Ana and Tod Gobledale, Global Ministries Associates serving in the United Kingdom*

**\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

*Prayer of St. Francis*

**Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace.  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;**

where there is injury, pardon;  
 where there is doubt, faith;  
 where there is despair, hope;  
 where there is sadness, joy;  
 where there is darkness, light.

O Divine one, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;  
 not so much to be understood, as to understand;  
 not so much to be loved, as to love.

For it is in the giving that we receive.  
 It is in pardoning that we are pardoned  
 It is in dying that we are born again to eternal life. Amen.

**\*OPENING 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.

## **LITANY OF THANKS**

LEADER

For the founders of this community of faith, whose faith, vision, and planning formed this congregation of believers

**PEOPLE**

**The people gathered here give thanks.**

LEADER

For the worship of God in prayer and praise, for the preaching of the Word, for the celebration of the holy sacraments,

**PEOPLE**

**Offered by this church, we give thanks.**

LEADER

For the comfort of those who mourn, for the help of those who are perplexed, for the guidance of those who seek strength,

**PEOPLE**

**Offered by this church, we give thanks.**

LEADER

For the support and nurture of families, for the guidance of children, for the calling of youth to a life of service,

**PEOPLE**

**Offered by this church, we give thanks.**

LEADER

For guarding against evil, for fostering faithfulness, for promoting peace and justice in all the earth,

**PEOPLE**

**Offered by this church, we give thanks.**

LEADER

For the opening of minds to your truth, for the care of the needy, for the giving of hope and courage,

**PEOPLE**

**Offered by this church, we give thanks.**

**LEADER**

For the unity of all believers in Christ, for the carrying of the gospel into all the world, for the furtherance of the unity of all people,

**PEOPLE**

Offered by this church, we give thanks.

**LEADER**

For the consecration of life and service, in grateful remembrance of those who have gone before us, and in gratitude for our life together in this church,

**ALL**

We give thanks to you for this church's past and pray for your continued blessing and guidance. Amen.

**PROCLAMATION**

*Memories of the past flood the hearts of those who have been a part of this church family for some time: times of joy like the vote to become a church family and laying the cornerstone of our building, baptisms, weddings, confirmations, church dinners, and previous celebrations. We also remember those times when our church members have left us through death or conflict. Those times of difficulty have also been significant in our history and we hope that we have learned important lessons as a result. Remembering both the good times and the times of trial help us to form our roots. But as we move forward, remembering our roots, we also look to the future.*

*Some of the hopes for the future expressed by our members include:*

- *Moving beyond pandemic and resuming previous activities*
- *Increasing our connections to each other*
- *Working together more*
- *Beginning new ministries in the community*
- *Increasing the number of members, especially young families, teens and children.*
- *Being open to all people*
- *Being more friendly and welcoming*

**PRAYER**

Eternal God, we offer thanksgiving and praise to you on this festive day. We give you thanks for those who responded to your call to establish this church. We acknowledge our gratitude for the continuing ministry and mission of our church through 150 years. We thank you for all that our church has meant to its members, to those its ministry has touched, and to the United Church of Christ.

In tender memory, we rejoice at the inspiration which has been found here, through the preaching of your word, through the singing of hymns to your praise, and through the sharing of life-sustaining sacraments. Look upon us this day with mercy. Bless us as we reconsecrate ourselves to you. Sanctify our lives and our work through this church. Help us to preserve the best of our past and to be open to new vision. May this local church long continue to be a sign of your Spirit and a witness to Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

**“What A Friend We Have In Jesus”**

*Bell Choir*

**FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART**

**SCRIPTURE READING**

**Acts 2:42-47**

*Sherri Rose*

They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

**SERMON**

**A Fool Proof Recipe For The Church**

*Rev. Shana Johnson*

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

.... 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.

**COMMUNION HYMN****One Bread, One Body**

# 393 Chalice (3 vs)

**One bread, one body,  
 one Lord of all,  
 one cup of blessing which we bless.  
 And we, though many,  
 throughout the earth,  
 we are one body in this one Lord.  
 servant or free,  
 woman or man, no more.**

**One bread, one body,  
 one Lord of all,  
 one cup of blessing which we bless.  
 And we, though many,  
 throughout the earth,  
 we are one body in this one Lord.  
 many the works,  
 one in the Lord of all.**

**One bread, one body,  
 one Lord of all,  
 one cup of blessing which we bless.  
 And we, though many,  
 throughout the earth,  
 we are one body in this one Lord.  
 scattered and grown,  
 gathered to one, for all.  
 One bread, one body,  
 one Lord of all,  
 one cup of blessing which we bless.**

**And we, though many,  
throughout the earth,  
we are one body in this one Lord.**

**HOLY COMMUNION**  
**INVITATION**

**LEADER:** Luke, the evangelist, wrote of our risen Savior, who at the table with two of the disciples took bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. Their eyes were opened, and they recognized the risen Christ in the breaking of the bread.

