

St. Vincent UCC Worship Service

Transformation Sunday – Oct. 25, 2026

Halloween Dress Up & Trick or Treat

Pastor – Rev. Susan Hanson

Church Musician – Deb Rick



Musical Interlude

Ring of the Church Bell

Welcome

Prelude Music

*** Call To Worship:**

Pastor: Come, let us worship the One who first gave us life.

People: **We give thanks to our Creator God.**

Pastor: Let us worship the One who shows us how to live it.

People: **We seek to follow Jesus the Christ.**

Pastor: Let us worship the One who provides new life every day.

People: **We are blessed by the Holy Spirit so that we can become a blessing to others.**

Pastor: Now, let's join our voices together in saying our affirmation of faith for this day ...

*** Affirmation of Faith:**

We believe in God the Father, maker of all things. We believe in his Son Jesus Christ, Lord and Savior of the world. We believe in the Holy Spirit, giver of life and light. We belong to the Church, God's family everywhere. Amen

Now, let us sing together our first hymn.

*** Hymn: # 2047, "Bring Many Names" (vs. 1 and 6 only)**

Please Be Seated.

Call to Prayer: God blesses us with imagination and creativity. God blesses us with intuition and empathy. God blesses us love and kindness. God blesses us so that we can bless one another. Let us then, turn to God and pray about that...

Prayer: Holy God, come closer to us and help us to be like your son, Jesus – to act in kind ways, to share the gifts you have blessed us with, to show mercy to others and forgive them when they hurt us. Make us more like you in every moment so that your kingdom may reign among us. We pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Assurance: Our God is a god of transformation and with him, anything and everything is possible. With God, it's not about who we have been – but who we can be and what good we can do. Let us follow his ways and give glory to the One who made it possible, as we sing together our response ...

Response: # 2164 Sanctuary (Praise Book)

**Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy,
tried and true. With thanksgiving, I'll be a living
sanctuary for you.**

Scripture Reading:

Liturgist – Todd Sutter

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 of Matthew, chapter 22, verses 34-46 where Jesus teaches us about the greatest commandment.

Let us pray: Holy One, bless us with understanding as we hear today's message about how we are to pay our taxes and in doing so, give glory to you. We pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Read Scripture Lesson (found on page 25 of the Pew Bible)

The Pharisees were always looking for ways to test Jesus – to discredit him - and embarrass him in front of the crowds. So, once again they came to him to test him while he was teaching among a group of people.

One of their religion scholars spoke for them, posing a question they hoped would cause him trouble. The man asked him: "Teacher, which commandment in God's Law is the most important?"

Now, there were over 600 laws in the Jewish tradition at that time. By asking Jesus to pick just one above all of them, they hoped to make him look foolish to the people who had been listening to him.

But, Jesus immediately answered them, quoting this law as the most important one: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and should be first on any list."

And then, he added: "But there is a second to set alongside it: Love others as well as you love yourself. These two commands are the pegs on which everything in God's Law and what the prophets say must hang upon."

Now, while he had the Pharisees there and had their attention, Jesus asked them a question of his own - "What do you think about the Messiah, the Christ? Whose son is he?"

They replied, "David's son." For all the prophecies regarding the Messiah stated that he would be born within the lineage of King David.

Jesus said, "Well, if the Christ is David's son, how do you explain that David, under inspiration, named Christ his 'Master'? And he quoted the scripture that applied, reciting, "God said to my Master, 'Sit here at my right hand until I make your enemies your footstool.'"

Then, he wondered aloud, "Now if David calls him 'Master,' how can he - at the same time - be his son?" That question really stumped them because the Pharisees always interpreted the scriptures in a literal sense. And so they were not able to answer him. And thus, it was that they who were the ones who were embarrassed in front of the crowds instead of Jesus. From that day on, they didn't dare to ask him any more questions in public.

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 together our middle hymn, # 293, "Sweet, Sweet Spirit"

Hymn: # 293, "Sweet, Sweet Spirit"

Message: "Who You Gonna Be?"

Transformation Trick or Treat

Sung Response: # 2080, "All I need is You" (vs. 1)

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Sung Response: # 2215, “Cares Chorus”

Offering Invitation: The commandment to love one another is simple to hear, but not always easy to live, just as it is easy to receive blessings, but not always easy to give them. But, with God, it is possible. Let us do what we can when we can for whomever we can so that we can become a blessing – and let’s begin with our morning 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:** Holy God, we ask that you bless these gifts and those who have given them with your love. May they serve your purpose for our church and in the community. We dedicate them to your use in the name of Jesus. Amen.

*** Hymn: # 282, “Every Time I Feel the Spirit”**

*** Benediction:** We can argue about it, disagree about it, ignore it, affirm it. But unless we do it, loving God and our neighbor is meaningless. Let us go forth into the world and “just do it” to the glory of God. After all, friends, this is why we are here. Amen.

Response: # 2223 “They’ll Know We are Christians” (vs. 1)

Postlude Music