St. Vincent UCC Worship Service
A Baptism Sunday – Nov. 15, 2026



The Sacrament of Baptism for Benjamin Todd Bezpietka
Consistory Meeting after Church
Pastor – Rev. Susan Hanson
Church Musician – Deb Rick

Musical Interlude
Ringing of the Church Bell

Welcome

Prelude Music

*** Call To Worship:**

Pastor: God provides everything we need – so we never have to be afraid.
People: Lord, we give you thanks and praise. Help us, then, to live in the confident hope of your grace and mercy.
Pastor: Let us worship God as we join our voices together to say 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: # 472 "Precious Lord, Take My Hand"**

Please Be Seated.

Call To Prayer: The Serenity Prayer has long been a prayer of comfort and assurance. Let us pray these words together …

Prayer: God grant me the Serenity to accept the things I cannot change, Courage to change the things I can, and the Wisdom to know the difference. Living one day at a time; enjoying one moment at a time; accepting hardship as the pathway to peace. Taking, as He did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it; trusting that He will make all things right if I surrender to His will; that I may be reasonably happy in this life, and supremely happy with Him forever in the next. Amen.

Assurance: We are blessed because God has made it possible. Let us sing in praise to our God ...

Sung Response: # 2164 Sanctuary (Praise Book)

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true.
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.

The Sacrament of Baptism – see insert

Scripture Reading: Liturgist – Owen Gift

Liturgist: We now turn our hearts and minds to the reading of God's Holy Scripture. Today's reading can be found in the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 25. We're reading verses 14-30 where we hear Jesus tell the Parable of the Talents.

Let us pray: Holy God, bless us now in our hearing this parable that your son is telling us and help us to discern what it means for our lives today. We pray this in his name, Amen.

Read Scripture Lesson

A man was going on a journey and would be away for a long time. So, he called together his servants and entrusted his property into their care, delegating responsibilities according to their abilities. To one of his servants he gave five talents or coins. To another one he gave two, and to yet another one he gave one.

The first servant who received five talents went off right away and traded with them and doubled his amount. The second servant who had received two talents also doubled his amount by investing it wisely. But, the third servant who had received only one talent took it and buried it in the ground for safe keeping.

After a long time the man returned and settled accounts with them. The first servant proudly told his master that he had doubled the money that had been entrusted to him. The man congratulated him, saying, "Well done, good and trustworthy servant. You have made me very happy and because you've been a good steward of this small amount, I will now put you in charge of even greater amounts of my property."

When the second servant bragged that he too had doubled the money entrusted to him, the master was equally appreciative and gave him more responsibilities as well. But, when the servant who had received only one talent came forward, he said to the man, 'Master, I know you have high standards and hate careless ways. I know that you demand the best and make no allowances for error. I was afraid I might disappoint you, so I found a good hiding place and secured your money. Here it is, safe and sound down to the last cent."

Well, the master was furious that the third servant had been so cautious and hadn't even thought to invest the money in the bank – at least then, he would have gotten his money back with a little interest. But the servant had been too afraid to take any risk at all.

This was too much for the man to tolerate. He took the talent back from the servant and gave it to the first servant who had risked the most and got the best results. He dismissed the 'play it safe' servant and threw him out into the darkness.

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 us remain seated as we sing together our middle hymn, # 351 "I Was There to Hear"

Hymn: # 351 "I Was There to Hear"

Message: "Baptized and Blessed"

Sung Response: # 793, "Holy, Holy, Holy"

Holy, Holy, Holy, my heart, my heart adores you.
My heart is glad to say the words – you are holy God.

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Sung Response: # 2215, "Cares Chorus"

Offering Invitation: With gratitude for all that God has given us, let us give back a portion of these blessings to God in the form of our offering.

Offertory
*** Response: Tune "All That Dwell Below"**

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:**

Gracious God, bless now these gifts we have brought and placed on your altar. May they be used for the good of our church in your holy name. Amen.

*** Hymn: # 474 "I'm So Glad, Jesus Lifted Me"**

*** Benediction:** God blesses us with everything we need and then asks us to share our time, our talents, and our treasure for the good of others. This is not just a calling – it is a way of life for those of us who love God with our whole hearts. Let us commit ourselves to becoming a blessing to all those whom we love. And may God bless you and keep you close to his heart all your days yet to come. Amen.

*** Response: # 2162, "Grace Alone"** (vs. 1)

*** Postlude Music**