

St. Vincent UCC Worship Service
Third Sunday in Advent December 14, 2025
Consistory Meeting after Worship Service
Pastor – Rev. Susan Hanson
Church Musician – Deb Rick



Musical Interlude
Ringling of the Bell

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude Music

*** Call To Worship:**

Pastor: God brings joy into our lives when we gather to worship him in the name of love.

People: **We gather to rejoice in God and open our hearts and minds to God's leading.**

Pastor: Let us, then, join our voices together in our Affirmation of Faith ...

*** An Affirmation for Advent:**

We believe in God - whose light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never smother it. We believe that once in the city of Bethlehem there was born a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord. We believe in the Word who has become incarnate in flesh yet is divinely full of grace and truth. We believe in his name - Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of peace. We believe in his love, his acts of kindness and compassion, his sacrifice on our behalf, and his place in our hearts which will never fade. He is our Hope, our Peace, our joy, our love.

This is what we believe!

Now, let us sing together our first hymn.

*** Hymn: # 108 "O Little Town of Bethlehem"** (red hymnal)

Please be Seated for the Lighting of our Advent Candle.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath: The Candle of Joy

Led by Ian & Missy Hayes

This Season of Advent is filled with joy. We come here today to light another candle in our Wreath because we are reminded of the words that the Angel spoke when Jesus was born - "Behold I bring you good news of a great joy that will come to all people". As we remember the precious gift, we received that first Christmas, let us share this joy with all those whom we meet. (light the two candles that had been lit previously, then light a third one)

Today, we light the third candle - the candle of joy. Let us celebrate that with the birth of Jesus, there is joy that can last us not only at this time of the year, but all year long.

Let us pray together: **O Holy One, as Christmas draws near, we feel the excitement of this special time of the year with joy in our hearts. Help us to share this joy with those around us wherever we go. May it spread throughout the whole world so that your gifts of hope and peace and joy will be felt by all people. Amen.**

Now, let us sing our response: (tune # 109, Away in a Manger)

**“Come festively sing while awaiting the birth,
Join angels in dancing from heaven to earth.
Wave banner of goodness, lift high thankful praise,
One candle is lit for the joy of these days.”**

Let us Pause for a Time of Prayer

Call to Prayer: On this third Sunday in Advent, let us prepare our hearts and minds to feel the joy of the arrival of Jesus once more. Let us pray about that together ...

Unison Prayer: Eternal God, you provide for us everything we need and waited patiently for us to become a reflection of your love and generosity toward one another. Bless us so that we can be living examples of your good news as we await the coming again of our Savior Jesus. We pray this in his name. Amen.

Assurance: With joy, we receive God’s love into our lives, and pray that it will help us become a blessing to one another. As we celebrate his arrival into our hearts once more on Christmas let us sing together about the gift of his special child. In gratitude, let us sing our hymn.

Hymn: # 128 “In the Bleak Midwinter” (black hymnal)

Scripture Reading: Liturgist: Todd Sutter

Liturgist: We now turn our hearts and minds to the reading of God’s Holy Scripture. Today's reading comes from the first chapter of the Gospel of Luke, verses 26-38 where we hear the story of the announcement to Mary that she will be the mother of God.

Let us pray: O Holy One, you gently support those who participate in your will for the world. Stir our hearts to do what is needed in our own time and place. Like Mary, help us to do your will so that, through us, the whole world will know your Son, in whose name we pray, Amen.

Read Luke 1: 26-38 (found on page 56 of the Pew Bible)

Scripture Reading: Luke 1: 26-38 (page 56 of the Pew Bible)

In the sixth month following the announcement by the angel Gabriel that Elizabeth would bear a son, that same angel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth. There he appeared to a virgin named Mary who was engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David.

The angel said to her, “Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.” But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.

Then he told her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus.

He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.

And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.”

Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

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.

Response: "Emmanuel" (from the Methodist Hymnal)

**Emmanuel, Emmanuel. His name is called Emmanuel.
God with us, revealed in us, His name is called Emmanuel.**

Message: "A Big Announcement"

Sung Response: # 2167, "More Like You" (Praise Book)

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Response: # 769, "Hear Our Prayer" (black hymnal)

Hear our prayer, O God. Hear our prayer, O God. Incline your ear to us, and grant us your peace.

Offering Invitation: Now, let us pause to present our offerings to God. May our gifts be used to bring joy to the world for the glory of God. Let us have our morning offering.

Offertory

*** Response: # 128, "In the Bleak"** (verse 4, black hymnal)

What can I offer, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb. If I were a wise one, I would do my part – but what can I offer – all my heart.

Prayer of Dedication:

Loving God, you have given us everything we need to be happy and healthy and whole. In gratitude, we have brought these gifts as symbols of our devotion to you. We dedicate them to your use in the name of Jesus. Amen.

*** Hymn: # 105, "Angels We Have Heard"** (red hymnal)

*** Benediction:** Let us go forth with joy in our hearts – confident that God will help us to find ways to share it with everyone we meet. And as we go, know that God goes with us ready to bless all that we say and do. Amen.

*** Response: "Blessing:"** (tune # 108, O Little Town)

**Now may the good Lord bless and keep, His love in
you increase; Lift up his face with shining grace
and grant eternal peace. To Father, Son, and Spirit –
Eternal One-in-Three, Be thanks and praise
through all our days and to eternity!**

*** Postlude Music**