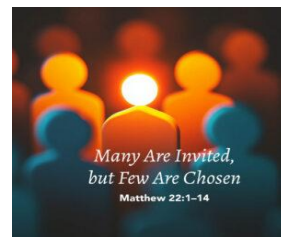


St. Vincent UCC Worship Service

Visioning Sunday – Oct. 11, 2026

Pastor – Rev. Susan Hanson

Church Musician – Deb Rick



Musical Interlude

Ringling of the Church Bell

Welcome

Prelude Music

*** Call To Worship:**

Pastor: Praise God and give thanks, for God is good and his steadfast love endures forever.

People: Remember us, O God, when you show favor to your people. Remember us, so that we might rejoice in your love and give glory to your name.

Pastor: Now, let us join our voices together in saying our Affirmation of Faith ...

*** Affirmation of Faith:**

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.

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

*** Hymn: # 495 "Called As Partners" (vs. 1, 2, & 3)**

Please Be Seated.

Call to Prayer: We know that we are not the best we can be – but we also know we can be better. Let us pray about that.

Prayer:

Gentle God, have mercy on us and help us to forgive ourselves and others and listen to you more closely, follow you more completely, and fulfill all your plans for us. Help us to be more like you in every moment so that your kingdom can reign among us. We pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Assurance: God is good. God is merciful. And with God in our hearts, we are never alone and never without hope for a better life. Amen. In gratitude, let us sing our response -

Response: # 2164 Sanctuary

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 – Eric Hanson

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 1-14 where Jesus tells the Parable of the Wedding Banquet.

Let us pray: Holy One, bless us with understanding as we hear today's message about how the kingdom of heaven is like a banquet and how you decide who gets an invitation. We pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Read Scripture Lesson (found on page 24 in the Pew Bible)

Jesus often spoke in parables to those gathered around him, and once he said: "God's kingdom is like a king who threw a wedding banquet for his son. He sent out servants to call in all the invited guests – but they wouldn't come!

So he sent out more servants, telling them to tell those guests who had been invited, 'Look, I have prepared a wonderful celebration! The table is set and all the food is ready. Come and enjoy the feast!

But, still they made light of it and a few of them went back to what they had been doing before the servants invited them to the banquet. The rest of them, however, seemed to have nothing better to do and they grabbed the servants of the king and beat them up and killed them.

The king was outraged and sent his soldiers to destroy the murderers and burn their city. Then he told his remaining servants, "We have a wedding banquet all prepared, but no guests. Those who were invited refused the invitation.

Therefore, go into the busiest intersections of the town and invite everyone you encounter there – tell them 'all are welcome'

The servants went out into the streets and did just as he instructed. And they brought back everyone they found, both good and bad, regardless. And now the banquet hall was filled with guests.

But when the king entered and looked over the crowd, he noticed one man who was not properly dressed for a wedding. He said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here looking like that?' The man was speechless. Then the king told his servants to take the man out of his sight and be careful not to let him back in."

Jesus finished the story by clarifying for them the lesson to be learned - "That is what I mean when I say, 'Many get invited, but only those who are truly sincere will make it'."

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, **# 503 "O Savior, Let Me Walk With You"**

Hymn: # 503 "O Savior, Let Me Walk" (vs. 1, 2, & 4)

Message: "All Are Welcome?"

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

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Sung Response: # 2215, "Cares Chorus"

Offering Invitation: We each have things we can offer to God's use - our time, our talent, our treasure, and our love for one another. Let us present these gifts with joy in the form of 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!

*** Prayer of Dedication:** Loving God, bless now our offering for we dedicate it in the name of Jesus for the good of our church and for your greater glory. In Christ's holy name, make it so. Amen.

*** Hymn: # 2172 "We Are Called"**

*** Benediction:** The Apostle Paul once said: "You are what you think about all day". Let us go forth, then, with good thoughts which will lead to good words and actions for the world. And may God be with us in the midst of it all now and always. Amen.

Response: # 2162, "Grace Alone" (vs. 1)

Postlude Music

**Please join us downstairs for lunch and discussion
focused on Visioning the Future of our Church.**