

# IMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Organist: Karen Cain  
June 19, 2022

Pastor: Rev. Dana Schindler  
Second Sunday after Pentecost

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

## GATHERING MUSIC

### BELLS RING

### WELCOME

Welcome to worship at Immanuel United Church of Christ in Hamel, IL. 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! Those who are worshipping online today are asked to 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.

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### PRELUDE

*Karen Cain*

### POINT TO PONDER

*“Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God.” — Corrie ten Boom*

*“Oh, what a tangled web we weave...when first we practice to deceive.”*

— **Walter Scott, Marmion**

### CALL TO WORSHIP

“I Love You, Lord

# 85 W&R

I love you, Lord, and I lift my voice  
to worship you, O my soul, rejoice!

Take joy, my King, in what you hear:

may it be a sweet, sweet sound in your ear.

### \*PRAYER OF INVOCATION

### OPENING HYMN

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart

# 113 W&R

1 Rejoice, ye pure in heart,  
rejoice, give thanks and sing;  
your festal banner wave on high,  
the cross of Christ your King.

Refrain:

Rejoice, rejoice,  
rejoice, give thanks and sing.

**2 Bright youth and snow crowned age,  
strong souls and spirits meek,  
raise high your free, exulting song,  
God's wondrous praises speak. [Refrain]**

**Rejoice, rejoice,  
rejoice, give thanks and sing.**

**3 With voice as full and strong  
as ocean's surging praise,  
send forth the hymns the saints have loved,  
the psalms of ancient days. [Refrain]**

**Rejoice, rejoice,  
rejoice, give thanks and sing.**

**4 Yes, on through life's long path,  
still chanting as you go,  
from youth to age, by night and day,  
in gladness and in woe. [Refrain]**

**Rejoice, rejoice,  
rejoice, give thanks and sing.**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (unison)

**God of Grace, we come with our imperfections this day. We try to be good people of faith, but sometimes we are not honest with you, with others, and even with ourselves. As we seek to do the right thing, we are reminded of times when we have fallen short. Help us to be honest that we may be worthy of trust. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. When we confess our sins, God forgives us. Rejoice! Our sins are forgiven.

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

*Karen Cain*

**FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART**

I like to watch dog videos on Facebook. One I saw recently showed a German Shepherd and the voice was saying "my mom says most of parenting is asking your kids who broke something and listening to them lie about it.

It's funny because there's a lot of truth in it. But the bad part is that when we don't tell the truth, it can backfire on us. The first lie often leads to a second lie to make the first

one sound truthful. Often, by the time we are done, our story is ridiculous and we wind up telling on ourselves. And then the person we are lying to or treating badly don't trust us. We hurt other people and ourselves as well.

In our Bible story today, several people say and do things that are not honest. I hope that we will remember that we aren't perfect, we don't always do or say the right thing, but we can always say we are sorry and work to do better.

**PRAYER:** God, thank you for forgiving us when we say or do the wrong thing. Help us to do better. Amen.

### **HYMN**

### **I Want Jesus to Walk with Me**

**# 506 W&R**

**1 I want Jesus to walk with me;  
I want Jesus to walk with me;  
all along my pilgrim journey,  
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.**

**2 In my trials, Lord, walk with me;  
in my trials, Lord, walk with me;  
when my heart is almost breaking,  
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.**

**3 When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;  
when I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;  
when my head is bowed in sorrow,  
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.**

### **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**Genesis 24:10-28, 50-67**

**Genesis 26:34-35**

**Genesis 29**

**Genesis 31:22-35**

**Genesis 25:20-28**

**Genesis 27:1-17, 46**

**Genesis 30:1-24**

**Genesis 35:16-21**

### **SERMON**

### **The Best Policy**

*Rev. Dana Schindler*

Today's scripture is a bit much to read, so I will summarize the story and encourage you to read it all later. As with most stories in the Bible, it is told from the male perspective, so we will have to work a little harder to understand how the women in this story may be thinking and the reasons for their actions.

