

IMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Organist Karen Cain

Pastor: Rev. Dana Schindler

June 26, 2022

Third Sunday after Pentecost

GATHERING MUSIC

BELLS RING

WELCOME

Welcome to worship 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! 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.

PRELUDE

Karen Cain

POINT TO PONDER

"Expose yourself to your deepest fear; after that, fear has no power, and the fear of freedom shrinks and vanishes. You are free."

— Jim Morrison

*You are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem,
 and smarter than your think.—A.A. Milne*

CALL TO WORSHIP

"Sweet, Sweet Spirit"

There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place,
 And I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord;
 There are sweet expressions on each face,
 And I know they feel the presence of the Lord.

Sweet Holy Spirit, Sweet heavenly Dove,
 Stay right here with us, filling us with Your love.
 And for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise;
 Without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived,
 When we shall leave this place.

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION

OPENING HYMN

Go Down Moses

1 When Israel was in Egypt's land,
 Let my people go;

**oppressed so hard they could not stand,
Let my people go.**

**Go down, Moses,
way down in Egypt's land;
tell old Pharaoh:
Let my people go!**

**2. The Lord told Moses what to do,
Let my people go;
to lead the Hebrew children through,
Let my people go.**

**Refrain:
Go down, Moses,
way down in Egypt's land;
tell old Pharaoh:
Let my people go!**

**3 They journeyed on at his command,
Let my people go;
and came at length to Canaan's land,
Let my people go.**

**Refrain:
Go down, Moses,
way down in Egypt's land;
tell old Pharaoh:
Let my people go!**

**4 Oh, let us all from bondage flee,
Let my people go;
and let us all in Christ be free,
Let my people go.**

**Refrain:
Go down, Moses,
way down in Egypt's land;
tell old Pharaoh:
Let my people go!**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Gracious God, we live in challenging times. We find ourselves surrounded by those who seek to hurt us, to take advantage of us, and to take advantage of others. Help us, we pray, to resist those who try to hurt us and others. Help us to be strong enough, to depend on you enough, to break free of evil plans and to find a way where no way seems to exist. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God is always with us, giving us grace upon grace. Know that we are forgiven. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Melanie Alexander

FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

There's a Disney movie called "A Bug's Life," that talks about how the ants busily gather food each year for the grasshoppers. They do this because the grasshoppers are bigger than they are and bully them into it. At one point the leader of the grasshoppers says that they will be in trouble if the ants ever realize that there are more of them than the grasshoppers. Then one year, the ants DO figure it out. They realize that they can stand together against the grasshoppers and win.

In our Bible story today, we will hear that the Pharaoh in Egypt thought the same thing. So, he made a plan to get rid of the male babies of the Hebrew slaves. And some of the women figured out a way to keep that from happening.

Prayer: Lord, when everything and everyone seems to be working against us, help us to find a way to stand together. Amen.

HYMN**Lift Every Voice and Sing**

**1 Lift every voice and sing
till earth and heaven ring,
ring with the harmonies of liberty;
let our rejoicing rise,
high as the listening skies,
let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith
that the dark past has taught us,
sing a song full of the hope
that the present has brought us;
facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
let us march on till victory is won.**

**3 God of our weary years,
God of our silent tears,**

**thou who hast brought us
 thus far on the way;
 thou who hast, by thy might,
 led us into the light,
 keep us forever in the path, we pray.
 Lest our feet stray from the places,
 our God, where we met thee,
 lest, our hearts drunk with
 the wine of the world, we forget thee;
 shadowed beneath thy hand, may we forever stand,
 true to our God, true to our native land.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS Exodus 1:15-2:10

The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, 'When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live.' But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, 'Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?' The midwives said to Pharaoh, 'Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them.' So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and became very strong. And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, 'Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live.'

Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him for three months. When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. 'This must be one of the Hebrews' children,' she said. Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, 'Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?' Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Yes.' So the girl went and called the child's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages.' So the woman took the child and nursed it. When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, 'because,' she said, 'I drew him out of the water.'

Exodus 15:20-21

Then the prophet Miriam, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand; and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing. And Miriam sang to them:

‘Sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously;
horse and rider he has thrown into the sea.’

Numbers 12

While they were at Hazeroth, Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the Cushite woman whom he had married (for he had indeed married a Cushite woman); and they said, ‘Has the LORD spoken only through Moses? Has he not spoken through us also?’ And the LORD heard it. Now the man Moses was very humble, more so than anyone else on the face of the earth. Suddenly the LORD said to Moses, Aaron, and Miriam, ‘Come out, you three, to the tent of meeting.’ So the three of them came out. Then the LORD came down in a pillar of cloud, and stood at the entrance of the tent, and called Aaron and Miriam; and they both came forward. And he said, ‘Hear my words:

When there are prophets among you, I the LORD make myself known to them in visions; I speak to them in dreams. Not so with my servant Moses; he is entrusted with all my house. With him I speak face to face—clearly, not in riddles; and he beholds the form of the LORD.

Why then were you not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?’ And the anger of the LORD was kindled against them, and he departed.

