

IMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Organist: Karen Cain
November 1, 2020

Pastor: Rev. Dana Schindler
Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

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

PRELUDE

WELCOME

Welcome to Immanuel United Church of Christ. We are glad 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. For those worshipping with us on Facebook, please leave a comment to let us know you are here. Make note of any prayer concerns and joys you may have.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Music used is covered under our CCLI livestreaming license # 4012842. Today for our service, you will need your worship guide, a candle and communion elements.

If you are worshipping with us in person, offerings may be placed in the offering plates in the back of the sanctuary. If you are worshipping with us virtually, offerings may be made by mailing them to the church at 5838 Staunton Road, Edwardsville, IL. 62025. Please help us to continue to meet our financial responsibilities and continue our ministries.

Please remember that as we speak to each other after worship service today, we need to move outside where fresh air decrease the likelihood of virus transmission.

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 Fruits
Syrup
Flour
BBQ Sauce
Tuna

Coffee
Mustard
Cooking Oil
Salad Dressing
Also need empty egg cartons

Pancake mix
Sugar
Hamburger helper
Ketchup

CARD SHOWER: One of the church's oldest members, Martha Klenke will be 90 years old on Nov.6th. The family would like to give her a special card shower for her. Her address is 6702 W. Frontage Rd. Worden, IL 62097.

CONFIRMATION will meet on Zoom today at 10:30 am. We will discuss chapter 20 in our book.

BELL CHOIR will rehearse Tuesday at 6:30 pm at church.

CHURCH COUNCIL will meet Wednesday at 7 pm.

HALLOWEEN COSTUME CONTEST Thanks to our volunteer judges, candy baggers, advertisers, and Vision Team members: Andrea Grotefendt, Ally Grotefendt, Lori Kruckeberg, Barb Bloemker, Sheryl Hencke, Sherri Rose, Dave Schindler, Joyce Towner, Lynn and Allen Reiter, Bob and Kathie Rigler, Diane Schmid, Frank Harbison, Diane Ostendorf, and Pastor Dana. Thanks too, to the church members who supported us with candy donations and who attended. Without your support, good ideas are not successful!

COMMUNICATION AND DIGITAL OUTREACH We now have a texting system we can use to quickly communicate with the congregation event reminders, cancellations, and other matters. It can also be used in conjunction with our Facebook page and our website. Please sign up by texting "Connect" (without the quotation marks" to 618-268-1394. You will receive a reply and a link to a form to complete. Please add this number to your contact list as the church so you will know who is texting you. Thanks to Dave Schindler for setting this up for us.

PLEASE VOTE: We are currently in election season. I encourage all to be sure you are registered to vote, research the candidates and their platforms, pray for all candidates, seeking God's wisdom as you choose and to actually vote for the candidates of your choice and on propositions on the ballot. Should you experience any difficulty in voting, please consult election staff.

VOLUNTEERS FOR AV SYSTEM will be contacted to begin training once the installation of computer equipment is completed. Thanks to all who have volunteered.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

to learn how to do Facebook livestreaming—see Dave Schindler
to be part of the Vision Team—see Joyce or Lynn
to help with youth activities—see Barb

NEW E-MAIL ADDRESSES

Ruth: officeiucc@gomadison.com

Pastor Dana: pastoriucc@gomadison.com

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

3 – Harvey Schoeber

5 – Katlyn Schneider

6 – Martha Klenke

8 – Lydia Grapperhaus

13 -Karma Colbert

13 -Luella Liske

16 -Mike Wilkening

21 -Julie Gusewelle

24 -Cindy Schneider

25 -Samuel Kalish

25 -Ron Cartwright

25 -Wayne Schuetz

26 -Gary Cain

29 -Brady Gusewelle

CONCERNS

Maria Smith

Harry Smith

Lillie Hamann

Tony Martin

Deb Martin

Kathie Rigler

Hope Sill

Carole Griffith

Tomiko Juedemann

Wayne Stewart

Dave Kalish

Rose Olive

Roxanne

Kathleen Lewey

Michelle Lentz

Emily F.

