

**St. Vincent United Church of Christ
Second Sunday in Lent – March 16th, 2025**

Pastor – Rev. Susan Hanson

Church Musician – Deb Rick

Musical Interlude

Ringling of the Bell

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude Music



*** Call To Worship:**

Pastor: The Lord is our light and salvation, let us not be afraid.

People: **The Lord is the stronghold of our lives - we will not be afraid.**

Pastor: Let us invite God to join us as we journey through Lent – for he will guide our every step.

People: **Come close to us, O God – for we need your light and guidance to make this journey something good for us.**

Pastor: Let's prepare for the journey by joining our voices in our Affirmation of Faith.

*** Affirmation:**

We believe in the God of light and love. May God surround us and fill up our hearts to overflowing with his holy light and love. We believe in God's Son, Jesus, the Christ. May his ways of compassion and kindness guide our every thought and action so that we can become more like him and be the change we wish to see in the world. We believe in the Holy Spirit. May the Spirit empower us to fulfill this calling to the glory of God. Amen.

Now, let us sing together our first hymn.

*** Hymn: # 190, "Beneath the Cross of Jesus"**

Let us Pause for a Time of Prayer

Call to Prayer: Jesus has told us, "Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." In other words, "Don't fear, because God always has the last word in everything." This assurance makes it easier for us to turn to God and ask him for whatever we need. Let us, then, pray together

Unison Prayer: **O God, we are often made afraid by the criticism of others, the uncertainty of our own time, the hardships that veil our eyes from your loving purpose – they all threaten to undo us. Too often we despair and act as if we have no hope. By the power of your Holy Spirit, renew our faith and courage so that we may find your sure promise of love and salvation. Lead us along your way and help us to face each challenge in our lives. Give us strong hearts and clear vision to be your heart and hands in this world. Amen.**

Words of Assurance: It's true that many things in life threaten us and make us afraid. But we can live confident of God's saving love and continue our mission of following as best we can – for God will help us in all things. In gratitude, let us join our voices together in singing our response ...

Sung Response: # 2158, "Just a Closer Walk with Thee"

**I am weak, but thou art strong. Jesus keep me from all wrong.
I'll be satisfied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee.
Just a closer walk with thee, grant it Jesus is my plea.
Daily walking close to thee, let it be, dear Lord, let it be.**

Scripture Reading:

Liturgist: Eric Hanson

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 Luke, chapter 13, verses 31-35 where we hear Jesus lament about the fate of Jerusalem.

Let us pray: Holy One, you promise light and salvation in the midst of darkness and despair, and promise redemption to a world that will not listen. Gather us to yourself in tenderness, open our ears to listen to your word, and teach us to live faithfully as people confident of the fulfillment of your promises. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Reading: Luke 13: 31-35

As Jesus stood teaching among the people one day, some Pharisees came and said to him, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you."

He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.'

Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!

See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

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.

Now, let us sing together our hymn, # 195, "The Old Rugged Cross"

Hymn: # 195, "The Old Rugged Cross"

Message: "Jesus Laments"

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.**

Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer

Offering Invitation: All people who follow Christ give as they are able to the work of Christ, according to the blessings which God has given them. Let us present our gifts to God with joy through 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:** O Lord, receive these gifts we offer and use them to continue to bring blessings into our lives. Empower us to do your work of mercy and justice for the welfare of all people. We pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

*** Hymn: # 189, "Down at the Cross"** (vs. 1, 2, & 4)

*** Pastor's Benediction:** May the strength of God pilot us. May the power of God preserve us. May the wisdom of God instruct us. May the hand of God protect us, this day and evermore. Amen.

*** 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**