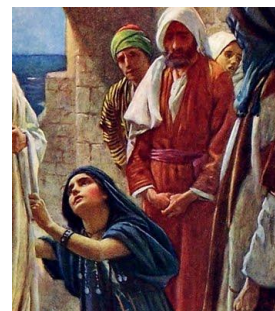


St. Vincent UCC Worship Service

A Summer Sunday – August 16, 2026

Pastor – Rev. Susan Hanson

Church Musician – Deborah Rick



Musical Interlude

Ringling of the Church Bell

Welcome

Prelude Music

*** Call To Worship:**

Pastor: Come, give your hearts to the God we worship – the God of our ancestors and our descendants. **People:** **May the grace of Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all, now and forever. Amen.**

Pastor: Let us join our voices in 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.

*** Hymn: # 403, “My Hope is Built on Nothing Less”**

Call To Prayer: We look to God to give us strength and guidance so that we might become more like him and do good in his name. Let us pray to God about that ...

Prayer: **O God, be among us this day and help us to feel your grace that makes all good things possible. And then help us to work with that grace to follow your ways. We pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

Assurance: God is merciful and kind and will help us find his grace and share his blessings with all those we love. May God's name be praised. Amen. And so, 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 = Suzi Clark**

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 according to Matthew, chapter 15, verses 10-28 where he hear about a woman's encounter with Jesus and proof of a mother's faith.

Let us pray: Loving God, be with us now in the hearing of your holy word and help us to discern it's meaning for our lives today. We pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Read Scripture Lesson (found on page 17 in the Pew Bible)

Jesus called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand: it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles."

The disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?" He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit."

But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us." Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer?"

But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile."

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon."

But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." He answered the woman, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.

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 middle hymn, # 507, "Jesus – the Very Thought to Me".

Hymn: # 507, "Jesus – the Very Thought to Me"

Message: "Crumbs From the Master"

Sung Response: # 2086, "Open Our Eyes"

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Offering Invitation: Our generous God has blessed us with everything we have and asks that we share our gifts. Let us then each give, not grudgingly or out of necessity, but from the fullness of our gratitude to God. Let us have 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:** O Holy God, receive this offering that we present in humility to your use. We ask your blessings upon it and dedicate it in the name of our Savior, Jesus who shows the ways of love and kindness for all people. Amen.

*** Hymn: # 25, "O God, Our Help in Ages Past"**

*** Benediction:** Let us go forth to meet the world which God loves and for which Jesus gave his all. Let us live as the people of God and the followers of Jesus now and for all time. And may God's blessings go with us and show forth in all that we say and do. 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