**Abraham's servant is seeking a wife for Isaac: How to meet a woman: pray to God that a woman comes along and ask for water will give you water and water your camels. His prayer worked and Rebekah showed up with a water jar.**

**He gave her a nose ring and two bracelets and asked if he could spend the night in her father's house.**

**Rebekkah invited the servant to stay and ran to tell her mother's household. The servant thanked God for the answer to his prayer.**

**The servant asked for Rebekah to be his master's wife. He gave jewelery of silver and of gold, and garments, to Rebekah; he also gave to her brother and to her mother costly ornaments. . Her brothers asked if she was willing and she agreed. They blessed her and sent her with her nurse and maids.**

**The servant brought Rebekah to Isaac and told him what he had done. Rebekah became his wife and he loved her. Isaac was 40 years old when he married Rebekah. She didn't have children for a long time, so he prayed that God would give her a child. God granted Isaac's prayer and blessed Rebekah with twins, who were named Esau (the first) and Jacob (the second). Even in the womb, the two struggled with each other. When Rebekah prayed about it God told her**

**'Two nations are in your womb,  
and two peoples born of you shall be divided;  
one shall be stronger than the other,  
the elder shall serve the younger.'**

**Isaac was 60 when the boys were born.**

**When the boys grew up, Esau was a skilful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, living in tents. Isaac loved Esau, because he was fond of game; but Rebekah loved Jacob.**

**You may remember the story of Jacob cooking a stew and Esau coming in hungry, and asking for some. Jacob asked what Esau would give him for it and suggested his birthright would be acceptable. Esau was so hungry that he said sure, what good is a birthright if I die of hunger. And so, for a bowl of stew, Jacob managed to get the double portion of inheritance reserved for the firstborn son.**

When Esau was forty years old, he married Judith daughter of Beeri the Hittite, and Basemath daughter of Elon the Hittite; and they made life bitter for Isaac and Rebekah.

As Isaac nears the end of his life, his sight is very poor. He asks Esau (the oldest and his favorite) to go out and hunt game and make a stew he likes. This will be his last meal. Then he will bless Esau. While Esau is out hunting, Rebekah sends Jacob out to get 2 goats from their flock and she prepared a stew. She tells Jacob to put on an animal skin so he will feel as hairy as his brother, take a bowl of Rebekah's stew in to his father, and receive the blessing meant for Esau.

Jacob does as his mother tells him and receives the blessing from his father. So now Jacob has both the birthright and blessing, rightfully belonging to Esau. Esau threatens to kill his brother. Rebekah tells Jacob to get away, fearing for his life. She sends him to her brother Laban and says she will send for him once he is no longer in danger from his brother.

So Jacob traveled to his uncle's home. On the way, he saw a field with flocks of sheep. He spoke to the men in charge of the sheep and asked if they knew his uncle Laban. They did and told Jacob these were Laban's sheep. They were just waiting for Laban's daughter Rachel to come with the rest of their flock so they could give water to all.

When Rachel came, Jacob saw that she was beautiful and fell in love with her immediately. He rolled the stone away from the well so the sheep could drink and introduced himself to his cousin. Rachel took Jacob to her father.

As the two men talked, Jacob offered to work for Laban. Laban asked what wages Jacob would expect. Jacob told him that he would work for him for 7 years if he could marry Rachel at the end of the time. Laban agreed, even though Rachel was the younger daughter. His older daughter was Leah.

At the end of the 7 years, Jacob asked for his wife. Laban held a great feast and afterward sent his daughter in to Jacob. Imagine his surprise the next morning when he realized Laban had sent him Leah, the older daughter instead.

When Jacob complained, Laban told him the eldest had to marry first, but if Jacob still wanted to marry Rachel, he could have her at the end of the week, but he would have to agree to work another 7 years for her.

So Jacob spent the week with Leah and was then given Rachel as well. Jacob lived up to his deal and worked for Laban for another 7 years.

God saw that Jacob did not love Leah as he did Rachel, so in the course of time, Leah gave him 4 sons: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah. With each son, Leah thought surely now Jacob will love me. But Jacob's love stayed with Rachel.

