

St. Vincent UCC Worship Service

Make Your Choice Sunday – Sept. 27, 2026

Pastor – Rev. Susan Hanson
Church Musician – Deb Rick



Musical Interlude
Ring of the Church Bell
Welcome
Prelude Music

*** Call To Worship:**

Pastor: God calls us into a close relationship and we make the choice to enter into it with him.

People: **We seek to be close to God - so that we can worship him more fully and be a reflection of his light and love in all that we say and do.**

Pastor: Let us, then, join our voices together 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.

Let's join our voices in singing our first hymn.

*** Hymn: # 395, "In Christ There is No East or West"**

Please Be Seated.

Call to Prayer: People often say one thing, mean another, do yet another. But God calls us to be honest, and to proclaim his simple truths in all we say and do and he'll help us if we only ask. Let us turn to God for our morning prayer.

Prayer: **Loving God, we thank you for your patience with us. We try to be brave and have the courage to always say and do what is right. Help us to be loving, forgiving, caring people – just like your son, Jesus. Amen.**

Assurance: God has promised to help us follow his ways when we open our hearts and minds to his guidance. In gratitude, 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 = Owen Gift

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 21, verses 23-32 where Jesus tells a story about two sons.

Let us pray: Gracious God, bless us now in the hearing of your Holy Word and help us more fully understand your call to discipleship and the power of too. We pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Reading:

One day while Jesus was teaching in the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him and asked him, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?"

Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question. If you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things: Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?"

Now, they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know."

And he said to them, "Then, neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. And he continued to teach the people, telling them this parable:

What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' The son answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir' - but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?"

The people said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you.

For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

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, # 44, "Beautiful Jesus"

Hymn: # 44, "Beautiful Jesus"

Message: "The Choice That Could Change Your Life"

Sung Response: # 2086, "Open Our Eyes"

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Sung Response: # 769, "Hear Our Prayer, O God"

Offering Invitation: God wants us to place our hearts and our hands where our mouths are. When we say something, we need to mean it. God's counting on us. And then, God is anticipating that we will make our words into actions that help change the world. Let's begin with this morning's offering.

Offertory / * Response: Tune "All That Dwell Below"

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:** Take our whole selves, O God. We offer to you our whole selves. Take our gifts, the work of our hands and hearts, and use them to further your reign in our world. Amen.

*** Hymn: # 300, "Jesus Shall Reign"**

*** Benediction & 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