

St. Vincent UCC Worship Service

Brunch Bunch Sunday April 14, 2024

Pastor – Rev. Susan Hanson

Church Musician – Deb Rick



Ringing of the Bell

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude Music

Let us rise for our Call to Worship

*** Call To Worship:**

Pastor: Come, sing a new song; clap your hands and shout for joy, for Jesus is alive and at work in our lives.

People: **Jesus is our good news, our joy, and our salvation.**

Pastor: Then, let us join our voices together in saying our Affirmation of Faith...

Affirmation of Faith:

We are the people of God – his hands and heart and voices on the earth in this time and place. We are brothers and sisters in Christ - evidence of God's continued presence in the world. We believe in our God, we believe in God's goodness, and the power of God's love. We believe in Christ and his presence in our lives, and that we will recognize Christ in one another. We believe in the Holy Spirit, who moves among God's people and inspires us to bring God's reign more fully into our world. We are the people of God and we believe that our church is part of God's eternal plan. May all that we say and do help to fulfill God's hopes and dreams for us and the world in which we live. Amen.

Now, let us sing together our first hymn.

*** Hymn: # 198 "Lift High the Cross"**

Call to Prayer: God promises that no matter how unsure of ourselves we might feel at times – his light will guide us toward making good decisions and living better lives. We want to be good disciples for Jesus' sake – but we don't have to do that on our own. God will help us. So, let us turn to God and ask for what we need, using the prayer in our bulletin.

Unison Prayer:

God of all time, all places, and all people – hear our prayer and give us your mercy. We want to follow Jesus and do good in the world – but it is not always the easy way for us to go. So, come closer to us this day and stay close to us so that all we say and do from now on will be pleasing to you and in accordance with your plans for our lives and for the world. Amen.

Assurance: Be of good cheer – for God keeps his promises – and Jesus is always with us to help us be all that he hopes and dreams. Praise be to God for his mercy and care for all people all the time. In gratitude, let us sing our response ...

Sung Response: # 2069 “All Hail King Jesus”

All hail King Jesus! All hail Emmanuel, King of kings, Lord of lords, bright Morning Star. And throughout eternity, I'll sing your praises; and I'll reign with you throughout eternity.

Scripture Reading: Liturgist: Todd Sutter

Liturgist: We now turn our hearts and minds to the reading of God's Holy Scripture. Today we are reading from the Gospel according to Luke, chapter 24, verses 36-48 where Jesus tells his disciples that they are witnesses for the world of his love and power.

Let us pray: Holy One, bless us now in the hearing of your Holy Scripture so that we might hear your call to be witnesses for Christ during this season of Easter and always. We pray this in his name. Amen.

Reading:

Some of the disciples were talking amongst themselves, when all of a sudden, Jesus himself stood among them. He said to them, “Peace be with you.” They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost.

He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet.

While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence – proving to them that he was, indeed, as real as they were.

Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.”

Then he opened their minds so that they could more fully understand the scriptures. And he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

You are the first to hear this and see it for yourselves. You are witnesses of these things. What comes next is very important: I am sending what my Father promised to you, so stay here in the city until he arrives, until you're equipped with power from on high.”

Liturgist: Here ends the read of God's Holy Scripture. May God bless us with understanding, and may we show our understanding in the way we live our lives. Amen.

Now, let's sing our hymn, “Jesus, the very thought to me”

Hymn: # 507 “Jesus - the Very Thought to Me”

Message: “Who Will Be His Witnesses?”

Pastoral Prayer / Lord's Prayer

Sung Response: # 2215 “Cares Chorus”

Offering Invitation: God has called us to witness to his love and mercy for all people. And he has called us to work together as a community of faith to bring about his purpose for good. Let us show God that we are ready to answer that call as we present with joy our morning offering.

Offertory

* **Sung Response: “Bless Thou the Gifts”**

**Bless thou the gifts our hands have brought;
Bless thou the work our hearts have planned.
Ours is the faith, the will, the thought;
The rest, O God is in thy hand.**

* **Prayer of Dedication:**

Holy God – accept now these offerings – given out of the generosity of our hearts in honor of our risen Lord. Use them and us according to your need so that through what we have given – the world will know you more fully. Amen.

* **Hymn: # 2151 “I’m So Glad Jesus Lifted Me”**

* **Benediction:** The grace of Jesus Christ has blessed us with his love and power. Now, we go forth to show that grace to all those whom we meet. Let us witness to the goodness of God in all that we say and do and may God go with you. Amen.

* **Response: # 2241 “The Spirit Sends Us Forth”** (1st verse)

* **Postlude Music**