T.J.

Kristy K.

Dorothy Rigler Delgado

Jane Bilyeu

Lisa S.

Marion R.

Mary Ann Champion

Students/School Personnel

Those affected by natural disasters

Our country as we deal with pandemic and social unrest

Pastor Dana, as she leads

POINT TO PONDER

By remembering the dead, we remember how to live.—*Rev. Lillian Daniel*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Our help is in the name of God, who made heaven and earth. Come, let us bow down, let us kneel before the Lord, our maker. Amen.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Eternal God, we come this day to give thanks for the privilege to worship you. Thank you for this wonderful day and for being present with us. As we continue our journey of faith, remembering those who have gone before us, strengthen us. Comfort us when the journey becomes too difficult and remind us to draw strength from one another. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

HYMN

“In the Bulb there is a Flower”

#433 NCH

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 every silence,
seeking word and melody;
there's a dawn in every 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.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We come this day remembering loved ones that are absent. We are thankful for the love and friendship we shared and the things we learned from them. We confess that our grief sometimes gets the best of us and our anger, denial, and depression keep us stuck and unable to move on to using the lessons they taught us. Let us remember them with love and honor them with continued growth. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Anyone in Christ becomes a new person altogether; the past is finished and gone, everything has become fresh and new. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Karen Cain

HOLY SCRIPTURE Psalm 34

I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise will always be in my mouth. I praise the LORD—let the suffering listen and rejoice. Magnify the LORD with me! Together let us lift his name up high! I sought the LORD and he answered me. He delivered me from all my fears.

Those who look to God will shine; their faces are never ashamed.

This suffering person cried out: the LORD listened and saved him from every trouble. On every side, the LORD's messenger protects those who honor God; and he delivers them.

Taste and see how good the LORD is! The one who takes refuge in him is truly happy! You who are the LORD's holy ones, honor him, because those who honor him don't lack a thing. Even strong young lions go without and get hungry, but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.

The LORD saves his servants' lives; all those who take refuge in him won't be held responsible for anything.

Matthew 5:1-12

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up a mountain. He sat down and his disciples came to him. He taught them, saying:

“Happy are people who are hopeless, because the kingdom of heaven is theirs.

“Happy are people who grieve, because they will be made glad.

“Happy are people who are humble, because they will inherit the earth.

“Happy are people who are hungry and thirsty for righteousness, because they will be fed until they are full.

“Happy are people who show mercy, because they will receive mercy.

“Happy are people who have pure hearts, because they will see God.

“Happy are people who make peace, because they will be called God’s children.

“Happy are people whose lives are harassed because they are righteous, because the kingdom of heaven is theirs.

“Happy are you when people insult you and harass you and speak all kinds of bad and false things about you, all because of me. Be full of joy and be glad, because you have a great reward in heaven. In the same way, people harassed the prophets who came before you.

FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

Do you know the song “If you’re happy and you know it clap your hands?” The scripture reading from Matthew makes me think of that song because this version has the word “happy” so many times. Other Bible translations use the word “blessed” instead, but I think if we are blessed, we will be happy, because blessed means something good has happened or will happen. What are some good things that we hope will happen? Maybe a trip or a gift? Maybe doing some special activity with a friend or family member? I don’t know about you, but I find it a lot easier to be happy if someone else is happy with me, or when I do something that makes someone else happy, I feel happy too. Let’s try to remember to do things that make other people happy. That’s one way that we can make the world a happier place.

PRAYER

God of blessing, thank you for everything you give us. Help us to be blessing givers to those around us. Help us to see ways to be kind to each other so that we can all be happy. Amen.

MEDITATION

Being Happy

Rev. Dana Schindler

Our gospel reading is also known as The Beatitudes. Jesus, the respected teacher, addresses the crowds, telling them again, what the kingdom of God/heaven is like, but this time, he focuses more on what those who live

there are like. Notice that Jesus isn't saying "You have to do this to get to heaven." He is telling us what those who experience the kingdom of heaven have already done, how they feel as a part of the kingdom. They are HAPPY!

