

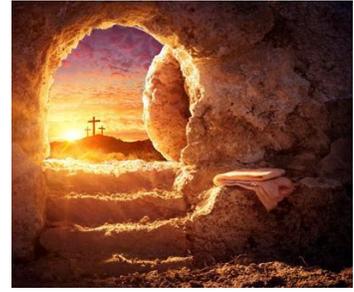
**St. Vincent United Church of Christ**

**Easter Sunday – April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

*Including the Sacrament of Holy Communion  
and a Children's Message with Gifts*

Pastor – Rev. Susan Hanson

Church Musician – Deb Rick



**Musical Interlude**  
**Ringling of the Bell**

**Pastor's Welcome:**  
**Prelude Music**

**\* Call To Worship:**

**Pastor:** Welcome to Easter morning when we celebrate that our Lord is risen!

**People:** **He is risen indeed! Alleluia! Let us worship him!**

**Pastor:** Let us gather our hearts and minds together for this Easter worship in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen. Please join me in saying together our Affirmation of Faith ...

**Affirmation of Faith:** **With all Christians everywhere, we believe in one God, who made everything. The Father sent his Son, Jesus, to live among us and teach us his ways. He died on the cross, but rose again as Lord of all, that we might live forever with him. God sent his Holy Spirit to live inside each of us, that we might grow to become more like Jesus. And so that we can affirm for our own hearts and minds that always and forever, God will love us and be with us in all things – no matter what. Amen.**

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

**\* Hymn: # 233 "Christ the Lord is Risen Today."**

*Please be seated.*

**Prayer for Easter:** Let us join our voices together in prayer...

**All:** **Living God, we give you thanks for Jesus and the gift of resurrection for all of us who follow him. We lift our hearts in praise to you. We stand in awe of your power over death, of your love for us, of your desire to bring harmony and peace to the whole world. Help us celebrate this day as your Easter people. Raise us to new lives of joyful worship and service to you. Amen.**

*With gratitude, let us sing our response...*

**Sung Response: # 2026, "Halleluja"** (praise book)

**Scripture Reading:** Liturgist: Jennifer Kluge

**Liturgist:** We now turn our hearts and minds to the reading of God's Holy Scripture. Today's story takes us back to that first Easter morning when a miracle took place in the garden outside the empty tomb. This story can be found in the Gospel of John, chapter 20, verses 1-18.

**Let us pray:** Holy God, you have given us the gift of life and eternal life through the resurrection of your Son Jesus. Be with us this day as we celebrate this miracle and hear again the story of the first Easter so long ago.

## **Reading:**

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb where they had laid Jesus. She saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So, she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.”

Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there - but he did not go in.

Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself.

Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture - that he would rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stayed behind and stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?”

She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus.

Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.”

Then Jesus said her name, “Mary!” And she turned and recognized him and said in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher). She reached out to touch him, but Jesus said to her, “Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”

Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

**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 middle hymn, “In the Garden”

**Hymn: # 237 “In the Garden”**

**Children’s Message:** “Easter Mysteries”

**Message:** “Easter Day!”

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

**Sung Response:** “He Lives!” (see insert)

**Pastoral Prayer & Lord’s Prayer**

**Sung Response: #2203, “In His Time”** (verse 2)



**Offering Invitation:** The joy of Easter reminds us that anything and everything is possible with God. In gratitude for God's love and care, let us now present with joy our morning offering for the good of God's church.

## **Offertory**

\* **Sung Response: # 565, "God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending"** (verse 3)

\* **Prayer of Dedication: Holy God, we thank you for this special gift of Easter – for the sun that rises each day and the Son that rises every day in our hearts. In gratitude, we offer to you these gifts and dedicate them to your purpose, in the name of Jesus, Amen.**

\* **Hymn: # 245 "The Day of Resurrection"**

\* **Benediction:** We have been witnesses this day, once again, to the greatest of miracles - Jesus Christ is risen and all who follow him are resurrected people too! Let us live from this day on as people who are truly alive in his love for evermore. Amen.

\* **Benediction Response: # 77, "Lord, Dismiss Us With Your Blessing"** (verse 1)

\* **Postlude Music**

# Easter Communion Liturgy

*Remembering, Celebrating, Blessing*



## The Invitation:

**Pastor:** Welcome to this joyful feast of the people of God, who come together from every direction and gather here about the table of Christ. This table is meant for all people who wish to know the presence of Christ and to share in the community of his people. May God be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

**Pastor:** Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them up to God.**

**Pastor:** Let us give thanks to God Most High.

**People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

**Pastor:** We thank you, God, Father of us all, for your many blessings. In the resurrection of your Son Jesus, you promise us new life. In this Easter feast, you meet us and welcome us into a closer relationship with you. In gratitude, we proclaim our joy by saying what we believe - **All: Alleluia! Christ is risen!**

## Words of Celebration:

**Pastor:** Today we gather to remember, to celebrate, and to receive the blessings of being the children of such a loving and gracious God, symbolized for us in this common meal.

On the night before he was arrested, Jesus and his closest disciples gathered in an upper room to celebrate the Passover feast. During the meal, Jesus took bread, thanked God for it, broke it, and told his friends, "Take this and eat it, everyone. This is my body, which is given for you. Remember me every time you do this."

Then, he held up the cup of wine, thanked God for it, and passed it among them, saying, "Drink this, everyone. This cup is God's promise to you, made in my blood. Remember me every time you do this." And so, we remember what Jesus has done for us – all of it – his ministry of healing and miracles; his mandate to love one another in the same way he loves us; his willingness to die for our sakes; and his resurrection in victory over death. As the people who belong to God and follow the ways of his Son, we're happy to proclaim ... **Alleluia! God bless us now and always!**

## Words of Blessing:

**Pastor:** We ask you, O God, to send your Holy Spirit upon this bread and drink, that it may nourish our spirits and help us fulfill our purpose as your children. Thus, may we spread your love and the promise of new life to all those we meet. With hope in a better world for all, we praise you, saying ... **All: Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours, God most holy, now and forever. Amen.**

**Pastor:** These are the gifts of God for the people of God – come for all things are ready. Come forward to partake - eat and drink- and as we do, let us remember how much we are loved by God and celebrate that, with Christ, we are made new through his blessings this day and every day.

**We Receive Communion:** All Christians, including children and visitors are welcome to participate whenever we celebrate God's love for us in this way. The bread is not gluten free, but GF wafers are available upon request. Communion cups are red for wine and white for juice. There is a basket on the front pew where you can put your empty cup. Next to it is a basket full of easter eggs with messages of love inside. Please take eggs as you wish with may Easter Blessings be upon you and those whom you love.

**Words of Thanksgiving:** **Pastor:** Let us pray together -

**All: Almighty God, we give you thanks for the gift of your presence in this simple and yet holy meal. Unite us with all who find their nurture in you and help us to proclaim the good news of your love and hope in an uncertain world. Now, let us go forth into the world to serve you with gladness. May we be of good courage, hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the faint-hearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; and love and serve you with joy. Alleluia, Christ is risen – he is risen indeed. Amen.**