

IMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Organist: Karen Cain
October 10, 2021

Pastor: Rev. Dana Schindler
Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

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

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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...”

We are pleased that you are here to worship with us today!

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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 paper, and a pen.

PRELUDE

Karen Cain

POINT TO PONDER

Never assume anything about your own importance. It's a great big world, and all of us are busy living our lives. None of us knows all the time and effort that another person puts into his or her passion.” — Amy Grant, Mosaic: Pieces of My Life So Far

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

ONE: Praise be to God, the maker of all things seen and unseen.

ALL: Praise God, our creator, sustainer, and redeemer.

ONE: Praise God, who has made us in God’s image that we might care for all creation.

ALL: Praise God, who loves us beyond measure. Amen.

***PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

Loving God, you have made us in your image and given us far more than we could ever imagine or deserve. It is our joy to worship you this day. Help us to hear your words of wisdom that we may live lives that are loving and true. In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

Holy, Holy, Holy

277 NCH (3 vs)

**Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed trinity!**

**Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
though the eye of sinfulness thy glory may not see,
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.**

**Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth, and sky, and sea.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed trinity!**

FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

We believe that God made everything: the earth, the stars, the moon, the sun, and the planets, the plants and trees, the animals and fish and birds, and people. Then God put people in charge of taking care of the animals, fish, birds, trees, and plants. Are we doing a good job? Or could we do better? Do we ever throw trash on the ground? Do we use our land well? Do we treat our animals well? How could we do better?

PRAYER Dear God, thank you for all your gifts. Help us to take care of them so that they will last forever. Amen.

SCRIPTURE Psalm 8

O LORD, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens. Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have founded a bulwark because of your foes, to silence the enemy and the avenger. When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them? Yet you have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honor. You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet, all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas. O LORD, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Hebrews 1:1–4, 2:5–12

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

Now God did not subject the coming world, about which we are speaking, to angels. But someone has testified somewhere,

“What are human beings that you are mindful of them, or mortals, that you care for them? You have made them for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned them with glory and honor, subjecting all things under their feet.”

Now in subjecting all things to them, God left nothing outside their control. As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to them, but we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying,

“I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.”

SERMON

“Who Do You Think You Are?”

Rev Dana Schindler

Who are humans that God is mindful of them?

The first thing I thought of when I read this question this week was a song from my teen years called Mr. Big Stuff. The first line is

Mr. Big Stuff. Who do you think you are?

My second thought was my mother saying, “You’re getting too big for your britches.” Did any adult in your life ever say that? It means that you think you’re better than you are.

How often do we think WE'RE better than we are, more important than we are? Do you ever think that if it weren't for you the world would stop turning? If you call in sick at work, nobody else can run the business?

Sometimes we might even think that in the church. If I'm not there to preach, nobody else can preach. Actually, that's not true, is it? We know that because there was preaching here before I came and if I couldn't be here for some reason, someone else could say a few words or you could just have a hymn sing if you couldn't find someone to actually preach a sermon. If it were a last-minute thing, someone could actually read the sermon I've already written and sent out to everyone. So no, the world will not end if I am not physically present. If you weren't here to do that special thing that you do,

someone else would do it in your place or we would just make do without it. It wouldn't be the same, but life would go on.

How often do we drag ourselves out of bed when we feel bad because we have a responsibility to do something? Would the world stop spinning if we just said, "I just can't do it today?"

I remember a fellow seminary student coming into class one Monday morning. He was a student intern at a church in St. Louis. Sunday morning, he was standing with the pastor, ready to walk into the sanctuary to begin the worship service, and the pastor had a heart attack.

The student grabbed his cell phone and called 911. After the ambulance took the pastor to the hospital, the student realized he needed to do something about the service. He was not prepared to preach and was shaken by the pastor having a heart attack, so instead of doing the service they had prepared, the student led the congregation in prayer, and they sang the songs and had a time of conversation. The good news was that it was a mild heart attack, and the pastor was only off for a few weeks, but the student never quite looked at the pastor the same way.

It's a wake-up call to each of us to remember that we work best when we work together. Work and ideas that are shared ease the burdens on each individual and have greater potential to bless everyone. When we listen to all voices, we discover some really good ideas in some very unexpected places. We realize that being a team and working as a team means that we will consider the ideas of others and be willing to give up our own ideas or compromise. It means that we give everyone permission to use the gifts God has given them for the good of our community.

It means that it isn't important if we get our way.

It's important that our goal is met.

Part of our call to follow Christ is to love one another and to respect one another enough to hear them and consider their ideas instead of thinking we are "Mr. Big Stuff."

It doesn't matter who we think we are.

God knows exactly who we are and loves us anyway. Warts and all. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER

Gracious God, you have created us to be amazing, gifted people. You have put us in charge of your other creations and told us to love one another. But we have trouble with those two commands. All too often, we get the idea that you only meant for one person to be in charge of everything and focus on our own ideas and gifts. We want to tell everyone else what to do, how to think, what to believe. We forget that we are only one person and that every other person matters too. Help us to get over ourselves so that we can work together to create the Kingdom of God that you sent Jesus to teach

us about; a Kingdom known by love, respect, justice, and peace. We offer special prayers this day for those people and situations on our prayer list. You know their needs. Help us to be your presence in the world to them. We pray for our country, and we deal with natural disasters, pandemic, hatred, and divisiveness. Remind each of us that only by working together can we effectively deal with any of those problems. And we pray for our church, our people, our leaders, and our pastor. Keep us focused on you, Lord, and the mission you have set before us. Help us to work together, listening and respecting one another that we might achieve that mission in this time and place. All these things we pray in the name of your son, Jesus the 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.

