

St. Vincent UCC Worship Service

Graduate Sunday June 9, 2024

Pastor – Rev. Susan Hanson

Church Musician – Deb Rick



**BROTHERS AND SISTERS
IN CHRIST**

Musical Interlude

Ringling of the Bell

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude Music

Let us rise for our Call to Worship

*** Call To Worship:**

Pastor: We come together to praise God and his faithfulness with our whole hearts.

People: **Let us give thanks for God's steadfast love that lifts us up and makes us new every day.**

Pastor: Let us, then join our voices together in our Affirmation of Faith...

Affirmation of Faith:

We have faith in one God, one source of life for the whole earth and all its creatures. We believe in the goodness of that source of life and claim our partnership with God to take care of his creation. We believe that, in Christ, we have been shown the way to care for all life with love and compassion and that this is our given purpose. We seek to fulfill that purpose so that our children and our children's children will live in our legacy of love. May God's Holy Spirit lead us to live in harmony for the benefit of all the generations yet to come. So be it. Amen.

Now, let us sing together our first hymn.

*** Hymn: # 421 "We Gather Together"**

Call to Prayer: God promises to be with us at all times, so we have only to invite him into our lives. Let us do so as we pray together ...

Prayer:

We thank you, living God, that you have called us and that we belong to you. We come now, longing to know the touch of your Spirit that encourages us to serve you in the world. Come closer to us, we pray, that we may recognize you, sing praise to you, and share your love with others – through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Assurance: In Christ, we are empowered to begin each day anew, and find ever more meaningful ways to serve God along the way. Thanks be to God! In gratitude, let us sing our response ...

Response: # 2119 “Where the Spirit of the Lord Is”

**Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is peace.
Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is love.
There is comfort if life’s darkest hour; there is light and life,
there is help & power in the Spirit, in the Spirit of the Lord.**

Scripture Reading: Liturgist: Susie Clark

Liturgist: We now turn our hearts and minds to the reading of God’s Holy Scripture. The Gospel Lesson today can be found in the Gospel according to Mark, chapter 3. We’re reading verses 20-35 where Jesus teaches us the meaning of the word “family”.

Let us pray: God of mercy, if we should want to hide in the darkness – you come, seeking us with your light and love. Grant us the fullness of your grace, that, as one people, we may be united in your spirit of goodness. Now, help us in this time of sharing your holy scripture – so that we might know you and thus love you more. Amen.

Reading:

So many people had gathered in the crowd to listen to Jesus that there was not even room for them to eat. When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, “He has gone out of his mind.” And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, “He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons.”

And he called them to him, and spoke to them in parables, “How can Satan cast out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come.

But no one can enter a strong man’s house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered. “Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter; but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness but is guilty of an eternal sin”— for they had said, “He has an unclean spirit.”

Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, “Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you.”

And he replied, “Who are my mother and my brothers?” And looking at those who sat around him, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.”

Liturgist: Here ends the reading 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, # 351 “I Was There”

Hymn: # 351 “I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry”

Message: “My Heart Family”

Includes Recognition of Graduates and Prayer

Response: # 2071 “Jesus, Name Above All Names”

**Jesus, name above all names, beautiful Savior,
glorious Lord, Emmanuel, God is with us, blessed
Redeemer, living Word.**

Pastoral Prayer / The Lord's Prayer

Offering Invitation: God has given us so much and calls us to share it with joy. Let us then present to God our morning offering.

Offertory / * Sung Response: #780 “Doxology”

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God above, you heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

*** Prayer of Dedication:** Holy God, for all you have given us, we give you our thanks and praise. Now, accept and bless this offering so that it will serve your purpose in our church and in the world. Amen.

*** Hymn: # 82 “Go, My Children, With My Blessing”**

*** Benediction:** If we ever doubt our call to serve, let us recall the One who empowers us to do so. May God now send us forth to serve his people to his greater glory. Amen.

*** Response: # 81 “God Be With You” (3rd verse)**

**God be with you till we meet again. When life's perils
thick confound you. Put unfailing arms around you.
God be with you till we meet again. Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Jesus' feet.
Till we meet, till we meet - - - God be with you till we meet again.**

*** Postlude Music**