Rachel was upset because her sister had given Jacob 4 sons, but she had given him none. She finally offered Jacob her maid, Bilhah, as his wife. With Bilhah, he had two sons, Dan and Naphtali.

When Leah saw that she would have no more children, she gave her maid, Zilpah, to be Jacob's wife. Zilpah gave Jacob two sons: Gad and Asher.

Then Rachel made a deal with her sister for some produce and sent Jacob back to her. Leah conceived three more times, giving Jacob 2 more sons: Issachar and Zebulun and a daughter: Dinah.

Then Rachel had another son named Joseph.

During the time Jacob has lived with his uncle's family and worked for him, Laban has continually tried to take advantage of him. God saw how Laban was, and provided for Jacob in spite of Laban's plans. Jacob has done quite well for himself.

Laban is not happy that Jacob has prospered and his own attempts to steal from Jacob have been unsuccessful. Jacob hears his male cousins mutterings and is concerned. God speaks to him in a dream and tells him to take all that is his and his family and go back to his own home.

Jacob sneaks out at night, but Laban realizes the next morning. He follows him to take back everything Jacob has taken with him. God appears to Laban and tells him not to say anything to Jacob.

When he catches up, he accuses Jacob of taking his household gods. Jacob denies this and tells Laban to search and if he finds anything that belongs to him, he may take it back and the thief will be killed. He did not know that Rachel had taken the gods.

Laban searched and did not find them because Rachel was sitting on them and said she didn't feel well because she was unclean. Laban didn't find the gods, so he and his men left.

They continued their journey toward Bethlehem, Jacob's home, when Rachel gave birth to her last son, Benjamin. The birth was difficult and Rachel died.

Now Jacob has 12 sons (the 12 tribes of Israel) and one daughter.

**This story begins with the ancient version of match.com. A servant goes looking for a wife for his master and uses prayer to make a selection. Maybe that isn't such a bad idea.**

**It's important to remember that in those days marriage was far less about love than about increasing the "tribe" of a man and keeping family lands and livestock in the family. Men are valued for their property and women are valued for their ability to add son's to the tribe. With the marriage of each son comes additional land and/or livestock, helping to keep the "tribe" prospering.**

**When Rebekah and Isaac marry, they have two sons, twins. We know that the firstborn gets twice as much inheritance as the other children, so it is important to know Esau was firstborn. It's a problem that each parent has a favorite child. Huge numbers of family problems are caused by a parent favoring one child over another.**

**Much of what we know about Jacob is that he is manipulative, at least in his early years. He manipulates his brother to give him the double portion of the inheritance for a bowl of stew. Perhaps Esau is naïve or easily manipulated.**

**Then Jacob, with his mother's help, manipulates his father who is near death and practically blind into giving him the blessing meant for Esau. It's a small wonder that Jacob needs to leave immediately when Esau realizes how he has been victimized.**

**The only clue to Rebekah's suggestion to Jacob to steal his brother's blessing is that she did not like Esau's two wives, but we don't know why. Is she punishing Esau for his choices? Are they making her life hard? We simply don't know.**

**Jacob discovers that his own manipulative behavior is minimal compared to his future father-in-law, who gets 7 years of free labor in exchange for marrying Rachel and then substitutes his other daughter, Leah. Then he tells Jacob if he wants Rachel, he has to work 7 more years.**

**How would you feel if you were Leah—married by trickery to a husband who has spent 7 years professing his love for your sister, and then watching him work for 7 more years to get your sister, knowing he loves her and is just stuck with you. How would you feel on your wedding night, knowing your husband thought you were your sister?**

**How would you feel if you were Rachel? She has watched her own father keep her away from the man she loves, who loves her, in favor of her sister. How would you feel watching the man you love with your sister as you wait 14 years?**

**Have you ever felt the need to manipulate someone or tell a “white” lie to either be left alone or avoid unfair attention or punishment?**

**Can you think of a time or situation when that might be a good or acceptable thing?**

**What can we learn from this story?**

### **PASTORAL PRAYER**

Loving God, honesty and right actions are so hard. Help us to be more mindful of our speech and behavior when our desire to engage in gossip, judgment, and self-serving half-truths and falsehoods. Help us to do better and be better people.