HYMN

For the Beauty of the Earth

28 NCH (3 vs)

**For the beauty of the earth,
For the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies.**

Refrain:

**Lord of all, to Thee we raise,
This our hymn of grateful praise.**

**For the wonder of each hour
Of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower,
Sun and moon, and stars of light.**

Refrain:

**Lord of all, to Thee we raise,
This our hymn of grateful praise.**

**For the joy of ear and eye,
For the heart and mind's delight,
For the mystic harmony
Linking sense to sound and sight.**

Refrain:

**Lord of all, to Thee we raise,
This our hymn of grateful praise.**

STATEMENT OF FAITH*The Apostle's Creed**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth;
 And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
 born of the Virgin Mary,
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, dead, and buried;
 the third day he rose from the dead;
 he ascended into heaven,
 and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
 from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church,
 the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

GIVING OUR GIFTS

As we consider our response to God's amazing love for us, let us look within ourselves, 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 are thankful for your blessings, given in love. We pray that you will bless these gifts we bring so that they might bless others, showing them your never-ending love. May your kingdom of love, grace, and peace truly come to all. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN**O Savior, Let Me Walk with You****503 NCH (3 vs)**

O Savior, let me walk with you
 in earthly paths of service true;

**Tell me your secret, help me bear
the strain of toil, the fret of care.**

**Teach me your patience; let me be
in closer, dearer company,
In work that keeps faith sweet and strong,
in trust that triumphs over wrong.**

**In hope that sends a shining ray
far down the future's broadening way,
In peace that only you can give,
with you, O Savior, let me live.**

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

CONFIRMATION will meet Tuesday at 3:30 pm on Zoom.

PRAYER GROUP will meet this Wednesday at 10 am on Zoom. Please take time during the week to pray for our church, our members/family/friends, our leaders, and our community.

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 14th (6-8 pm) and the 16th am.

LECLAIRE PARKFEST October 17th. The Vision Team will have a dessert tent to raise funds for outreach.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED We would like to resume having acolytes and liturgists each week. Anyone with a cell phone could be a liturgist since they could even record from home and send the video to Dave for upload during the service. This would be a good way to include those who cannot come to church for any reason.

HELP NEEDED FOR LIVESTREAMING AND POWERPOINT Folks who volunteered to be part of the Livestreaming Team are needed. Dave S. will be happy to set up a time to teach you what you need to know and Mark and Frank will be happy to mentor you through the process. Ruth will be happy to provide training for PowerPoint.

TREATS FOR THE TRICKED Many people have been “tricked” by hurricanes, floods, and fires. We would like to “treat” them to much needed cleaning supplies. We will be collecting supplies to make cleaning buckets. Please purchase and donate items from the list or make a financial contribution by October 31st. Then on November 14th after worship, we will meet to fill our cleaning buckets to send to those in need. We have buckets for this purpose.

ITEMS NEEDED FOR EACH BUCKET:

- Four scouring pads
- Seven sponges, including one large
- One scrub brush
- Eighteen reusable cleaning towels (e.g. Handi Wipes or Easy Wipes)

- One 50 oz. or two 25 oz. bottle(s) of liquid laundry detergent
- One 16-28 oz. bottle of liquid disinfectant dish soap
- One 12-16 oz. bottle of household cleaner that can be mixed with water (no spray bottles)
- One package of 48-50 clothespins
- Clothesline, two 50 ft. or one 100 ft.
- Five dust masks
- Two pairs heavy-duty, waterproof dish washing gloves (Latex-free, non-surgical)
- One pair work gloves, cotton with leather palm or all leather
- 24-28 heavy duty or contractor type 30-45 gallon trash bags on a roll and removed from carton
- One 6-9 oz. bottle of non-aerosol insect repellent

All cleaning items must be new – all liquid items must be capped and securely tightened. Place all items into the bucket, making sure they are packed securely to avoid damage during shipment. Snap the lid on tight and seal with packing tape.

QUARTERLY MEETING will be held today in the sanctuary and on Zoom following worship. If you have not received a Zoom invitation, please leave a note on Facebook and I will send it to you after worship.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

OCTOBER

HITZ AUXILIARY ANNUAL MEETING October 18th @ 9:00 AM.

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

BOOK CLUB will meet Oct. 25th at 5 pm at Wang Gang restaurant in Edwardsville.

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.
Jane B.
Diane B.
Ray
Our Church Council
Our country as we deal with pandemic
Disaster Victims

Kristy K.
Mary Ann C.
Rich R.
Schoeber Family
Hitz Home workers and residents
Pastor Dana, as she leads

Dorothy D.
Jake G.
Wayne S.
Our Church

E-MAIL ADDRESSES

Ruth: officeiucc@gomadison.com
Pastor Dana: 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