

## St. Vincent UCC Worship Service

Communion Sunday August 4, 2024

Pastor – Rev. Susan Hanson

Church Musician – Deb Rick



**Musical Interlude**

**Ringling of the Bell**

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Prelude Music**

*Let us rise for our Call to Worship*

**\* Call To Worship:**

**Pastor:** We gather as one people who love our Holy God who loves us without hesitation or reservation or condition.

**People:** **We are blessed because God stays close to those who are broken and downhearted and in need of his tender care. Let us worship our loving God this day!**

**Pastor:** We welcome God into our presence as we say together our Affirmation of Faith...

**Affirmation of Faith:**

**We believe in a God who makes love our sole purpose in life. God created all life and declared it “good” - and as part of that creation God has declared that we are good as well. So, then, “being loving” and “doing good” are the way we are called and empowered to live. May we be a beacon of God’s love to all those we encounter. May we bring goodness into every situation of life. May we have confidence that the good we do today will matter for now and for the future of our world. In the name of our Holy God, may we always act as his heart and hands and voices to bring more of God’s love and goodness into this world through all that we say and do. May it be so forever. Amen.**

*Now, let us sing together our first hymn.*

**\* Hymn: # 386 “The Church’s One Foundation”**

**Call to Prayer:** We have all experienced a sense of brokenness at some time in our lives. And we know that God will fix us if we would only turn to him in our time of need. Let us pray together about that ...

**Prayer:** **Merciful God, we know that you love us and that you call us to fullness of life - but around us and within us we see the brokenness of the world and our own spirits. Help us to heal what is broken and make it new again – so that we might go forth to bring the goodness of your spirit more fully into our lives and into the world through all that we say and do. We pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

**Assurance:** No one knows better than God how to mend our broken ways and God is happy to heal us and make us whole. Let us praise our generous and merciful God and sing praises to his name. Let us join our voices in singing 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 in 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:** We now turn our hearts and minds to the reading of God’s Holy Scripture. Today we are hearing words from the book of the prophet Jeremiah, chapter 18, verses 1-11 where we explore the image of God as a potter and his people as clay.

**Let us pray:** Holy One, bless us with your spirit – for we need your guidance and encouragement to live according to your ways. Help us to hear your message so that we can become more like you in every way. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

**Reading:** Jeremiah was a prophet of the Lord, and one day as he sat meditating on doing God’s will, the Lord spoke to him and said, “Go down to the potter’s house, and there I will let you hear my words’. So, Jeremiah went down to the potter’s house, and there was the potter working at his wheel. The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter’s hand, but he didn’t let that bother him. He reworked it into another vessel, as seemed good to him.

Then Jeremiah heard the Lord speaking to him in his heart and mind. And he said to him, “Can I not do with you just as this potter has done? Just like the clay in the potter’s hand, so are you and all my people in my hand.

With one thought I could destroy any nation that rises up against my purpose. Like the potter, I could ruin it and start over. But if the people of that nation repent and turn away from their evil ways, I will change my mind and restore them. Like the potter, I will rework the clay into something better.

The same can happen when I intend to build up a nation that does good or plant a new seed to grow something new elsewhere. But should that nation turn toward evil ways and refuse to listen to my voice, then I will change my mind about the good that I had intended to do for it. Like the potter I will destroy it and start over to make something different.

Therefore, go and tell my people that the Lord intends for them to do good and will reward them with good things. But, if they do not follow his ways, he will be like a potter with clay and rework us and remake us until we amend our evil ways and doings. Choose now and always to do the good that God has placed in your hearts and minds”.

**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, # 321 “Break Now the Bread of Life”

**Hymn: # 321 “Break Now the Bread of Life”**

**Message: “God’s Broken Vessels”**

**The Sacrament of Holy Communion** (see insert)

**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 & Lord's Prayer**

**Offering Invitation:** We are loved by God even though we are not perfect. We are blessed by God even though we don't deserve it. May we be so generous with our gifts as God has been to us as we now present with joy 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. Amen.**

**\* Prayer of Dedication:** God of all good things, bless now these gifts placed before you and bless those who have given them for your use. We dedicate them in the name of Jesus. Amen.

**\* Hymn: # 423 “Great is your Faithfulness”**

**\* Benediction:** Praise God, for through his grace and mercy, we are not broken anymore. We are stronger, wiser, and more beautiful than before because God has taken our broken pieces and made us whole again. Glory be to God now and for evermore. Amen.

**\* Response: # 81 “God Be With You” (3<sup>rd</sup> 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**