When the cloud went away from over the tent, Miriam had become leprous, as white as snow. And Aaron turned towards Miriam and saw that she was leprous. Then Aaron said to Moses, ‘Oh, my lord, do not punish us for a sin that we have so foolishly committed. Do not let her be like one stillborn, whose flesh is half consumed when it comes out of its mother's womb.’ And Moses cried to the LORD, ‘O God, please heal her.’ But the LORD said to Moses, ‘If her father had but spat in her face, would she not bear her shame for seven days? Let her be shut out of the camp for seven days, and after that she may be brought in again.’ So Miriam was shut out of the camp for seven days; and the people did not set out on the march until Miriam had been brought in again. After that, the people set out from Hazeroth, and camped in the wilderness of Paran.

SERMON

Resisting Evil

Rev. Dana Schindler

We remember the story of Moses leading the Israelites to the Promised Land, but we might not know of all the women who made it possible. Today we'll talk about them.

Puah and Shiprah were two Hebrew midwives.

When a woman gave birth, they went to help. Pharaoh had noticed how many more

children were being born and was concerned that the Hebrew people would soon outnumber the Egyptians. So he decided the best thing to do was to have the midwives kill all the male babies at birth. Puah and Shiprah believed in God and that killing these babies was wrong, so instead of killing the male babies, they delivered them and told Pharaoh that the Hebrew women were so strong that they gave birth before the midwives got there. And so many babies were saved. Midwives were typically women who were unable to have babies, so they were at the bottom of the social ladder, but because they acted so bravely, God blessed them with children and families. But Pharaoh saw the Hebrew people growing more numerous and commanded his people to throw all the male Hebrew children into the river to kill them.

Moses was one of the babies the midwives had saved. His mother hid him away until he began to make noise. She knew it wouldn't be long until he was found, so she made a basket, waterproofed it, and placed the baby Moses in it. She set it out in the river and left Moses' sister, Miriam, to watch and see what happened.

Pharaoh's daughter came to bathe in the river. As she bathed, her attendants were walking beside the river. She saw the basket in the water and set one of her maids to get it. She saw that it was a Hebrew baby and took pity on him. She knew her father would want him killed. Miriam saw her find the baby and asked her if she should find a nurse for him. So Pharaoh's daughter worked with Miriam to make sure Moses survived. So Miriam brought her mother to be his nurse and Pharaoh's daughter paid her to take care of her own son.

When Moses grew up, his mother brought him to the Pharaoh's daughter. She named him "Moses" because she had drawn him out of the water.

Thanks to Puah, Shiprah, Moses' mother, and his sister Miriam, Moses lived to be an especially important man: the one who led his people out of lives of slavery in Egypt

Our second scripture is Miriam's song of victory after the Israelites crossed the Red Sea and the Pharaoh's armies perished in the water as it closed back up. Miriam has been known as a prophet by the Israelites.

The next time we see Miriam in the scriptures is in the book of Numbers.

Moses has married a Cushite woman. Miriam and Aaron, Moses' brother, do not like this Ethiopian woman who has very dark skin. They don't say anything to Moses about his wife, but they work together to undermine Moses' authority.

God heard this and called them together to let them know they were wrong to do this.

God tells them that he speaks to prophets through dreams, but he has spoken to Moses in person, without dreams and images because God has trusted Moses with everything. And, according to the story, God punishes Miriam with leprosy, presumably God chose this punishment because their judgment against Moses' wife is because of her skin. We do not know why Aaron does not get leprosy, but we do know that Miriam's leprosy didn't last long.

Our lesson today is very much about resisting evil and making a way where there seems to be no way. Puah and Shiprah resist the evil plan of Pharaoh and are rewarded with families of their own. Moses' mother and sister Miriam, find a way to save his life a second time, when survival seems most unlikely. Even Pharaoh's daughter gets into the act and makes it possible for the Israelites to survive genocide and escape slavery, knowing full well her father's plan.

How differently might the history of the Jewish tradition have gone without these women?

How might our own faith history have changed?

How can we in our time, resist the powers of evil in our midst, fulfilling our vows at baptism? How do we resist the evils of our own time?

I pray that we not only recognize the evil plans of others, but resist them, so that God's plan for us to love one another, fight for justice for all people, and live in peace together can become a reality. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER

God of all hope, we come to you this day, seeking a double portion of hope. So often we find ourselves in the company of those who would deny your grace and hope to others and are uncertain of our next steps. Help us Lord, to find a way when there seems to be no way, to find hope when all seems hopeless, to resist when others pressure us to participate in evil plans. Help us to hear your guiding voice, that we may be agents of your will in our world.

We give thanks 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. 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

We have been given more than we deserve due to God's everlasting love and generosity. Let us consider what we can give in return as we seek to do God's will in this time and place.

Gifts may be placed in the offering plates in the Narthex, mailed into 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*)**

God of all blessings, bless these gifts of time, talent, and treasure. Help us to use them to bring your holy kingdom of love, joy, and peace to our community. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

Be Thou My Vision

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1 Be thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art--
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

2 Be thou my Wisdom, and thou my true Word,
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou and thou only, first in my heart,
high King of heaven, my Treasure thou art.

3 High King of heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.

AS WE GO FORTH TO SERVE, please remember the opportunities we have.

LUNCH IN THE PARK will begin on Tuesday the 28th. Meet at the church at 11 am to prepare lunch and we will go to the park together.

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.
Dottie	Wayne S.	Roger W.
Stan B.	Sherri R.	Sid H.
Bill	Allen	Judy L.
Lori K.	Luella L	Helen F.
Linda	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	

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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*