

## St. Vincent United Church of Christ

Last Sunday in Lent – April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025

*Including the Sacrament of Holy Communion  
and the Blessing of our OGHHS Donations*

Pastor – Rev. Susan Hanson

Church Musician – Deb Rick



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

**Welcome & Announcements**  
**Prelude Music**

**\* Call To Worship:**

**Pastor:** God knows us and our needs. That's why God draws us together in his Spirit – to be his people and love one another in the same way that he loves us and to make our world more like his.

**People:** **We are here because we long for God to pour out his Spirit upon us and bless us.**

**Pastor:** Then, together, let us join our voices to say our Affirmation of Faith ...

**\* Affirmation:**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

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

**\* Hymn: # 44, "Beautiful Jesus"**

*Let us Pause for a Time of Prayer*

**Call to Prayer:**

God is always ready to hear what we are thinking; always willing to give to us whatever we ask. Let us approach God with humility and ask for what we need, using the prayer in our bulletin.

**Unison Prayer:**

**Generous God, shine your light into our hearts and minds and nurture that divine light of yours that lives inside each of us. Empower us to bring it out into the world more fully. Give to us the assurance of your love, the wisdom to do what is good, and the courage to follow your ways throughout our whole lives. We pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

**Words of Assurance:**

May God give us a rainbow after every storm in life; a smile to follow every tear that's shed; a promise of comfort after every conflict and a blessing in every trial. May God answer every prayer and may we have grateful hearts as we now join our voices together in singing our response ...

**Sung Response: # 2119 Where the Spirit** (Praise Book)

**“Where the Spirit of the 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: Todd Sutter

**Liturgist:** We now turn our hearts and minds to the reading of God's Holy Scripture. Our Gospel Lesson comes from the Gospel According to John, chapter 12, verses 1-8, where we hear the story of what happened the day Mary anointed Jesus in Bethany.

**Let us pray:** Almighty God, you shower us with blessings and mercy and ask us to do the same for one another. Help us to understand your ways as we now share in the reading of your Holy Scripture. Amen.

**Reading: John 12: 1-8**

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him.

Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, 'Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?' (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.)

Jesus said, 'Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.'

**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.

**Hymn Intro:** Now, let us remain seated as we sing our hymn, # 2171 in our Praise Book, "Make me a Channel of your Peace"

**Hymn: # 2171, "Make me a Channel of your Peace"**

**Message:** "Something New"

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

**Sung Response: # 2176, "Make me a Servant"**



**Make me a servant, humble and meek – Lord, let me lift  
up those who are weak. And may the prayer of my heart always be  
– make me a servant, make me a servant, make me a servant today.**

**Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer** (dedication of OGHS)

**Offering Invitation:** We worship a generous God whom we long to be more like ourselves, and so it only makes sense that we should be generous as well. Let us bring back to God a portion of the blessings he has already given to us. Let us present with joy our morning offering.

**Offertory / \* 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:** Gracious God, we bring our gifts to this altar so that you can use them to fulfill your purpose among us. And so, we ask that you follow them with your blessing and use them according to your will. In the name of Jesus, we dedicate them to you, with love. Amen.

**\* Hymn: # 456, "More Love to you, O Christ"**

**\* Pastor's Benediction:** May love and laughter light your days, and warm your heart and home. May good and faithful friends be yours, wherever you may roam. May peace and plenty bless your world with joy that long endures. May all life's passing seasons bring the best to you and yours!

**\* Sung Response: # 249, "Peace I Leave With You" (refrain)**

**Peace I leave with you, my friends.  
Shalom, my peace in all you do.  
Peace I leave with you, my friends.  
I give to you so you can give to others too.**

**\* Postlude Music**