

St. Vincent United Church of Christ
Communion Sunday – May 3rd, 2026

Pastor – Rev. Susan Hanson
Church Musician – Deb Rick



Musical Interlude
Ringling of the Bell
Pastor's Welcome

Prelude Music

*** Call To Worship:**

Pastor: This we know for sure – that we are all connected in one spirit, one family of God.

People: My God be in our hearts and minds this day as we gather to worship him.

Pastor: We are one spirit, one family – let us together affirm our faith in one voice ...

Affirmation of Faith:

We believe in a God who makes love our sole purpose in life. God created all life and declared it “good” - and as part of that creation God has declared that we are good as well. So, then, “being loving” and “doing good” are the way we are called and empowered to live.

May we be a beacon of God's love to all those we encounter. May we bring goodness into every situation of life. May we have confidence that the good we do today will matter for now and for the future of our world.

In the name of our Holy God, may we always act as his heart and hands and voices to bring more of God's love and goodness into this world through all that we say and do. May it be so forever. Amen.

Now, let us sing together our first hymn.

*** Hymn: # 395, “In Christ There is no East or West”**

Please Be Seated.

Call to Prayer: Jesus places a challenge upon our hearts – to follow him and strive to live as people of his light in a world that often seems dark. Let us turn our hearts and minds toward that light and place ourselves in the hands of God. Join me now in our prayer for this day ...

Unison Prayer:

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid, cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Assurance:

Jesus shows us how to live a life that is filled with God's presence. When we follow his way of life, we are more fully aware that we belong to God and are blessed by him when we live according to his ways. In gratitude, let's sing our response ...

Sung Response: # 2026, “Halleluja” (praise book)

Halle, Halle, Halle-luja! Halle, Halle, Halle-luja! Halle, Halle, Halle-luja! Halleluja!, Halleluja!

Scripture Reading:

Liturgist: Owen Gift

Liturgist: We now turn our hearts and minds to the word of God found in the scriptures. Today's reading can be found in the Gospel of John - chapter 14. We'll be reading verses 1-14 where Jesus tells us the way to follow him.

Let us pray. Gracious God, you empower us to move away from the ways of the world to living according to the ways of heaven. Help us to bring these ways to earth in all that we say and do. Stay close to us and help us to fulfill this purpose. We pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Reading of John 14: 1-14: (page 108, Pew Bible)

Jesus spoke these words to comfort his disciples: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?"

And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going."

Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?"

The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves.

Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."

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, # 475, "God's Eye is on the Sparrow".

Hymn: # 475, "God's Eye is on the Sparrow"**Message: "The Way"****Sung Response: # 2025, "As the Deer"****Sacrament of Holy Communion** (see insert)**Sung Response: # 2224, "Make Us One"****Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer:**

Offering Invitation: All that we have first came from God. Let us bring forth what we have to offer in return with faith that God will use our gifts to make his wonders happen in our church and in the world. Let us have our morning offering.

Offertory

* **Sung Response: # 785, "We Give You"**

We give you but your own, whate'er the gift may be. All that we have is yours alone - we give it gratefully.

* **Prayer of Dedication: Generous God, accept these offerings now placed on your altar and grant that they may be symbols of our commitment to following your way. We dedicate them in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

* **Hymn: # 2172, "We Are Called"**

* **Benediction:** Let us go forth with the blessings of God upon us, knowing that no matter where we go, God goes with us, blessing all those whom we meet along the way as well through all that we say and do. And may we know God's blessings this day and every day forever more. Amen.

* **Sung Response: # 77, "Lord, Dismiss Us"** (verse 1)

Lord, dismiss us with your blessing – fill our hearts with joy and peace. Let us each your love possessing – triumph in redeeming grace. Oh, refresh us oh, refresh us – traveling through wilderness.

* **Postlude Music**