

**St. Vincent United Church of Christ**  
**Communion Sunday – July 5, 2026**  
*Celebrating our Country's 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*  
Pastor – Rev. Susan Hanson  
Church Musician – Deb Rick



**Musical Interlude**  
**Ringing of the Bell**  
**Pastor's Welcome**

**Prelude Music**

**\* Call To Worship:**

**Pastor:** Praise the Lord, all you nations! Extol him, all the people!

**People:** For great is his steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.

**Praise the Lord!** **Pastor:** Please join your voice with mine as we affirm our faith together ...

**\* Affirmation of Faith:** The Apostles Creed

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: # 593, "Lift Every Voice and Sing"**

*Please Be Seated.*

**Call To Prayer:**

God meets us wherever we are and joins us in our best efforts to do his will in our own time and place. Let us then turn to God and ask for his help in fulfilling his hopes and dreams for our lives.

**Prayer:**

**O God of all people, we come before you this day with open hearts, that you might grant us your presence in the midst of this time of worship. Come into our hearts and minds and help us to make wise decisions, do good deeds, and show kindness to everyone in order to bring glory to your name. Amen.**

**Assurance:**

Jesus said that he came among us so that we might live in abundant ways – let us celebrate by following him and his ways throughout our lives. Now, let us show our gratitude in singing 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: Kathy Strahan

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 Matthew - chapter 11, verses 16-19, 25-30 where Jesus invites us to bring all our burdens to him and receive blessed rest in his care.

Let us pray: Loving God, be with us now in the hearing of your holy word and help us to discern it's meaning for our lives today and receive rest for our weary lives in the promise given to us by Jesus. We pray in his name. Amen.

**Reading:**

Jesus had heard the news that John the Baptist was in prison, and he spoke to the crowd in praise of all that John had done, saying, "But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, '*We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.*'"

For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, '*He has a demon*'; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, '*Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!*' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds." And he reproached them for being ungrateful toward John.

Then, Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will."

All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

**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. Let's now sing together our hymn that you will find on an insert in your bulletin. We'll be singing, "America the Beautiful".

**Hymn:** "America the Beautiful" - see insert

**Message:** "The Story of a Song and a Nation"

**Sung Response:** # 2025, "As the Deer"

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

**Sung Response:** # 2167, "More Like You"



**Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer**

**Sung Response:** #2203, "In His Time" (verse 2)

**Offering Invitation:** Let us give – each as we are able – so that others may see the blessings of God in all

we say and do. Let us bring to God 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: God, your gift to us is life. Our gift to you is how we choose to live life. So, take what we offer this day and use it to help accomplish what you intend, in Jesus' name. Amen.**

**\* Hymn: # 610, "My Eyes Have Seen the Glory"**

**\* Benediction: Jesus said, "You are the light of the world." Let us go forth, being light and showing love – so that the world will become a better place for all people. Amen.**

**\* Response: # 77, "Lord, Dismiss Us" (vs 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**