Notice too, that these people are not wealthy or popular, they are not without problems. There is no "they claimed blessings and received them," no "God wants you to have (fill in the blank), no "prosperity gospel."

No, these Happy People are not what one expects—not what we expect and not what Jesus' listeners expected either. They are hopeless, grieving, and humble people. They are people who show mercy to others, who hunger for righteousness, work for peace and justice, do what is right. And for all of that hard work they are harassed, insulted, and lied about.

So, we might ask "why on earth are these people HAPPY?"

Because theirs is the kingdom of God. They will be happy because they have the peace of mind of knowing they have done the right thing. They know that the right thing is seldom the popular thing. They are happy because they have worked to help others, they have worked to spread God's love, and they can sleep at night knowing they have done their best.

As we celebrate the lives of those who have gone on before us, those saints of the church, those who are important to us even if nobody else knows who they are, those who have died by violence, those who have died due to pandemic, we recall these words of blessings or happiness. We remember these words Jesus uttered of a world that could be, a world that would be if we could just change our attitudes. If each of us could care about the health and welfare of others, how happy and blessed we could be, not just when we die and live with God forever, but as we live right here and right now.

Perhaps in this world of pandemic, of social unrest, of openly expressed hatred of others, we, as Christ's followers could cause a ripple effect of change, simply by changing our attitudes and living as he taught us. Perhaps we could begin a revolution of change, the likes of which the world has never seen. Perhaps we could actually find the path to happiness and justice so that all people could live in peace. I pray that it may be so. Amen.

OBSERVANCE OF TOTENFEST

INTRODUCTION

We gather here as God's people, conscious of others who have died and of the frailty of our own existence on earth. We gather to hear God's word of hope as we honor those we have lost. We gather to celebrate the good news of Christ's resurrection. For whether we live or whether we die, we belong to Christ who is Lord both of the dead and of the living.

WORDS OF REMEMBRANCE

As we journey through our lives, we bring our world and its problems with us. We remember those who give us strength, naming the power of hard lives well-lived. We celebrate our history together as children of the same eternal God. They also received strength from those who went before, drawn by the Holy Spirit, the image of things to come. Those who lived and loved before us have not disappeared but remain in our hearts, giving us strength. We continue their legacy of love.

At this time we lift up the names of our community members who have died this year and light a candle in their memory:

Ted Frisbie

Dave Grotefendt

Arnold Sommerfeldt

Mieko Prince

Michael Conway

Janice Harbison

Angela Witcher

Sam Fidler

Wilma Becker

WORDS OF SOLACE

And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our fears for tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below; indeed nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:38-39

PRAYER

O God, whose days are without end and whose mercies cannot be counted, awaken us to the shortness and uncertainty of human life. By your Holy Spirit, lead us in faithfulness all our days. When we have served you in our generation, may we be gathered with those who have gone before, having the testimony of a good conscience, in the communion of your holy church, in the confidence of a certain faith, in the comfort of a saving hope, in favor

with you, our God, and at perfect peace with the world; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

COMMUNION HYMN *“One Bread, One Body”* #393 Chalice Hymnal

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

COMMUNION PRAYER

May the grace of God be with you all as we lift our hearts in praise

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:

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! Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

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.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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.

THE LORD'S 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, and the glory forever. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN "I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry" #351 NCH

I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.

I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
to see your life unfold.

I was there when you were but a child,
with a faith to suit you well;
In a blaze of light you wandered off
to find where demons dwell.

When you heard the wonder of the Word
I was there to cheer you on;
You were raised to praise the living Lord,
to whom you now belong.

If you find someone to share your time
and you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme
from dusk 'till rising sun.

In the middle ages of your life,
not too old, no longer young,
I'll be there to guide you through the night,

complete what I've begun.
When the evening gently closes in,
and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been
with just one more surprise.

I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
to see your life unfold.

BENEDICTION

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

POSTLUDE