

St. Vincent UCC Worship Service

Faith Formation Sunday – Sept. 13, 2026

Pastor – Rev. Susan Hanson
Church Musician – Deb Rick



Musical Interlude
Ring of the Church Bell
Welcome

Prelude Music

*** Call To Worship:**

Pastor: Rejoice, for God is among us. Give thanks, for in Christ, we are new people. Sing praises, for we come to worship God.

People: We give thanks for the gift of life and the presence of the Holy One among us. Let us worship God together.

Pastor: Then, let us begin by joining our voices in saying our affirmation of faith for this day ...

*** Affirmation of Faith:**

We are not alone; we live in God's world. We believe in God, who has created and is creating; who has come in Jesus the Word made flesh - to reconcile and make new. Who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called to be the Church - to celebrate God's presence, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

Let's join our voices in singing our first hymn.

*** Hymn: # 2196, "We Walk by Faith"**

Please Be Seated.

Call to Prayer: God knows that we are not perfect and need his help to make good decisions in life. So, God promises to stay close and give us everything we need to live a better life. Let us turn to God using our prayer printed in the bulletin.

Prayer: Holy God – help us to be happy people and do good in your name. Give us what we need in order to do so. Make us people who love and care for others even in the midst of busy lives. And may all that we say and do be to your glory. We pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Assurance: God's promises come true for those of us who put our hearts and minds in his loving hands. In gratitude, let us sing our response -

Response: # 2108, "O How He Loves You and Me" (vs. 1)

O how he loves you and me! O how he loves you and me! He gave his life. What more could he give? O how he loves you; O how he loves me; O how he loves you and me!

Scripture Reading: Liturgist = Todd Sutter

Liturgist: The Gospel Lesson today can be found in the Gospel according to Matthew, chapter 18. We are reading verses 21-35 where Jesus talks to us about how important forgiveness is for those who want to follow his ways.

Let us pray: Holy God, bless us at this time when we hear your message and wonder at it's meaning for our lives. Help us to discern your call to us, so that we might become more like you and become a blessing to one another. Amen.

Scripture Reading:

Jesus had just finished talking to the disciples about how to deal with conflict in the church community – pointing out to them that forgiveness is an important part of helping them to get along with one another. Then, Peter asked him, “Master, how many times do I forgive a brother or sister who hurts me? As many as seven times?”

And Jesus replied, “Not just seven times - but, I tell you, seventy-times seven!” When they all looked confused at this, Jesus offered them this parable of the unforgiving servant.

“The kingdom of God is like a king who decided to square accounts with his servants. As he got under way, one servant was brought before him who had run up a debt of a hundred thousand dollars. He couldn't pay up, so the king ordered the man, along with his wife, children, and goods, to be auctioned off at the slave market.

“The poor wretch threw himself at the king's feet and begged, ‘Give me a chance and I'll pay it all back.’ Touched by his plea, the king let him off, erasing the debt.

“Well, this servant was no sooner out of the room when he came upon one of his fellow servants who owed him ten dollars. He seized him by the throat and demanded, ‘Pay up. Now!’

“That poor wretch threw himself down and begged, ‘Give me a chance and I'll pay it all back.’ But he wouldn't do it. He had him arrested and put in jail until the debt was paid. When the other servants saw this going on, they were outraged and brought a detailed report to the king.

“The king summoned the first man and said, ‘You evil servant! I forgave your entire debt when you begged me for mercy. Shouldn't you be compelled to be merciful to your fellow servant who asked for mercy?’ The king was furious and put that man in jail as well until he paid back his entire debt.”

Then, Jesus looked at each of his disciples and said to them, “And that's exactly what my Father in heaven is going to do to each one of you who doesn't forgive your brother or sister from your heart or anyone else who asks you for mercy.

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, # 485, “O Love That Will Not “

Hymn: # 485, “O Love That Will Not Let Me Go”

Message: “Faith Works”

Sung Response: # 2086, “Open Our Eyes”

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Sung Response: # 769, “Hear Our Prayer, O God”

Offering Invitation: God gives to us so that we can give to others. Let us do so out of loving hearts and generous hands as we now present with joy our morning offering.

Offertory

*** Response: Tune “All That Dwell Below the Skies”**

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

*** Prayer of Dedication:** Bless these gifts, O God, and those of us who have given them so that each of us might become part of your answer to the needs of the world. We pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

*** Hymn: # 78, “Part in Peace”**

*** Benediction:** Let us go forth now to carry God’s light and love into all we say and do so that the world might become a better place for us and all those whom we love. Amen.

*** Response: # 82, “Go My Children” (vs. 2)**

**Go my children fed and nourished, closer to me. Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.
Here my Spirit’s power filled you, here with tender comfort stilled you, Go my children, fed and
nourished, joyful and free.**

Postlude Music