

St. Vincent UCC Worship Service

Neighbor Sunday July 13th, 2025

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:** (Based on Micah 6:8)

Pastor: God has told us what is good and what God requires of his followers -

People: **To do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God.**

Pastor: And Jesus has shown us how to be good -

People: **We should love our neighbor as we love ourselves.**

Pastor: Let us enter this time of worship with open hearts to hear and fulfill this call. And let's begin by joining our voices in saying our Affirmation of Faith ...

Affirmation of Faith:

We are the people of God – his hands and heart and voices on the earth in this time and place. We are brothers and sisters in Christ - evidence of God's continued presence in the world. We believe in our God, we believe in God's goodness, and the power of God's love. We believe in Christ and his presence in our lives, and that we will recognize Christ in one another. We believe in the Holy Spirit, who moves among God's people and inspires us to bring God's reign more fully into our world. We are the people of God and we believe that our church is part of God's eternal plan. May all that we say and do help to fulfill God's hopes and dreams for us and the world in which we live. Amen.

Now, let us sing together our first hymn.

*** Hymn: # 506, "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"**

Please Be Seated.

Call To Prayer: Jesus says that anyone who has a need is "our neighbor". He calls us to reach out and love them in the same way we would want to be loved. We know this is the right thing to do, but we can't always find the courage or strength or grace to do so. We need Jesus to help us discover what is already within us, so let us turn to him and pray together about that ...

Unison Prayer: Holy Jesus, we are sorry that we often look the other way and ignore the needs of others. We're sorry that we have too often excused ourselves from being responsible for reaching out beyond our own comfort zone. Help us, Jesus, to find the courage and the strength to be your hands and heart in this world. Give us the grace to follow your ways and fulfill your work among us. Make us more like you, for we know that only then can we truly love one another and be good neighbors to all. We pray this in your name, Amen.

Assurance: There is no greater gift for us in life than to be treated with love and kindness and compassion. And there is no greater joy than being able to be the one to show it to another. There is no better blessing than to be a good neighbor and a faithful friend to all. In gratitude, let us we sing together our response ...

Sung Response: # 2119 "Where the Spirit of the Lord"

**Where the Spirit of 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 and power,
In the Spirit, in the Spirit of the Lord.**

Scripture Reading:

Liturgist: Susie Clark

Liturgist: We now turn our hearts and minds to the reading of God's Holy Scripture. Today, we are reading from the Gospel of Luke, chapter 10, verses 25-37 which tells us the familiar story of the Good Samaritan.

Let us pray: Good God, we come together on this day to hear what you have to say to us in your Holy Scripture. Bless us then as we read and discern your will so that we who are blessed may become a blessing for others. Amen.

Reading: Jesus was teaching among the crowds and a lawyer stood up to test him, saying, "Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?"

He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself."

And Jesus said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live." But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

Jesus replied by telling this story: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.

But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out some money and gave it to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.'

Now, Jesus asked him, "Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" The lawyer replied, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go, and do likewise."

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 hymn, # 539, "Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant" and we are singing only verses 1 through 5.

Hymn: # 539, "Won't You Let Me Be Your" (verses 1-5 only)

Message: "In a World ... Be Like Sam"

Sung Response: # 539, "Won't You Let Me" (verses 1 & 6)

**Won't you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ
to you? Pray that I may have the grace to let you
be my servant too.**

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Offering Invitation: God has blessed our lives and asks us to act in ways that bless others. Let us be a good neighbor on this day through our morning offering.

Offertory / * Sung Response: # 562 “Take My Gifts” (verse 3)

Take whatever I can offer—gifts that I have yet to find,
skills that I am slow to sharpen, talents of the hands
and mind. Things made beautiful for others in the place where I must be
– take my gifts and let me love you - God who first of all loved me.

*** Prayer of Dedication:** Gracious God, bless our gifts so that they may bring light to those who walk in darkness, hope to those who live in despair, and justice to those who are oppressed. We dedicate them in Jesus’ name. Amen.

*** Hymn: # 493, “O Jesus, I Have Promised”**

*** Benediction**

*** Sung Response: # 82 “Go My Children”** (verse 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**