We come with thanksgiving for the blessings in our lives: for birthdays, anniversaries, healing, and the meeting of our needs. And we come with special prayers for those people and situations that occupy our thoughts. We also remember those who are dealing with health problems and pray for their healing and wholeness as they struggle. We pray that those who deal with loss may find peace and comfort. On this day when many celebrate fatherhood, we give thanks for those who have fathered us and for those who have fathered others. We pray for those who would have welcomed fatherhood but were denied it, for those who have lost children, for those who have lost fathers, and for those whose experiences with fathers or being fathers brought pain. Hold each one close Lord, for each one needs your holy presence. We pray for our country and its elected leaders, that your guidance may be heard and heeded, that all may live in peace. And we pray for ourselves, that we may truly be your people, living in holy community. 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, and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

### **\*GLORIA PATRI**

**Glory be to the Father  
And to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be.  
World without end, Amen, Amen.**

### **GIVING OUR GIFTS**

God has promised us presence, comfort, help, healing, and forgiveness. In gratitude, let us joyfully give of our time, talent, and treasure to bring the kingdom of God to our community and our world.



Gifts may be placed in the offering plates in the Narthex, mailed in to Immanuel United Church of Christ, 5838 Staunton Road, Edwardsville, IL 62025, or by going to our website at iucchamel.org, clicking on the GIVING tab and then clicking on the DONATE button.

**\*DOXOLOGY**

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

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (*unison*)

**Generous God, we pray that you will bless these gifts we give and help us to use them to bring love, justice, and peace to a hurting world. Amen.**

**\*CLOSING HYMN**

**How Firm a Foundation # 411 W&R**

**1 How firm a foundation, you saints of the Lord,  
is laid for your faith in his excellent Word!  
What more can he say than to you he has said,  
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?**

**2 "Fear not, I am with you, O be not dismayed,  
for I am your God, and will still give you aid;  
I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,  
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.**

**4 "When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,  
my grace, all sufficient, shall be your supply;  
the flame shall not hurt you, I only design  
your dross to consume, and your gold to refine.**

**5 "The soul that on Jesus still leans for repose,  
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;  
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,  
I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake!"**

**AS WE GO FORTH TO SERVE** please remember the opportunities we have.  
**VISION TEAM** will meet Tuesday at 7 pm. All are invited to attend on Zoom.

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

**BOOK STUDY** will meet Wednesday at 7 pm on Zoom. All are welcome to attend.

**WORSHIP TEAM** Allen and Karen will be working with Dana to take our music to the next level. We will be introducing new hymns. We are encouraging anyone willing to sing (solos/duets, etc.) or play instrumental solos to let us know. Let your light shine!

**VOLUNTEERS** are needed for our AV team and for Faith Quest (in the fall). Please sign up on the clipboards on the table to help as you are able.

**BREAD OF LIFE FOOD PANTRY** is open on Mondays and Saturdays from 9:00 am till 10:30am. All who need assistance are welcome.

### **ITEMS NEEDED:**

Mayonnaise	Syrup	Pancake Mix
Ramen Noodle	Hamburger Helper	Jelly
Frosting	Mustard	Pasta Sauce
Coffee	Sugar	Flour
Shampoo	Dish Detergent	Toilet paper
Laundry detergent	Also need empty egg cartons and plastic bags	

### **CONCERNS**

Maria S.	Harry S.	Lillie H.
Kathie R.	Martha K.	Carole G.
Tomiko J.	Jamie C.	Rose O.
Roger W.	Kathleen L.	Michelle L.
Kristy K.	Dorothy D.	Jane B.
Mary Ann C.	Jake G.	Rich R.
Wayne S.	Roger W.	Stan B.
Sherri R.	Sid H.	Bill
Judy L.	Lori K.	Luella L.
Helen F.	Linda	Dave S.
Our Church	Our Church Council	People of Ukraine
People of Russia	Those living in violence	
Our country as we deal with pandemic and violence		
Hitz Home workers and residents	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**

*\*Please stand as you are able*