**PEOPLE:** **In company with all believers in every time and beyond time, we come to this table to know the risen Christ in the breaking of the bread.**

**COMMUNION PRAYER**

**LEADER:** God be with you.

**PEOPLE:** **And also with you.**

**PASTOR:** Lift up your hearts.

**PEOPLE:** **We lift them to God.**

**PASTOR:** Let us give thanks to God Most High.

**PEOPLE:** **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

**PASTOR:** Eternal God, who has created the heavens and the earth, giving breath to every living thing, we thank you for all the gifts of creation and for the gift of life itself. We thank you for making us in your own image, for forgiving us when we act as though you have no claim on us, and for keeping us in your steadfast care.

We rejoice in Jesus Christ, the only one eternally begotten by you, who was born of your servant Mary and shared the joys and sorrows of life as we know it.

We remember Christ's death, we celebrate Christ's resurrection, and, in the beloved community of your church, we await Christ's return at the end of history.

We take courage from the abiding presence of your Holy Spirit in our midst. We offer you our praise for women and men of faith in every age who stand as witnesses to your love and justice. With all the prophets, martyrs, and saints, and all the company of heaven, we glorify you:

**ALL: 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!**

**PASTOR:** 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.

**PASTOR:** Gracious God, we ask you to bless this bread and cup and all of us with the outpouring of your Holy Spirit. Through this meal, make us the body of Christ, the church, your servant people, that we may be salt, and light, and leaven for the furtherance of your will in all the world.

**PEOPLE: Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

### **BREAKING BREAD AND POURING WINE**

**The Body of Christ, which was broken for all, reminds us of his presence with all people in all times and places.**

**The Cup of the New Covenant, which was poured out for all, reminds us of God's amazing grace, so freely given to redeem our lives.**

### **SHARING THE ELEMENTS**

(Open your bread) Take, Eat, Remember

(Open your drink) Take, Drink, Remember

### **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**All: Eternal God, you have called your people from east and west and north and south to feast at the table of Jesus Christ. We thank you for Christ's presence and for the spiritual food of Christ's body and blood. By the power of your Holy Spirit, keep us faithful to your will. Go with us to the streets, to our homes, and to our places of labor and leisure that whether we are gathered or scattered, we may be the servant church of the servant Christ, in whose name we rejoice to pray. Amen.**

### **CLOSING HYMN**

**Hymn of Promise**

**# 433 TNCH (3 vs)**



In the bulb there is a flower;  
 in the seed, an apple tree;  
 in cocoons, a hidden promise:  
 butterflies will soon be free!  
 In the cold and snow of winter  
 there's a spring that waits to be,  
 unrevealed until its season,  
 something God alone can see.

There's a song in ev'ry silence,  
 seeking word and melody.  
 There's a dawn in ev'ry darkness,  
 bringing hope to you and me.  
 From the past will come the future;  
 what it holds, a mystery,  
 unrevealed until its season,  
 something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning;  
 in our time, infinity;  
 in our doubt there is believing;  
 in our life, eternity.  
 In our death, a resurrection;  
 at the last, a victory,  
 unrevealed until its season,  
 something God alone can see.

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

**PRAYER GROUP** will not meet this Wednesday. Please take time during the week to pray for our church, our members/family/friends, our leaders and our community.

**CHURCH COUNCIL** will meet Wednesday at 7 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

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

\*\*\*\*\*

## **UPCOMING ACTIVITIES**

### **OCTOBER**

**CONFERENCE ANNUAL MEETING** October 13, 14 & 16. We still need two delegates. Please let Pastor Dana know if you can attend Zoom meetings on the 14<sup>th</sup> (6-8 pm) and the 16<sup>th</sup> am.

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

**VISION TEAM** will meet Oct. 20<sup>th</sup> @ 7 pm on Zoom. All will receive an invitation and are urged to attend and discuss ministries of the church.

\*\*\*\*\*

**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**

|                                      |                                 |                 |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| 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.                             | Rich R.                         | Wayne S.        |
| Ray                                  | Schoeber Family                 | 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:        | <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**